

Executive Summary School Accountability Report Card 2006-2007

**Mint Canyon Community
Elementary**

16400 Sierra Hwy.
Canyon Country, CA 91351
661/252-2570

Principal: Mrs. Betsy Letzo
Grade Span: K - 6

**Sulphur Springs Union Elementary
District**

17866 Sierra Hwy.
Canyon Country, CA 91351-1671
661-252-5131

This executive summary of the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is intended to provide parents and community members with a quick snapshot of school accountability. The data presented in this report is reported for the 2006-07 school year, except the School Finances and School Completion data that are reported for the 2005-06 school year. For additional information about the school, parents, and community members should review the entire SARC or contact the school principal or the district office.

About This School

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Nestled against the semi arid foothills of the Santa Clarita Valley, the Mint Canyon School site is the smallest and most rural in the valley. Mint Canyon School first opened its doors in September of 1963 with 185 students. At that time, one permanent building contained six classrooms surrounding the cafeteria/library/multipurpose room. During the next forty years, portables were added to the site to accommodate classrooms, office, and the cafeteria. With major student growth predicted over the next five years, extensive remodeling of our one permanent building as well as construction for new permanent classrooms, office area, library/media center, and cafeteria began in June 2004, continued throughout the 2004 - 2005 school year, and was completed in October 2005. Students, staff, and parents returned home to Mint Canyon School at that time.

The new Mint Canyon School site consists of a separate multipurpose room, and two two story buildings which include the office area, multimedia lab, library, staff room, work room, Intervention Room, Music Room, and classrooms. The permanent building includes a multi use area, a mini work room, Science Lab and classrooms. The state supported preschool, Junior Mints, and ASES/SAIL (After School Education and Safety/Supporting All in Learning), an after school program, are also housed on the Mint Canyon campus.

While there are some expensive homes within our attendance area, currently, slightly more than 50% of our 400+ students come from family units well below the poverty level. Approximately 48% of our students speak a language other than English and of those, 41% are limited English proficient. The vast majority of our parents have either not completed high school or have received the equivalent of a high school education. Relatively few parents have received a college degree. Compared with the other seven elementary schools in the Sulphur Springs School District, Mint Canyon School has the highest percentage of students participating in the National School Lunch Program (free/reduced lunch), the highest transiency rate, as well as the highest percentage of students who speak a language other than English. Yet, Mint Canyon School continues to be recognized for excellence in education. We have received the California Title I Achieving School award twice and the California Distinguished School award three times, most recently in 2006.

In addition, we were one of 215 schools nationwide to be honored as a 2003 National Blue Ribbon School. As such, we are the first and only school in the Sulphur Springs School District to have received this highest honor which can be bestowed upon a school.

Through state/district funding, site funds, and donations from private individuals and PTA, Mint Canyon School's library houses approximately eighteen books per student. Through site funds, grants from Santa Clarita, and donations from private individuals and PTA, every kindergarten through second grade classroom at Mint Canyon School now has at least two eMac computers. In addition to classroom computers, Mint Canyon School boasts a state of the art media lab and Smart Board technology in the Science Lab.

Kindergarten students attend school for 200 minutes per day, and first through sixth grade students attend for 285 minutes per day. There are six minimum days scheduled throughout the year for staff planning and parent conferences. Students are excused one hour early every Tuesday to allow extra time for teachers to participate in staff meetings, staff development, and individual as well as grade level planning.

With a student population hovering around 400, a cozy, hometown feeling tone continues to exist at Mint Canyon School, even as we grow larger in student population. As expressed in our vision statement, our entire school community is a close knit family which cares deeply about each other's uniqueness and success. Support from the Sulphur Springs School District, a dedicated PTA, and good old fashioned hard work by the teachers have all contributed to the success of Mint Canyon School. An exciting spirit of cooperation exists at Mint Canyon, and as a caring school community, we support a nurturing learning atmosphere which stresses the social, educational, and emotional growth of all students so they may become productive and successful citizens. Mint Canyon Community School represents a commitment to educational excellence.

