



AZ Public Schools Making A Difference Everyday
Electronic Newsletter June 8, 2010.

GOOD NEWS!

Here are a few of the great stories we have received so far.

PHOENIX - The results are jaw-dropping! A quick look at the numbers clearly tells the story - great things are happening inside the **Laveen Elementary School District (LESD)**... [\(read more\)](#)

Story: Laveen Elementary School District Makes Big Changes, Experiences Big Results

Linked Article:

Stories From You

Laveen Elementary School District Makes Big Changes, Experiences Big Results!

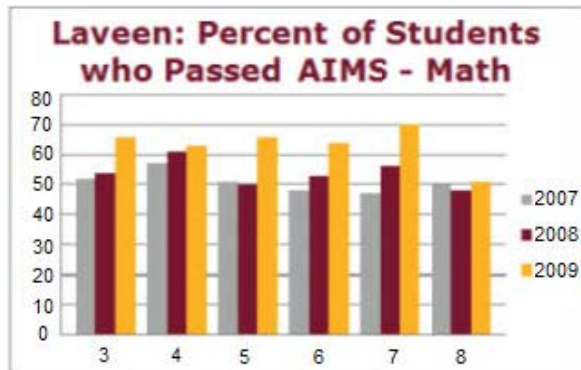
PHOENIX - June 8, 2010 - The results are jaw-dropping! A quick look at the numbers clearly tells the story - great things are happening inside the **Laveen Elementary School District (LESD)**.

From 2008 to 2009, the Southwest Valley school district witnessed state testing (Arizona Instrument to Measure Standard) scores improve in every subject for every grade, by as much as 16-percent.

Laveen Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services Barbara Marshall attributed the increase in academic success to several factors, including the ability to manage and monitor the progress of the implemented changes through the Galileo K-12 On-line system.

The first step was to review the district's curriculum, which needed to be aligned to state standards.

"Teacher committees took the state standards and mapped them out for the school year based on the grade levels, and on the order they would teach concepts and objectives," Marshall explained. "...We have a lot of new teachers starting their careers or even new to Laveen, so having the map really made a difference."



Continued AZ Public Schools Making A Difference Linked Article: Laveen Makes Big Changes, Experiences Big Results!

Marshall said the rapidly growing district, which experienced a nearly 42-percent growth rate each year from 2006 to 2009, also benefitted from the Galileo system's quarterly testing, which holds teachers accountable for "...teaching the map."

Another beneficial new initiative, according to Marshall, are the use of "Test Talks" – the process of teachers instructing students on the best ways to take a test.

"During a Test Talk the teachers and students would read the directions together, highlight the key words (and) make sure every student understands what the directions are asking," Marshall said.

The systematic process includes highlighting key words and information within each question and teaching the students how to eliminate distractive answers on multiple-choice tests.

"If you have four choices to choose from," Marshall said, "if you can throw one or sometimes two (answers) away, now (the student is) really only looking at two answers."

Laveen ESD schools are also using are 'Data Assemblies,' which is another new initiative tied in with the Galileo system.

"The schools don't just celebrate the kids meeting the standards," Marshall said, "but they go in, because Galileo makes it so easy, and find the kids who have made the most growth. So it might be a student who is really struggling..., but they made tremendous gains. ...Those students get to be celebrated at Data Assemblies."

