

Armijo High School 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report

Reason for Investigation

Each year the Grand Jury visits a random selection of schools in the County.

Procedure

The Grand Jury:

- Toured school facilities
- Talked with administrators, teachers, support staff, students and parents
- Observed students in classes and moving from class-to-class
- Observed libraries, computer labs, gymnasiums, classrooms and cafeteria
- Reviewed health, safety and emergency evacuation procedures

Background

1. Armijo High School is located in downtown Fairfield. The campus is very large and is easily accessible to the general public. Testimony revealed security concerns due to this accessibility. The school is over 45 years old and is due for major renovation starting in the summer of 2003 utilizing available bond funds. Despite the fact that Armijo has a large school population (approximately 2,315 students), and a large staff, there is only one handicapped parking space and limited parking otherwise. The school inter-com system is not presently working. Air horn blast signals are used in case of emergency.

2. The school population is almost equally divided among three ethnic groups. Gang activity is minimal according to the School Administration. The Fairfield Police Department assigns a School Resource Officer full time to the school and there are six Campus Supervisors. Armijo High School has an extensive video surveillance monitoring system that can literally view any part of the campus. The equipment is located in a small closet-like room with poor ventilation. When the equipment is turned on, heat is generated to the point that the door has to be left open. This could cause the equipment to be compromised or damaged. The day the Grand Jury visited, the room was open and unattended.

3. Armijo High School has many innovative programs for its students:

- Women in Technology
- Academic Decathlon
- Building Trades Certification Curriculum and Program
- International Baccalaureate Program
- Public Service Academy Program
- Early Graduation Program (in conjunction with Solano Community College)

4. Armijo High School has an active Parents Club with many fund raising activities. Money grants to teachers and other facility/curriculum improvements have resulted. This is commendable.

Findings and Recommendations

Each finding is referenced to the background paragraph numbers

Finding # 1 - Armijo High School has excellent, innovative programs for its students. (3)

Recommendation #1 – Continue these innovative programs.

Finding #2 - Handicapped and general public parking spaces are inadequate. (1)

Recommendation #2 - Correct the inadequate parking situation.

Finding #3 - The Video Monitoring Surveillance Equipment Room lacks adequate ventilation and security for the equipment. (2)

Recommendation #3 - Correct the Video Monitoring Surveillance Equipment Room’s inadequate ventilation and security problems.

Finding #4 - Armijo High School has an inoperable inter-com system. (1)

Recommendations #4 - Immediately repair the inter-com/loud-speaker system.

Affected Agencies

- Solano County Office of Education
 - Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
 - Armijo High School
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