

March 3, 2008

Mr. Bob Tyra, School Counseling Consultant
Los Angeles County Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway, ECC-267
Downey, CA 90242-4720

Dear Bob Tyra:

Attached please find our Academy Award application form, cover letter, seven copies of our SPARC, and a completed, self-scored SPARC scoring rubric. We would like to have our SPARC considered for the "Diamond Best in the West."

An overview of SPARC completion this year follows:

1. Review of the entire application, with new guidelines and parameters.
2. Meeting with entire TCUSD guidance team to go over the new rubric and changes. We discussed the changes and offered hints for successful SPARC completion this year.
3. Developed timeline for submission process, to avoid last minutes hassles.
4. Received district secretarial support and district printing support.
5. Arranged for student and parent representative approval.
6. Set up meeting time with superintendent to present each SPARC.
7. Will deliver to LACOE by deadline.

Our distribution scheme is much more involved than in the past. We intend to give a copy of our SPARC to each person and/or organization that we mention in it. [This includes, but is not limited to, all those organizations listed in the "Community Partnerships/Resources" section.] We also plan to submit copies to our chamber of commerce and city council members, and local and state government officials.

As before, we will present to our staff at a spring staff meeting, to our parents through the PTA newsletter, and also post our SPARC on our district web site. We will also schedule a Board of Education presentation in late spring to (hopefully) showcase our academy awards for each of our district schools.

Thank you for your consideration of our SPARC.

Sincerely,



Jenny Thai
Elementary School Counselor

Rolando Elementary School
La Mesa-Spring Valley School District
6925 Tower Street • La Mesa, CA 91941 • 619/668-5800

Guido Magliato, Principal

SUPPORT PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD (SPARC)

February 2008

Los Angeles Count Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway, ECC-267
Attention: Bob Tyra, Project Director
Downey, CA 90242-4720

Dear SPARC Review Committee,

On behalf of the Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) at Rolando Elementary, please accept this application in consideration for a 2008 First Step SPARC Award. Our SPARC was initiated last October as part of the Professional Learning Community (PLC) for the La Mesa-Spring Valley (LM-SV) Elementary School Counseling program. The PLC was set up by David Kinzel, Coordinator of Student Interventions in the LM-SV School District and Lonnie Rowell, a professor at the University of San Diego (USD). The SPARC was introduced to the PLC by four school counseling graduate students from USD as a proposal for an Action Research project. Four school counselors from our PLC were selected to work in collaboration with the USD graduate students to complete First Step SPARCs.

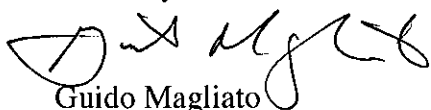
Our school counselor, Nelly Bickel, and USD graduate student, Haylee Sibley, worked together in collaboration with the Rolando SSPT to assemble this SPARC. A kick-off meeting in November started our process as Haylee did an excellent job of explaining the award, its purpose, and the process we would employ to successfully complete the SPARC. Members of our SSPT have generously given their time to gather and prepare the information needed to effectively complete each section. Meetings with Haylee continued multiple times to obtain her feedback and assistance throughout the process.

We found this experience to be very rewarding as it gave us a chance to see the strengths in our program and offered us an opportunity to reflect on areas needing improvement. After completing our SPARC, the SSPT can now prepare to set goals for the next school year.

We are excited to share our First Step SPARC with our students, parents, staff, administrators, board members, and the LM-SV community. The SPARC will also be available for download on our school website.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,



Guido Magliato
Rolando Principal



Nelly Bickel
School Counselor



Sequoia Middle School

9452 Hemlock Avenue • P.O. Box 5090 • Fontana • California 92334-5090 • (909) 357-5400

February 22, 2008

Board of Education

Kathy Binks
Gus Hawthorn
Laura Abernathy Mancha
Arlene Piazza, D.Min
Julie A. Ramos

Mr. Bob Tyra
School Counseling Consultant

Los Angeles County Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway, ECC-267
Downey, CA 90242-4720

Superintendent of Schools

Jane D. Smith

Dear Mr. Tyra,

Principal

Anne A. Roth

Please accept Sequoia's fifth application for Academy Award consideration for our Support Personnel Accountability Report Card. Our team met before the school year began to discuss our guidance program goals for this year and reviewed our SPARC from last year. We put a plan into place to address our Focus for Improvement goals and evaluated our data to determine what programs to implement this year. Over the past several months, our team has worked diligently to create a caring environment where all students can succeed.

