

Rose Warren Empowerment School – a 21st Century Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada

According to a 2009 technology report by *Education Week* and the *Editorial Projects in Education Research Center* (www.edweek.org/go/tc09), Nevada's use of technology, capacity to use technology and access to technology is dismal. Yet in the center of Las Vegas is a school that represents the very opposite and whose students are proudly computer literate, and where access and use is evident everywhere.

Rose Warren Empowerment School is not only technologically ready for the 21st Century, it is exemplary in many ways and their progress shows it. Led by an outstanding principal, Dr. Rosanna Gallagher and her remarkable staff, with district support and help from the Public Education Foundation, the school has been working with the Natural Learning Research institute headed by Renate and Geoffrey Caine. The Caines' have been implementing this systemic approach to education for over 20 years, and have established a track record of success both nationally and internationally.

The school has ongoing professional learning communities for the adults that focus on understanding learning, developing technology skills for both teachers and students, improving test scores and emphasizing higher order thinking by focusing on depth of knowledge.

Depth of knowledge goes beyond the recall and reproduction method of instruction, but rather looks at the current research on how students really learn.

School statistics for 2009 include the following:

- Rose Warren had the highest rate of growth in MATH of any elementary school in the district.
- The school outscored the state in WRITING on 3 out of the 4 Writing Traits measured, and were close on the 4th.

This is the first year the school has met AYP.

Rose Warren has the highest growth of all the empowerment elementary schools, based on the criteria empowerment schools are measured by for SAS - Value Added Student Progress, which measures individual growth of students from year to year.

Rose Warren has created a culture of success and change, embraced by students and teachers. The staff of Rose Warren has been asked by *The Natural Learning Research Institute* to become a laboratory school in order to pass on this knowledge to other schools.

The program is designed to move schools from being dependent on outside consultants to ones capable of achieving internally powered sustainable growth. This way the district is not continually funneling money into outside programs, but is using those funds for program development facilitated by in-house personnel.

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