

# Hart-Ransom Union School District

"Bound For Success"

## Hart-Ransom Academic Charter School

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Grades Kindergarten through Eight

Sherry Smith, Director  
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### 2001-2002 School Accountability Report Card

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#### Director's Message

Hart-Ransom Charter School opened in August of 1995, and it has been exciting to experience the tremendous growth and development of our home-based school. The families and staff are committed to excellence, and our Advisory Teachers, working along side these dedicated parents, strive to see that each child succeeds.

Credentialed Teachers assigned to each family provide support and guidance as the parents teach their children. We also offer many exciting classes to enhance the student's education. Among these classes are: American History, Art, Physical Education, Band, Science, Computers, Character 1<sup>st</sup>, and many more. Parent Workshops are offered during the year in the areas of reading, writing, and a variety of others, better preparing them in working with their students. Our staff, students and parents are excited about the unique educational opportunities we offer each individual student, and we look forward to many successful years ahead.

#### District Mission Statement

The Hart-Ransom Union School District, recognizing the uniqueness and worth of each child and committed to the individual success of its community's youth, will ensure a quality education that fosters the development of skills and attitudes necessary for life-long learning through a positive and safe learning environment in partnership with home and community.

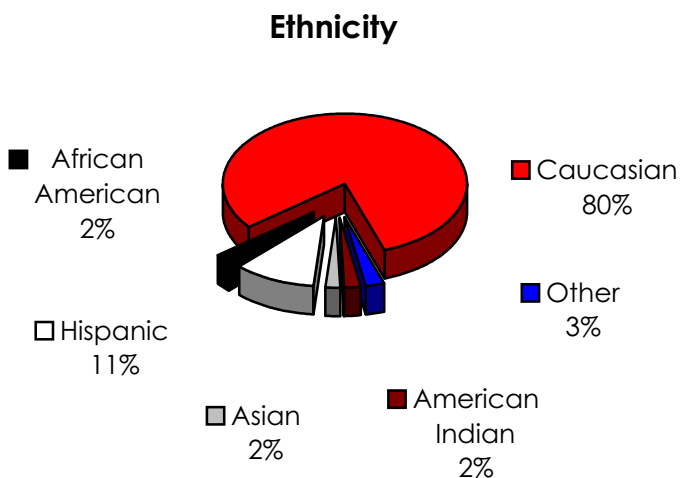
#### School Mission Statement

To support the Hart-Ransom Union School District Mission Statement, the Charter School will provide unique educational opportunities that enhance family life while addressing the needs and concerns of parents and children.

## Community & School Profile

Hart-Ransom Union School District is nestled among the almond orchards in the western tip of Modesto, California. The district consists of one traditional kindergarten through eighth grade campus and one Charter School that serves the needs of local home-schooling community.

Located on the same campus as the district, Hart-Ransom Charter School was the 80<sup>th</sup> school to receive a charter from the state of California. The school opened in September of 1995 with 67 students, two staff members, and has been growing ever since. During the 2001-2002 school year 267 students were enrolled in grades kindergarten through eight. Once enrolled, every family is assigned a credentialed "Advisory Teacher," who helps maintain their child's school records and select appropriate curriculum, promoting the success of the individual student.



## Discipline & Climate for Learning

Students at Hart-Ransom Charter School are guided by specific rules and expectations that promote respect, cooperation, courtesy, and acceptance of others. The school's discipline philosophy promotes a safe school, a warm, friendly classroom environment, and demonstrates that good discipline is a solid foundation on which to build an effective school.

The district annually provides a Student Conduct Code for each of its sites which is supplemented by a set of behavioral standards developed by Hart-Ransom Charter School. The program's design establishes guidelines to provide students with a meaningful, productive, and enjoyable school experience.

Hart-Ransom Charter School has not suspended or expelled any of its students during the past three years; expulsions occur only when required by law or when all other alternatives are exhausted.

