DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS
RANK AMONG NATION’S ELITE

All District Comprehensive High Schools Earn Silver Medals in Magazine’s Latest Evaluation

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO — All six comprehensive high schools in Capistrano Unified School District were identified as among the elite in the latest state and national rankings released by U.S. News & World Report magazine.

The magazine examined more than 19,400 public high schools in 50 states plus the District of Columbia using data from the 2011-12 school year. The top 24 percent of eligible schools in this national review were awarded either gold, silver, or bronze medals.

The six CUSD high schools earned silver medals with rankings in the top 5 percent, according to the magazine’s analysis. Among District high schools, Tesoro placed highest nationally at 545 followed by Dana Hills, 605; Aliso Niguel, 753; San Clemente; 757; San Juan Hills, 787; and Capistrano Valley, 823.

“These new nationwide high school rankings place our six medal-earning comprehensive high schools among the best in the nation, and is yet again another means of confirmation that our students are receiving an exceptional education,” said Board President John M. Alpay. “This survey also validates the decision made to make classroom instruction our top priority, and further recognizes the contributions of all our employees who have more than diligently implemented this emphasis.”

Of the 2,026 public high schools in the state, 600 earned medals, and only gold or silver schools were eligible for a state ranking in California. Tesoro ranked 114th in the state followed by Dana Hills, 124; Aliso Niguel, 152; San Clemente; 153; San Juan Hills, 159; and Capistrano Valley, 168.

The six evaluated and ranked comprehensive high schools bettered the state’s academic goals and scored highly on the college readiness index, which measures student participation and performance on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests.