

F A L L 2 0 0 8 E D I T I O N

the VIKING Report

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DESK OF DR. HUGO A. PEDROZA



In Memoriam

*Joey Lutz
1982-2008*



✧ Welcome Back! ✧

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT 2008-09

There is no question that we are starting the new school year with high expectations for Samohi. For starters, we look to continue to improve the quality of education and the quantity of co-curricular opportunities for every one of our students. On the instructional side, I continue to be supportive of teachers efforts to improve their practice. While every area is important to improve, Math, as you will see



in our CST results, will once again be the focus district-wide. In addition to the pedagogical support, we've added Dance, Gospel/R&B Choir and Mariachi to the co-curricular options available to our students. This will engage more students with school activities. Higher engagement leads to improved academic achievement. I am very excited about the prospects for this year and I hope you are, too.

*Santa Monica High School
Goals
2008-09*

- Ensure safety and well-being of all our students
- Provide academic rigor in every classroom
- Increase diverse co-curricular activities
- Promote school pride through a clean campus culture

CSTs Challenges and Celebrations

CST Results 2005-2008 (% of all students)	2005	2006	2007	2008
Proficient & Advanced ELA	53%	60%	61%	60%
Proficient & Advanced Math	24%	25%	25%	28%
Proficient & Advanced History	45%	52%	46%	48%
Proficient & Advanced Science 10th	N/A	57%	54%	57%
Proficient & Advanced End of Course Science	36%	40%	47%	50%

The CST scores for Santa Monica High School came out recently and we have reason to celebrate and lots of motivation to challenge ourselves. On the positive side, as indicated by the first graphic, all core areas experienced growth, with the exception of English Language Arts. These figures reflect how we performed school-wide in the last four years. It is important to note that Math experienced a 3 point growth between 2007 and 2008, and Science End of Course has moved from 36% to 50% of students scoring Proficient and Advanced. As a matter of reference, Samo grew 25 API points between 2005 and 2006, 1 API point between 2006 and 2007, and we are still waiting for the 2008 API score.

While we have managed to move slightly ahead in our proficiency levels as a school, there is still much to be done toward our academic achievement. The most obvious challenge is with the Achievement Gap. Looking at the achievement by ethnicity, it is apparent that our African American and Latino students are still performing below their White and Asian counterparts in all core areas. Math, in particular is an area where we need to focus our energies to bring the growth pace at a more aggressive level. There has been growth in most areas since 2005 for both groups, but there is still plenty of room for improvement.

CST Proficient & Advanced by Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008
ELA Latino	29%	37%	40%	40%
ELA African American	27%	33%	33%	31%
Math Latino	9%	10%	11%	11%
Math African American	4%	7%	9%	11%
History Latino	26%	31%	27%	30%
History African American	22%	31%	19%	21%
Science 10th Grade Latino	N/A	35%	34%	31%
Science 10th Grade African American	N/A	30%	24%	30%
Science End of Course Latino	14%	20%	25%	27%
Science End of Course African American	14%	14%	21%	21%



Beautification Efforts

Many of you came back from summer vacation to a cleaner, better looking school. I heard many of you say that your classrooms have not looked this clean in a long time. I think this is a great start but my intention is to keep improving the look and feel of the campus so that it inspires pride and clean becomes the “default” look of Samo. Toward this end, students, parents, teachers, Central Office and school staff have come together to plan an year-long endeavor to promote cleanliness throughout our school. Already, ASB students are targeting lunch-time as a primary goal of this campaign.



October and February

In addition to what’s been done this summer, Samohi’s beautification campaign will have two Saturdays October 25 and February 21 where students, parents, teachers and staff will descend on the Samohi campus to clean it and make it look even better. Finally, we just got word from the Maintenance and Operations Director at SMMUSD, that Samo will be painted this year. That will make a big, positive difference.

Thank You

Just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do on behalf of our students. This purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with useful, pertinent information. In an effort to keep it simple and readable, I have not covered every single issue. However, if you have a question or concern that you would like to share, you can always come to my office and talk to me. My Open Door Policy is still part of my *modus operandi*. I look forward to a banner year! - Dr. P

