Hillcrest Elementary Receives National Community Schools Award

June 6, 2013 (San Francisco, CA) – Hillcrest Elementary received the 2013 National Community Schools Award for Excellence from the Coalition of Community Schools. Representatives from the school accepted the award today at a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Hillcrest is one of only three elementary schools in the country to receive the award.

Located in the Excelsior district, Hillcrest identifies as a Community School, which is a school defined by its strategy for organizing community resources around student success. Hillcrest subscribes to a holistic view of its students and employs an integrated focus on academics, socio-emotional supports, and family engagement activities that lead not only to improved student learning, but also to stronger families and healthier communities.

“Hillcrest represents how the collective will of educators, community leaders, and parents can overcome long-standing barriers to create a school environment where all students can thrive,” says Martin J. Blank, director of the Coalition of Community Schools and president of the Institute for Educational Leadership. “The commitment of Hillcrest, its partners, and the San Francisco Unified School District to providing a world-class education is a shining beacon for school districts across the country.”

Hillcrest has shown an eleven percent increase from 2010 to 2012 across all grades in California Standardized Test scores. Parent participation in teacher conferences has increased by 40 percent, and a parent-run food bank serves nearly 80 families a week. Nearly half of Hillcrest students participate in after-school or summer school programs.

Learn more about Hillcrest’s Community School strategy.

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