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Oceana honored with education award

By [JEAN BARTLETT](#) | Pacifica Tribune

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Six years ago in May, Pacifica's Oceana High School received a California Distinguished School Award, the highest distinction possible by the California Department of Education, in recognition of the academic achievement of all students. Earlier that same May, Oceana's Senior Exhibition Project received a Kent Award. The Kent Award acknowledged the high school for its "vision and creative effort" and its senior exhibition — a year-long research project culminating in a written and oral presentation — was recognized as a "program worthy of celebration."

This May, Oceana joins seven other San Mateo County high schools and middle schools as one of the recipients of the California Gold Ribbon Schools Award 2015. Along with Oceana High School, the other honored San Mateo County recipients are: Aragon High School (San Mateo), Capuchino High School (San Bruno), Corte Madera School (4th–8th, Portola Valley), Hillview Middle School (Menlo Park), Parkside Intermediate (San Bruno), Lipman Middle School (Brisbane) and William H. Crocker Middle School (Hillsborough).

The California Gold Ribbon School Award recognizes middle schools and high schools that have made tremendous gains in "implementing the rigorous academic and performance standards outlined by the State Board of Education, which include the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics as well as the Next Generation Science Standards." (Elementary schools will be recognized in 2016.)

The Common Core State Standards, drafted by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, set requirements for mathematics,

science and English language arts – including literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects – to prepare students progressing through their K-12 education for success in college and career readiness in multiple disciplines.

The California Gold Ribbon School Award is the temporary replacement for the California Distinguished School Award, currently on hiatus while the state transitions to its new assessment and accountability systems. Similar to the Distinguished School Award, schools self-nominate for the Gold Ribbon Award by submitting detailed information on a Model Program that “helped students successfully adapt to the new standards.” Each school’s application is reviewed by a team of educators based on a scoring rubric. Schools with the highest scoring applications received a site visit to validate the implementation of the Model Program. Final recommendations were made to the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. Award recipients were announced May 5, 2015. Congratulations Oceana High School.

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