The following is a list of some of the elective classes offered for the home-school student by Hart-Ransom Charter School:

- Computers
- Band
- Art
- Character 1<sup>st</sup>!
- Physical Fitness
- Hands-On Science
- Constitution
- Algebra

## Extracurricular Activities

Students are encouraged to participate in the school's additional academic and extracurricular activities. Considered an integral part of the educational program, these school-wide opportunities promote positive attitudes and encourage achievement. Extracurricular activities and programs include the Science Olympiad, Spelling Bees, poetry contests, sports, and Color Guard. The school also holds an annual Spring Festival where students present their projects in the area of science, social studies, art, music and more.

## School Enrollment & Attendance

Student enrollment over the past three years at Hart-Ransom Charter School has remained fairly constant. School-wide enrollment at the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year was 267 students. The actual attendance rate for all grade levels for the 2001-2002 school year was 95%.

Due to the fact that Hart-Ransom Charter School is a home-study school, students are not required to attend classes on campus, although on-site classes are offered. The school also provides enrichment classes for assisting parents in the home-schooling process in the areas of reading, writing, algebra and other content areas.

## Textbooks & Instructional Materials

Hart-Ransom Charter School sets a high priority upon ensuring that sufficient and current textbooks and materials are available to support the school's instructional program as well as provide students with their own textbooks. Most of the textbooks and instructional materials offered within the school are aligned with the California State Content Standards and Frameworks. Hart-Ransom Charter School usually follows the State Instructional Materials Adoption Cycle which reviews instructional materials in each curricular area within a seven-year cycle.

An administrator, teachers and parents form the curriculum committee that establishes selection criteria based on test results, state standards, state adopted lists and piloting of certain curriculum. This committee makes recommendations to the Board for final adoption.

During the 2001-2002 school year, new Houghton Mifflin Reading textbooks and supplementary materials were purchased for kindergarten through sixth grade. New science books are up for adoption for the 2002-2003 school year.

The Education Center is stocked with a collection of instructional materials, including books, video tapes, audio tapes, and educational programs on CD-ROM for student's use. Students are also encouraged to use the public library for additional instructional materials.

Hart-Ransom Charter School has 3 computers in the classroom and all 3 have Internet access that can be used with the various classes taught. The school also has 15 computers available for students to check out if they do not have a computer at home, but most students own a computer.

### Computer Resources

	2000	2001	2002
On-Site Computers	3	3	3
Off-Site Computers	0	4	15
Students per computer	89.7	78.0	15
Classrooms connected to Internet	1	1	1

## Class Size

Hart-Ransom Charter School maintained a pupil-to-teacher ratio of 27:1 for the 2001-2002 school year.

## Minimum Days & Instructional Minutes

For the 2001-2002 school year, Hart-Ransom Charter School offered 180 days of instruction, with no minimum days. All instructional days either met or exceeded the daily instructional minute requirements specified in the California Education Code.

### Instructional Minutes by Grade Level

	Minutes Required	Actual Minutes
Kindergarten	36,000	36,000
1st-3rd	50,400	50,400
4th-8th	54,000	54,000

## School Facilities & Safety

Hart-Ransom Charter School provides a safe, clean environment for students, staff, and volunteers. The district has a team of three full-time custodians who ensure classrooms, restrooms, and campus grounds are kept clean and safe. A scheduled maintenance program is administered by Hart-Ransom Union School District to ensure that all facilities are well maintained.

For safety precautions the school perimeter is securely fenced on all sides. When students are present on school grounds during attendance hours there is appropriate adult supervision.

The Hart-Ransom Charter School site is currently in the process of expanding. The school district has recently purchased the surrounding land in order to make additions to the facilities in multiple stages.



## Student Achievement & Testing

Various measures of student achievement are used as an ongoing part of the quality instructional program at Hart-Ransom Charter School. These measure students' actual progress as well as a measurement of the effectiveness of the instructional program.

### Standardized State Testing

Hart-Ransom Charter School participates in California's mandatory Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR) which utilizes the Stanford Achievement Test Series (SAT-9), California Standards Assessments. The SAT-9 measures achievement based on student comparison; the California Standards Tests aid in determining the level of individual student comprehension and knowledge of skills required by the California Content Standards for each grade or course.