Assistant Principal

Delia P. Fant

Now that our 2007/2008 SPARC has been completed, it will be translated in Spanish. Copies of our SPARC will be presented to our Superintendent, District Office Administration and to our School Board. Guidance Advisory members and School Site Council will receive their updated final copy during the next upcoming meeting. The SPARC will be mailed to families, volunteers and to our community partners. All staff will receive their copy of the SPARC and additional copies will be placed in our Resource Center at the entrance to the school office. Information gathered for this SPARC was readily available as we recently submitted our American School Counselors Association (ASCA) Recognized ASCA Model Program (RE-RAMP) in January.

Assistant Principal

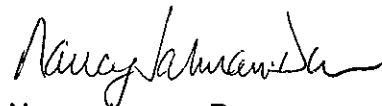
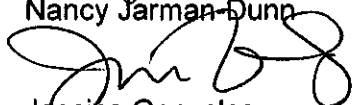
J.J. Francoisse

Attached you will find our application form, self-scored rubric and seven copies of our SPARC. Thank you for the opportunity to show others how our team impacts the overall goals of our school.

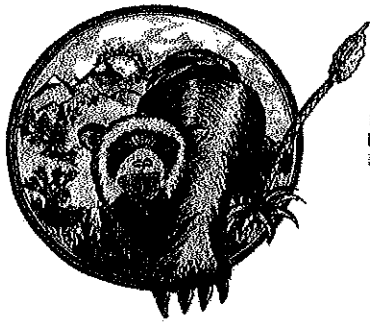
Fax (909) 357-5419

Telecommunication Device
for the Deaf
(909) 357-5018

Sincerely,


Nancy Jarman-Dunn

Jessica Gonzales


Melia Kiggins



Piñon Mesa Middle School

Snowline Joint Unified School District

Michael Murphy, Ed.D., Principal
Kim Miller, Assistant Principal
Brian Olson, Dean of Students

Post Office Box 296000
9298 Sheepcreek Road
Phelan, California 92371
760.868.3126 Office
760.868.3033 Facsimile

February 27, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

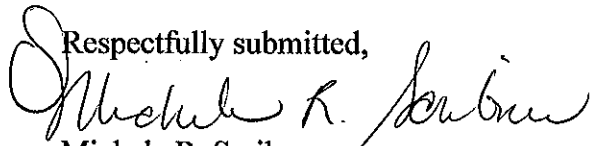
The Student Support Personnel Team of Piñon Mesa Middle School proudly submits our Support Personnel Accountability Report Card for the 2007-2008 SPARC Academy Awards and the Governor's Trophy designation. This year marks the team's seventh SPARC submission; we continue to view this process as the most effective way to review our current program and to plan future improvement.

Piñon Mesa is one of three middle schools in the Snowline Joint Unified School District. Educating students for twenty-two years, our school serves students from three local high-desert communities as well as inter-district transfer students. Within the community and district, our SSPT strives to keep pace with the changing face of support services in the 21st century.

The SSPT began the development process of this year's SPARC with individual and group meetings to look at our goals and objectives for the school year. Our school experienced several team member changes this year, and the SPARC helped to introduce our newest members to what our team has accomplished and the direction in which we are headed. Data was gathered to help complete the various requirements of the document, and each section of the SPARC was drafted and re-written until it was complete.

As in prior years, our current SPARC will be distributed in a variety of ways. Our principal will mail home a copy in his newsletter, we keep copies readily available in our guidance office, we distribute copies at all presentations that we make, and we submit copies to our staff, the District Office, and the Board of Trustees. Additionally, it will be given to all parents of new enrollees in order to familiarize them with support services at their child's new school.

