



Bolinas-Stinson Union School District
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Great News about Bolinas Stinson Test Scores

In a school that does not “teach to the test”, where the administration does not pressure teachers to improve scores, where teachers work to facilitate student understanding of essential standards and seek opportunities to provide authentic experiences, what happens to standardized test scores?

Apparently they improve; at least that is what has happened in Bolinas-Stinson.

To be totally candid, I hardly ever think about test scores. I become conscious of testing in the spring when the test is given and again at the end of the summer when the scores are published. I take a look at the numbers and see if we can find any useful information. We sometimes find things that might help us with individual students but the overall school scores don’t often point the way to school improvement. And of course test scores don’t come close to giving us a complete picture of student growth and achievement.

But when I logged on to our state accountability dashboard this year, it was hard not be at least a little bit delighted.

Across the board, Bolinas Stinson School got high marks (and more importantly) our kids demonstrated growth in all areas covered by the test. And those results do tell me something: A school can be unusual; it can focus on whole-child development, provide major field trips, hands-on activities, spend a lot of time on the arts and on helping kids grow emotionally and ***still get excellent test scores***. You really can have both... and we do.

If we continue to remain clear on our expectations for student learning and keep working on making school meaningful and relevant to students’ lives, we’ll continue to find success even by traditional measures.

If you’d like to see our overall results, please go to this link:

<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/#/Details/21653006024137/1/EquityReport>

and of course, contact me if you want to discuss them.

Sincerely,

John Carroll

John Carroll
Superintendent
Bolinas-Stinson Union School District