



GROSSMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

# PRESS RELEASE

For further information contact:  
Catherine Martin, Public Affairs  
(619) 644-8082

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## VALHALLA HIGH SCHOOL HONORED AS 2007 CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

(EL CAJON, CA)—On April 16, 2007, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell announced that Valhalla High School has been selected as a 2007 California Distinguished School. The annual award recognizes some of the state's most exemplary public schools. “These middle and high schools have shown they are able to meet the challenge of providing their students with the kind of rigorous education that is essential to their future success in the classroom and the workplace” said O’Connell.

O’Connell called Valhalla High School Principal Larry Martinsen to personally share the good news. “We were overjoyed to hear that our commitment to our students has been recognized with this prestigious award,” Martinsen said. “Valhalla High School is a truly extraordinary school with devoted teachers, dedicated staff, and motivated students.” Superintendent Terry Ryan added, “I’m very proud of our students, teachers, administrators, staff and parents. This recognition is a tribute to their hard work.”

This year, the selected middle and high schools represent about 7 percent of California’s nearly 2,400 middle and high schools. Applications underwent an intensive evaluation process and all nominee schools were reviewed during a site validation conducted by a team of external educators.

Valhalla will be honored along with the other 2007 California Distinguished Schools on Friday, May 18 at an awards ceremony and dinner at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim.

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