We at Piñon Mesa Middle School thank you for your consideration of our program for this award, and we appreciate the continued support from educational leaders outside of San Bernardino County.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele R. Scribner
Piñon Mesa Middle School Counselor



ALVARADO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

1901 S Desire Avenue
Rowland Heights, CA 91748
(626) 964-2358



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Los Angeles County Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway, ECC-267
Downey, CA 90242

February 26, 2008

Dear SPARC Committee,

This is the fourth year Alvarado has participated in creating a SPARC document. We are extremely proud of our SPARC as it reveals a true team spirit that is present not only in our student support team, but in our entire school community. We value the SPARC as it provides us with the opportunity to continuously improve our programs and to evaluate our Student Support Personnel Team efforts.

The process of writing and continuously improving Alvarado's SPARC was a team effort. The counselors coordinated the gathering of the information, but all members of the student support team collaborated in putting it together. The principal and vice principal were instrumental in gathering information regarding our community partnerships, student results, parent involvement, and principal's comments. Further, the Student Service Center personnel provided the data for school climate and safety. Our classified staff also provided the data for our graphs and tables in the school climate and safety; and student results sections. All team members collaborated on the measurements and focus for improvement sections. Our program specialist reviewed and edited our SPARC to check for errors and to ensure our SPARC was written in a consistent voice. Through this process, we realized that we work well as a team, respect each other's efforts, and we experience success at meeting our school community's needs. Further, we saw that as a team we are innovative and willing to go above and beyond for the benefit of our students.

Our plan of distribution will include making the SPARC available at Parent, Teacher and Student Association (PTSA) meetings, School Site Council Meetings, Staff Meetings, Parent Nights, Open House and Back to School Nights, and presenting the SPARC to our School Board. We will be sending a copy of our SPARC home with our current students and will include the SPARC with informational packets for our incoming 7th grade parent night. We will post our SPARC on our school web site at <http://alvarado.rowland.k12.ca.us> and it will be displayed in our main office. In addition, the SPARC will be included in information given to local businesses/organizations interested in partnering with our school.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Godoy
School Counselor

Rosanne Hoang
School Counselor



February 28, 2008

Bob Tyra:

Homestead is happy and proud to be submitting a SPARC this year. It has become an integral part to the improvement of our Guidance Department. The district is in the process of revising the guidance services that are offered at Homestead and within the district. The SPARC is a great tool to help us begin the process of communicating to students, staff, and parents what the Guidance Department already does. The document allows us to see our areas of strength and areas of improvement. It also allows space and time for the Guidance Department to come together and revise the goals of the department. It also gives the Guidance Department a place to highlight our important accomplishments.

Not only has the SPARC helped us improve the services of the Guidance Department, the document brought people together to recognize the team. Putting together a SPARC requires support from various people. Presenting the SPARC to a school site or a district requires someone to take the lead and be willing to put in time and effort to create the document. With the help of the Guidance Counselors, we were able to put together the document fairly easily. We also received help with the collection of the data from various members of the support staff. Other people that helped us put together the document were the Administration. The support from Administration allowed us to get the document out to a wide group of people.

Now that the document is complete, we have begun the process of distribution. Most recently, the SPARC was given to every incoming 8th grader at our 8th Grade Information Night. On March 3rd, the SPARC will be presented to all Department Chairs and a Department Chair meeting. Also, the SPARC will be presented to staff and the local governing board in the future. We also will be discussing the SPARC with the other schools within the district.

Homestead is really excited to have this document available to the community to communicate the services of the Guidance Department!

Sincerely,

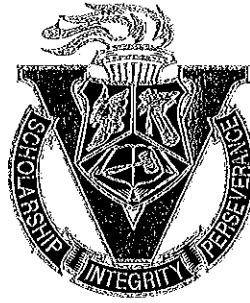


Brooke Herald
Guidance Counselor

Valley High School Counseling

Chris Evans, Principal

Ron Riebeek, Head Counselor
Carole Lyle
Greg Ortiz
Lee Vue
My Vo, Career Counselor



6300 Ehrhardt Avenue
Sacramento, California 95823
(916) 681-7575
FAX (916) 682-1528

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February 18, 2008

Dear California Leadership Academy Award Selection Committee:

Valley High School's Student Support Team (VSST) is attempting for the third year in a row to be recognized for its outstanding results based work with students. The form of this award is the Support Personnel Accountability Report Card (SPARC).

