

2017 State Of The District

A Report to the Community



GRATTON
School District



WWW.GRATTONSCHOOL.NET



Mission Statement

To prepare students in a safe and supportive environment, to achieve academic excellence, including fine arts and athletics, and to develop leadership and interpersonal skills necessary to be successful when entering the next level of education.



Letter from Our Superintendent

Gratton School District is pleased to send to you the Annual State of the District report. It is designed to be an informative report to our clientele and the community about the district in general as well as programs, achievement and milestones. It is a goal of the district to create a partnership to improve communication with all clientele and community members. Current information, including a monthly and yearly calendar, is always available on our website grattonschool.net. All meeting agendas and minutes can also be found on the site.

The biggest news (literally) is the fabulous playground on the west side of campus! The structure features a farm theme with a large barn and silo for climbing, and not one but TWO tire swings! The entire structure is situated on a state of the art rubber surface of interlocking tiles. Benches have been added so that students and community members can have a relaxing time enjoying the structure. Additional laptops have been added to provide one to one access for students in first through eighth grades. A STEAM lab, (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) is being created and will be ready to use during the new school year. Annual state testing scores continue to

exceed state and county averages. In fact, Gratton School District has the highest average of test scores of all of the districts in Stanislaus County. It has been a big year!

Educating students in a digital world is fast paced. Preparing students for success in a highly competitive world requires innovative and cutting edge strategies as well as techniques. Of equal importance, is preserving the small country school atmosphere and protecting the strong sense of tradition of the last 100 years. We continue to have high expectations of student achievement and work together to achieve those goals. We recognize and protect that Gratton is not just a school, it is a family. This is what makes Gratton special and sets it apart from many others.

We are truly a small school making a big difference!

Shannon Sanford
Superintendent

Gratton Elementary and Gratton Charter

In 2008, Gratton Charter School was formed. In every classroom, students enrolled in the charter learn alongside students who live in the district. Students participate in a variety of programs Gratton School District offers. In addition to instruction in the core subjects, students participate in the fine arts program, including two productions each year, the competitive sports program and the agricultural program by participating in the school garden. Currently, Gratton serves 46 students who live in the district and 94 students that live outside the district. Gratton continues to enjoy a lengthy waiting list of families wishing for their children to attend. Gratton School District remains one of the smallest school districts in Stanislaus County.



Programs and Curriculum

Each classroom at Gratton has an average of 15 students. Although classrooms are self-contained through sixth grade, many subjects such as physical education, fine arts, reading buddies, gardening, leadership, competitive sports and special projects are taught in a multi-graded setting. All students participate in the fine arts program of chorus and drama with fifth through eighth grade students additionally participating in band. All students in fifth through eighth grade also participate in competitive sports. Students in seventh and eighth grades rotate between two junior high teachers for different subjects. For students who struggle, the district implements a Response to Intervention program. With the average classroom size of 15, teachers are able to effectively identify and assess students who need intervention and apply targeted strategies effectively and more readily.

Gratton is making steady progress consistently implementing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) activities throughout the year to promote critical thinking. The key focus is integration of all subjects while working in groups as well as individually to complete a task or solve a problem. Providing trial and error experiences are essential to exercise and improve critical thinking skills. Equally important is systematic direct instruction and drill and practice experiences to provide the foundational skills that can then be applied to problem solving and critical thinking. Full STEAM ahead!



Vision Statement

Commitment to children with high expectations while maximizing individual achievement for all.

Finance

The district's revenue is calculated by the state Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). This formula consists of a base amount per student and additional supplemental grants based on the district population of English learners and students from lower socioeconomic households. Due to the low English learner population and the lower socioeconomic count, Gratton receives minimal supplemental funding and does not receive any concentration grants. The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), or Strategic Plan, lists goals for the district in all areas and allocates funding to achieve these goals with a focus on closing the achievement gap. Gratton School District will end the 2016-2017 school year in the positive. The district's reserves are healthy and, through the LCAP, are designated for specific future projects and goals.

