

## **Superintendent's Message – June 2018**

### **We Have Much to Celebrate in Ocean View**

by Carol Hansen, Ed.D.

Students - they are the reason we exist. As educators in the Ocean View School District, we are here to provide rigorous and relevant educational experiences and innovative learning opportunities, such as STEAM, Visual and Performing Arts, and next year, Environmental Science, so that all students can learn and achieve.

Recent indicators tell us that we are succeeding in our efforts and that Ocean View students are achieving academically. We are headed in the right direction to close the achievement gap, and our staff is prepared to help students reach new levels of success in the coming year. Initial findings from our parent survey show that 90 percent of parents believe that their children are receiving a high quality education in our District. In addition, 85 percent of parents have confidence in the direction our current Ocean View leadership is taking.

This is confirmed by the recent announcement that two of our elementary schools are California Distinguished Schools – Circle View and Star View both received this prestigious award from the California Department of Education. State Superintendent Tom Torlakson said, "These schools implement outstanding educational programs and practices that help California students realize their potential, and put them on the path to achieve their dreams."

Six of our elementary schools were also named to the 2017-2018 Education Results Partnership Honor Roll. Circle View, College View, Lake View, Spring View, Star View, and Vista View were identified as higher-performing schools by demonstrating academic achievement, improvement over time, and a reduction in achievement gaps among student populations.

How we define our students' success has changed from 10 to 15 years ago. I applaud our Ocean View teachers for constantly learning new strategies and adjusting their craft to best serve all of our students. Teachers are engaging our students in Authentic Literacy, guiding students to use reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills to demonstrate and apply their learning. When you visit an Ocean View classroom, you will see students thinking critically, innovating, creating, collaborating, and problem-solving, all essential skills for students to be successful in high school, college and beyond.

Our state has unveiled the California Dashboard, a new accountability and improvement system to show how California students are performing. Ocean View's students are performing above state and county averages. Our dedication to rigorous learning experiences and high expectations for student outcomes are paying off!

OVSD families overwhelmingly report in our recent survey that their child feels connected to their school, which is an important factor in creating a positive school climate. We are focused on rewarding good attendance and setting clear, fair expectations for behavior at school. In Ocean View, we are continuously assessing our safety measures and structures to ensure that students and staff feel safe and ready to learn.

Recently, our School Attendance Review Board, or SARB, was named a “Model SARB” by the California Department of Education, one of only 16 in the state and three in Orange County. Our attention to strong prevention and early intervention supports help us meet the needs of struggling students.

As we begin our first Measure R school modernization project at Westmont Elementary this summer, we are again reminded of the importance of our trusted relationships with our staff, students, families, and our community members. Without these partnerships, we could not accomplish our mission or provide all of the enrichment opportunities and academic resources that we do.

We are grateful for the clear direction and dedication of our Board of Trustees, who share our commitment to transparent communication within our organization and with our families and community. The 2017-2018 school year has shown us that we can work together to accomplish great things on behalf of our students, and the coming 2018-2019 school year is only going to continue our positive momentum!