The SPARC offers the VSST an opportunity to enumerate upon the many ways in which parents and students can access student support services. Highlighted programs in the SPARC Report have been written based in part on Valley counseling department goals which are aligned to the National Standards for School Counseling Programs (NSSCP) and our district's bold goals. The development of this document has allowed the VSST to improve our comprehensive counseling program and the coordination of support services.

Valley's SPARC is a public document intended to showcase how support services programs contribute to the following:

CAHSEE passing rates (see Principal's Comments and Measurements sections)

API and AYP indicators (See Principal's Comments)

Successful completion of "a-g" requirements (see Principal's Comments, Student Results, Major Achievements and Focus on Improvement sections)

School safety and climate (see School Climate and Safety and Measurements sections)

1802 conferences (see Principal's Comments and Major Achievements sections)

Parent and volunteer involvement (see Volunteer Involvement section)

Valley's high school graduation rate (see Major Achievements section)

College/Career readiness (see Principal's Comments, Student Support Personnel, Student Results, Major Achievements, Measurements and Focus on Improvement sections)

The VSST believes that the SPARC is a necessary document that acts in part to validate the critical role counselors play in public education for the following reasons:

- Services highlighted in the report are aligned with district bold goals in the areas of academic, personal/social and career domains of the NSSCP
- Communication between teachers, support staff, parents and the community is enhanced
- The process of how results based data is used to develop and revise components of a comprehensive counseling program are detailed
- Substantive documentation of the successes of current services are provided
- Information regarding community outreach services and the enhancement of volunteer involvement are provided

Our SPARC report is incorporated into our site improvement plan, published in the WASC Report and made available to parents, staff and community through the district web-site and as a printed document.

Thank-you for your consideration,


Ron Riebeek
Head Counselor, Valley High School



San Diego Unified School District

Clairemont High School
4150 Ute Drive, San Diego, California 92117

(858) 273-0201
Fax: (858) 272-4219

Mary Jo McCarey
Head Counselor
Office of the Principal

858-273-0201 x 2212 mmccarey@sandi.net

February 26, 2008

RE: Clairemont High School SPARC

Greetings from Clairemont High School,

The Student Support Personnel Team at Clairemont High School would like to begin by sharing our excitement and appreciation for the SPARC project. After attending a counseling seminar regarding continuous improvement documents and accountability initiatives set forth by the California Department of Education and the Los Angeles County Office of Education, our counseling team realized the significance and necessity of such a document for our campus, and immediately accepted the challenge.

Clairemont High School is one of sixteen comprehensive high schools in the San Diego Unified School District located five miles north of metropolitan San Diego, California. Our diverse demographics include 51% Hispanic, 19.7% Students with Special Needs, 51% Free or Reduced Lunch, 17% Limited English Proficient, and 36% Voluntary Enrollment Program students who are transferred from neighborhoods outside of the Clairemont attendance zone. Clairemont High School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

As the development process began, each of the five sections included in the SPARC were delegated to our four full-time counselors and the principal. Upon gathering our assigned data and related information, a CHS community volunteer, who is a former educator and the wife of one of our counselors, used her expertise and design skills to create our SPARC document. Throughout the process of creating our SPARC, we experienced valuable insights regarding our SSPT, and the effect our team has on our campus. Here are a few examples: 1) we were enlightened as to the large number staff members who provide on-site student support and hope, 2) needs assessments are crucial to obtaining real data in order to make relevant decisions for our students, 3) analysis and response to data in a timely manner allows us to address current issues through the development and/or implementation of programs, acquisition of resources, and other applicable solutions that are more relevant and meaningful, 4) we learned that developing assessment tools which accurately provide results is vital to meeting our student needs appropriately, 4) being held accountable enhances our goal of continually improving our campus, 5) a wealth of talent and expertise is available to Clairemont High School through community volunteers.