Advisory Committees

Gratton School District has a very active Parent Teacher Club (PTC) that plans a variety of activities for students and community members such as the Harvest Festival, Thanksgiving Feast, and various academic contests (Speech Meet, Spelling Bee etc.) The famous Gratton BBQ provides funding for these events as well as rewards for students and teachers (field trips, Staff Appreciation Day, etc.)

Gratton School Site Council meets quarterly each year. The council consists of staff and elected parents. The Site Council gives input for the budget and approves the Local Control Accountability Plan, and the Strategic Plan. They also serve as the Safety Committee and the Charter School Advisory Committee.

Facilities

Recent improvements to the campus include construction of a play structure for kindergarten through third grades. Each class, first through eighth, contains a mobile lab of 17 laptops. Our garden has a chicken coop and students have eggs available for purchase. The process has begun to consolidate our library by providing digital resources. A STEAM Lab is being created as the library and original computer lab condenses. Long-term future plans include replacing two portable classrooms with a permanent structure. All facilities are monitored and checked monthly for safety and repairs are made regularly.

Safety at GSD

Gratton School District has made many changes through the years to protect the safety of the students. Fences around the school were raised and gates are locked during school hours. All visitors must check in at the front office. The staff has completed formal safety training for everything from natural disasters to planned and unplanned lockdowns. The district practices safety drills monthly.

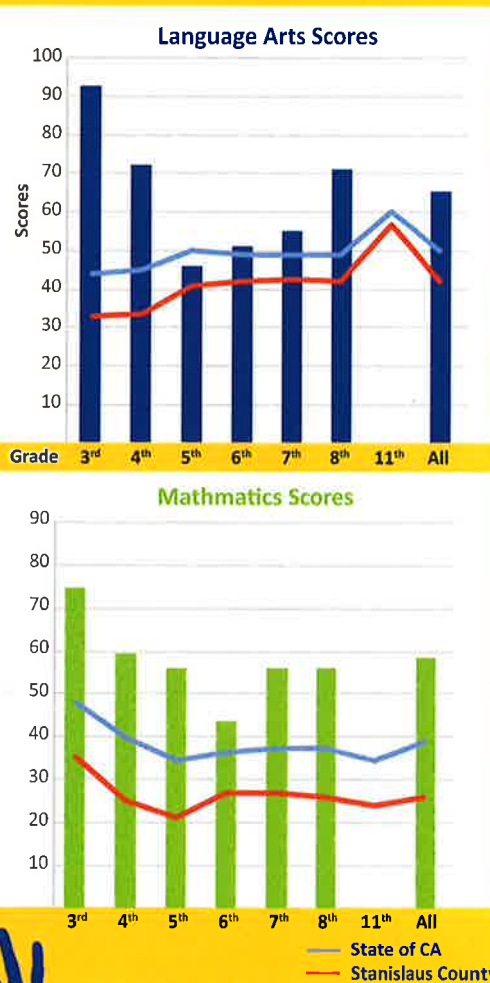
Release time for all students is at 2:20 with the exception of the occasional minimum days when the release time is 11:30. Students are picked up in an orderly fashion at the curb in front of the office. One line of traffic is used to prevent students from crossing traffic in the parking lot. The average pick up time lasts until 2:30. The district thanks the community for their patience at the intersection and their cooperation with keeping students safe during the 10 minute pick up time each day.

Student Achievement

Gratton students took the computer-based state testing last spring. Gratton students far exceeded the state and county with number of students meeting or exceeding the standard for both language arts and math. A new Academic Performance Index (API) will be created and reported by the state to compare scores in the near future. In addition to basic skills, task performance, problem solving and critical thinking skills have been integrated into the computer based assessments. The integration of these elements brings challenges that are addressed in the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Evidence of a strong core program as well as benefits from the performing arts can be seen with the confidence and achievement of the students. Students at Gratton have won regional and state awards in many areas. This year, there were eight regional winners for the "Imagine this..." writing contest sponsored by California Agriculture in the Classroom. Out of the eight, two went on to win the state competition. The seventh grade won the Northern California section of the "Future City" Competition and went on to represent the nation in Washington DC. Throughout the year, students compete in the local "Literary Conference," as well as the Parent Teacher Club sponsored Annual Spelling Bee and Speech Meet. Gratton is a small school but is large in its achievement!

Gratton State Test Results



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