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SDJA Upper School Students Score Best Ever on Standardized Tests

SDJA's middle school students far outperformed the national norm group in standardized test scores while SDJA's high school students achieved their highest SAT and ACT mean scores ever.

San Diego, CA – January 21, 2011 – Upper school students at San Diego Jewish Academy (SDJA) have a lot to celebrate — they've performed remarkably this year on national standardized exams. "Our students' standardized test scores have been excellent in the past, but this year's impressive scores are the best ever for both middle school and high school students," said Dr. Jeffrey Davis, the principal at SDJA's Maimonides Upper School.

According to Davis, middle school students (grades 6, 7 and 8) take the rigorous ERB exam, which serves the needs of high-achieving schools and is designed to collect information about students' academic achievement. SDJA's middle school students took tests in verbal reasoning, vocabulary, reading comprehension, writing mechanics, writing concepts and skills, quantitative reasoning and mathematics.

"The ERB test results provide us with our grade level median percentile scores," stated Davis. "We use these grade level scores to measure our students' performance. In this year's test, our students far outperformed the national norm group," explained Davis.

Principal Davis added that the SAT and ACT test results for SDJA's high school seniors were also remarkable. "Although SDJA students have consistently performed exceptionally well on both of these exams, what's most impressive is the upward trend and improvement of students' scores for the past six years," he stated. "For example, the mean composite SAT score of our graduating seniors for 2011 is 1,800 and the graduating class' mean ACT score in English and Math for 2011 is 27.3—both the highest scores ever."

Davis noted that these test results allow faculty to assess student performance and when appropriate make adjustments in curriculum and instruction to better meet student needs. "When examining our standardized test results over the past six years, it is evident that fine-tuning our curriculum and instruction as a response to assessments has yielded impressive results. With that said, we know and deeply believe that test scores are not the only measure of an outstanding education," said Davis.

Davis emphasized that an SDJA education is far more than just textbook learning. "As important as academic scores are, they do not measure the values and self-confidence that we strive to instill in our students, which helps them learn for life," finished Davis.

About SDJA:

San Diego Jewish Academy, one of the country's premier K-12 Jewish day schools, challenges students to achieve their full academic potential and become individuals of strong moral and ethical character, while inspiring them to make Judaism a vital and relevant aspect of their lives.

For more information about San Diego Jewish Academy, visit www.sdja.com.

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Photo caption: SDJA Maimonides Upper School students Raquel Shoshani and Natalie Aroeste study outdoors.