

# Pleasanton Unified School District



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Harvest Park Middle School Designated 2013 California Distinguished School**

**Pleasanton, California**—State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced the 2013 California Distinguished Schools. Among them was PUSD's Harvest Park Middle School, recognized for their innovative education programs that encourage students to learn and help close the achievement gap.

"These schools have gone the extra mile to provide high-quality instruction that puts their students on the right path toward career and college," Torlakson said. "Given the enormous challenges schools have faced in recent years, it is inspiring to see this kind of success in so many schools. Our future depends on meeting the needs of every student no matter where they come from or where they live."

The 2013 California Distinguished Schools Program focuses on California's students and their entitlement to an equitable and rigorous education. The program identifies and honors those schools that have demonstrated educational excellence for all students and progress in narrowing the achievement gap.

To be invited to apply for Distinguished School honors, schools must meet a variety of eligibility criteria including designated federal and state accountability measures based on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Academic Performance Index requirements.

"Congratulations to everyone involved, including our district office staff," said Ken Rocha, Principal at Harvest Park, "It takes a village."

Elementary and secondary schools (middle and high schools) are recognized in alternate years. This year focuses on secondary schools. Last year Fairlands Elementary won when the focus was elementary schools.

Schools selected for recognition will be honored as Distinguished Schools at award ceremony on Friday, May 17, 2013, at the Santa Clara Marriott, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. where each school will be presented with a 2013 Distinguished School plaque and flag.

The news release identifying all the 2013 Distinguished Middle and High Schools is posted online at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/> under What's New.

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