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Student Enrollment

Group	Enrollment
Number of Students	411
African-American	8.0%
Asian	2.9%
Filipino	3.0%
Hispanic or Latino	60.0%
White (Not Hispanic)	24.8%
Multiple or No Response	0.7%
Economically Disadvantaged	54.0%
English Learners	32.0%
Students With Disabilities	16.0%

Teachers

Indicator	Teachers
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	0
Total Teacher Misassignments	0
Teachers With Full Credential	18
Teachers Without Full Credential	0

School Facilities

Summary of Most Recent Site Inspection

The Sulphur Springs School District has an ongoing preventive maintenance program. Members of the maintenance department are assigned to visit each school, repair all identified safety problems and inspect for hazards. In addition, district bus drivers conduct yearly safety procedures on proper bus riding behavior, emergency exit procedures, and the location of the first aid kits.

Each month, site principals are required to conduct a safety and cleanliness inspection of the campus. Possible hazards and unhealthy conditions are noted and referred to maintenance for repair.

Throughout the 2006 - 2007 school year, Mint Canyon School students participated in routine fire and disaster drills thus ensuring student and staff familiarity with appropriate procedures to follow in the event of such a fire or earthquake.

In August of each year, a student/parent handbook outlining our school rules for safety and proper conduct is given to parents. Parents are requested to review these rules with their children, and sign and return them to the school. These are verbally reviewed with parents at Back to School Night as well. Students are supervised on the playground, in the cafeteria, and in the bus loading and parent pick up areas.

Each site within the Sulphur Springs School District has adopted a universal Safe Schools' Action Plan. It outlines four specific goals: 1) All students and staff members are provided a safe teaching and learning environment; 2) All students are safe and secure while at school, when traveling to and from school, and when traveling to and from school related activities; 3) District programs and approved community resources are made available to students and parents; and 4) Schools provide the educational environment where students, parents, staff, and community members shall effectively communicate in a manner that is respectful to all cultural, racial, and religious backgrounds. There are several success indicators listed for each goal. Site specific information is kept in a Safe School's Action Plan binder which is housed in the principal's office. This information is updated annually and approved by Mint Canyon's School Site Council.

In addition to the Safe School's Action Plan, the Sulphur Springs School District has adopted the Tools for Schools program to monitor indoor air quality. A district full time indoor air quality employee inspects and changes heating/air conditioning filters on a monthly basis. During the 2006 - 2007 school year, the twice a year indoor air quality inspections were conducted by the host principal, and the findings reported to the Assistant Superintendent of Business.

The staff of Mint Canyon School and the Sulphur Springs School District pledge to continue providing our students with a safe and clean environment in which to learn.

Repairs Needed

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Item Inspected	Repair Status			Repair Needed and Action Taken or Planned
	Good	Fair	Poor	
Gas Leaks	X			
Mechanical Systems	X			
Windows/Doors/Gates (interior and exterior)	X			
Interior Surfaces (walls, floors, and ceilings)	X			
Hazardous Materials (interior and exterior)	X			
Structural Damage	X			
Fire Safety	X			
Electrical (interior and exterior)	X			
Pest/Vermin Infestation	X			
Drinking Fountains (inside and outside)	X			
Restrooms	X			
Sewer	X			
Playground/School Grounds	X			
Roofs	X			
Overall Cleanliness	X			

Curriculum and Instruction Materials

Core Curriculum Areas	Pupils Who Lack Textbooks and Instructional Materials
Reading/Language Arts	0%
Mathematics	0%
Science	0%
History-Social Science	0%
Foreign Language	N/A
Health	0%
Science Laboratory Equipment (grades 9-12)	N/A

School Finances

Level	Expenditures Per Pupil (Unrestricted Sources Only)
State	\$4,943.00

Student Performance

Subject	Students Proficient and Above on California Standards Tests
English-Language Arts	40.0%
Mathematics	47.0%
Science	20.0%

Academic Progress

Indicator	Result
API Score	718

School Completion

Indicator	Result
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Postsecondary Preparation

Measures	Percent
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