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Graves Middle School

School Newsletter



STAR Tests Stellar

Once again GMS had great results on the state CST test. We increased our API score by an outstanding 41 points. That is an increase of 83 points over two years. This is higher than any other middle school in the Whittier and Santa Fe Springs area. Our Algebra proficient and advanced rate jumped up to 92%, also higher than all of the middle schools in the Whittier and Santa Fe Springs area. We also improved on the 7th grade state writing test, as 93% of our students got a six or an eight,

Principal's Corner

I want to take the time to welcome you to a new school year at GMS. As you will read, we had another great year on the CST test last year and we have started some new programs for the 2012-2013 school year.

Our API increased by 41 points and our Academy kids got great results on their state tests. On a different note, we have started a partnership with Cal State Long Beach to provide a Math, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) club for our STEM students and any other student interested in participating in STEM-related competitions. Our STEM students will also participate in a program with USC called Botball where our kids program robots to complete certain functions during a competition against other middle and high school students. These programs are great for our kids and we know this makes a difference for them. As I have said before, "Come see the difference at Graves Middle School!"

Save the Date!

Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 13th-16th
 Please make an appointment with your child's teachers. Minimum day schedule, students released at 1:20 pm

Thanksgiving Break
November 19th-23rd
 No school this week, enjoy your time off. School resumes Monday, November 26th. See you then.

School Site Council
11/14/12
 Join us for the SSC meeting in the Parent Center from 2:50-3:50 pm.



STAR Tests Stellar continued

which is equivalent to proficient or advanced. Additionally, our Academy students scored 84% proficient or advanced on the 8th grade History CST test. They also scored 81% proficient or advanced in English/Language Arts and 76% proficient or advanced in Science. The Graves staff is proud of our students for doing such an outstanding job on the CST and we want to thank our kids and their families for their support and effort on last year's CST. Our goal for this year is to increase the advanced and proficient rate for our high achieving students and decrease the Far Below Basic and Below Basic rate for our lower performing students. We are also focusing heavily on our English Learners and other target students so they improve their results on the CST test this year. Let's work together and have another great year!

iPads Come to GMS

GMS has invested in Apple iPads as an educational tool to help our students learn to use technology effectively while learning academic English and the course content in various classes. GMS is utilizing an iPad cart with 20 iPads so students can use either the Rosetta Stone English Language Development program or educational applications (apps). We feel that the use of this technology will help students not only learn to use educational technology more effectively, but it will also allow students to experience individualized academic instruction with the apps and programs because the apps and programs we use teach the students at their individual level. For our English Learner students who are not yet proficient in English we are using the Rosetta Stone program. This program can be accessed on the iPads or the computers in our library. This program helps students with their English language development. Go Panthers!



Panthers Battle On

Our fall sports program is winding down the season and our 8th grade teams are gearing up for the end of season tournaments. Our 7th and 8th grade football teams have battled hard and had some great wins and experienced some close heart-breaking losses. Our 8th grade football team experienced a tough loss to Hillview to close out the season. Our 7th grade football team squeaked out a close game against Hillview to end the season on a high note. The coaches have been very pleased with our kids' effort and development over the course of the season. Good job teams!

Our 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams have also had some close battles this season. The 8th graders have had many of their games come down to the third and final game before they either won or lost close games. We are proud of our 8th graders for a hard fought season. Our 7th grade team has battled closely and had some impressive wins this year. We finished the season with home games versus Hillview and had heart-breaking losses. Accordingly, our kids and coaches enjoyed camaraderie and fun at the end of season pizza party. We want to thank all of the coaches for their great effort and long hours, our kids for their good sportsmanship and great effort, and our families for supporting their kids and the school. We look forward to season two, way to go Panthers!