Our plan to distribute our SPARC includes: translating it into Spanish for our Spanish-speaking parents; requesting that the Clairemont Foundation assist with funding for copies to be distributed to our parents, community members and administration, including our assistant superintendent, Nellie Meyer and our superintendent, Dr. Terry Grier; sharing it with other counseling departments in our district; publishing it on our website; creating a SPARC multi-media presentation for use at PTSA meetings, open house, and other events.

Our vision at CHS is to provide a challenging academic program that fulfills our mission to prepare all of our students for a four-year university upon graduation. We believe the SPARC document will not only forward this mission by keeping us accountable and on track, but will also help our campus effectively communicate, to all CHS stakeholders, information regarding performance data, campus goals and objectives, current achievements, and other information critical to our continued improvement.

Thank You,

Mary Jo McCarey



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL

"No Choice But Success"

901 West Francis Street • Ontario, CA 91762 • (909) 988-7411 • FAX (909) 986-2181

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ROD HUST
Principal

Angela Gonzalez
Assistant Principal

Daren K. Gilbert
Assistant Principal

Colby Helper
Assistant Principal

Cary Willborn
Assistant Principal

February 29, 2008

Mr. Bob Tyra, Project Director
Los Angeles County Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway, ECC-267
Downey, CA 90242-4720

Mr. Tyra and colleagues,

The Ontario High School Support Personnel Team took pride in putting together a comprehensive outline that best characterizes our school and community as presented in our SPARC. Each person that is mentioned in our SPARC participated in the developmental stages of putting the report card together either by interviews, writing statements, compiling the data and organizing the information into a well represented document.

Each person of the Support Personnel Team was interviewed and addressed in our completed SPARC. We began collecting data in January, looking for information that best fit the criteria, while at the same time, evaluating the programs we have in place and beginning to plan on how we can improve this year and the upcoming school year. As the data came in, it was tabulated, logged, compiled, and graphed.

The counselors took an active role in bringing together the data by writing the individual sections in accordance to the criteria presented. The final document will be presented at the Leadership meetings and School Site Council meetings. Every staff member will also receive a copy along with our board members. Parents will be presented with copies of the SPARC, per their request, when 1802 meetings are held or at other similar type functions.

Because the school is new to putting together a comprehensive report card, it was an extensive project. The finished product, once complete, turned out to be informative to our staff and parents. Building upon the SPARC and building upon our program for upcoming years will be a learning experience every time we do it.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in such an endeavor.

Mrs. Edith Calvo


Guidance Counselor
Ontario High School



Knight High School

Antelope Valley Union High School District

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Susan McDougal, Ph.D.
Principal

February 26, 2008

It is with great pleasure, and a sense of pride, that I present this Support Personnel Accountability Report Card (SPARC) for Knight High School.

Having opened the school five years ago as the only counselor, with a Pupil Services Technician, it is exciting to see how far we have come in five years. From a staff of two with 900 freshmen, to a staff of twelve with over 3,200 students, much has changed and much has been accomplished. Our first graduating class had a graduation rate of over 96% and close to 200 of those seniors went on to colleges or universities. KHS is now the largest high school in the Antelope Valley Union High School District.

To complete this SPARC, each team member was assigned a section to research and compose. The data and text were provided to one of our Pupil Services Technicians who recorded and edited the data. All members of the team had a direct hand in the compiling of information and the production of the final document. Administration was extremely supportive and even provided compensation for two after-school meetings.

Although the information presented in this SPARC is based on our day to day operations, we did hold four dedicated meetings with all of the Student Support Services Team members to review drafts and make suggestions and recommendations. In between these formal meetings, information was exchanged by e-mail, telephone and personal contact.

Having completed this SPARC, it will now be used as part of our School Accountability Report Card (SARC), posted in the Counseling Center and on the web at www.khshawks.org and will be made available at our department information table located in the Guidance and Counseling Center. In addition, copies of this SPARC have been provided to all of the Team members, the Administrative Leadership at the District Office (cabinet) and our school board members.

Respectfully,

Raymond M N Hart, MS, MFT
Head Counselor, Knight High School