<b>SAT-9 Results</b>																					
<b>2000, 2001, 2002</b>																					
<b>% At or Above the 50th Percentile</b>																					
<b>Grade</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>3</b>			<b>4</b>			<b>5</b>			<b>6</b>			<b>7</b>			<b>8</b>		
	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Reading</b>																					
<b>Hart-Ransom Charter School</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>
Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School	47	55	49	56	47	54	58	60	50	50	60	59	64	59	67	59	67	60	76	73	70
Stanislaus County	49	50	51	43	44	45	45	45	47	44	45	45	46	47	48	48	48	47	52	51	49
California	49	51	54	44	46	47	45	47	49	44	45	47	46	47	48	46	48	48	49	50	49
<b>Math</b>																					
<b>Hart-Ransom Charter School</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>55</b>
Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School	44	55	56	69	48	63	60	66	60	45	63	72	63	67	73	70	68	61	70	72	71
Stanislaus County	57	57	59	56	57	59	53	54	56	51	55	55	56	59	62	51	52	53	53	52	49
California	57	58	62	56	59	62	51	54	58	50	54	57	55	57	60	48	50	52	48	49	50
<b>Language</b>																					
<b>Hart-Ransom Charter School</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>55</b>
Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School	53	60	59	64	49	60	66	64	60	50	64	74	62	64	75	69	69	66	68	70	74
Stanislaus County	50	50	52	44	47	48	50	52	53	49	50	52	52	54	56	55	56	56	51	53	52
California	52	53	55	48	51	53	51	54	57	50	53	55	52	54	56	54	56	57	51	52	52
<b>Spelling</b>																					
<b>Hart-Ransom Charter School</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>36</b>
Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School	52	50	44	54	50	56	54	50	46	46	60	56	44	52	63	58	57	62	47	47	46
Stanislaus County	45	47	49	42	45	49	40	43	46	42	46	50	42	43	47	47	48	48	36	37	37
California	50	53	56	46	51	54	43	46	59	45	49	52	44	46	49	47	49	51	37	38	40

## Academic Performance Index

The Academic Performance Index (API) is one of three components of the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) passed in 1999. The API measures school performance, sets academic growth targets, and monitors growth over time based on SAT-9 results. If a school meets its growth targets, including subgroup targets, it may be eligible to receive monetary and non-monetary awards.

The percent tested is calculated by dividing the number of students tested by enrollment in grades tested as indicated in the October CBEDS School Information Form. The API scale is 200-1000; calculations for which only include scores for students in the district the prior school year. Rankings are presented in deciles (high of 10, low of 1), each of which contains 10% of all schools. The growth target is equal to 5% of the difference between the 2000 API and the interim Statewide Performance Target of 800.

The Immediate Intervention/Underperforming School's Program and the Governor's Performance Award Program are the two remaining components of the PSAA Act. Due to specific criteria, including API and SAT-9 results, Hart-Ransom Charter School did not qualify to participate in either program during the 2001-2002 school year.

API School Results						
	Base				Growth	
	1999	2000	2001		1999-00	2000-01
Percent Tested	85	99	100	Percent Tested	95	100
API Score	669	691	708	API Growth Score	691	710
Growth Target	7	5	5	Actual Growth	22	19
Statewide Rank	6	6	6	Eligible for Awards	Yes	No
Similar Schools Rank*	1	1	1	Eligible for II/USP	No	No

\* The "Similar Schools" Ranking deals with federal programs. As a home based program Hart-Ransom Charter School does not participate in many of these, and therefore Hart-Ransom Charter School will continue to remain at a Similar Schools Ranking of 1.

## California Standards Results

### % of Students Scoring at Advanced (A) and Proficient (P) Levels 2002

Grade	English/Language Arts															
	2		3		4		5		6		7		8			
	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P		
Hart-Ransom Charter School	11	18	20	23	19	33	6	33	25	36	25	25	*	*		
Stanislaus County	6	21	8	21	10	23	6	20	6	21	5	25	8	22		
California	9	23	11	23	14	22	9	22	9	22	7	26	10	22		

\* To protect privacy, scores for grades with less than 11 students are not disclosed.

## Counseling & Other Support Services

It is the goal of Hart-Ransom Charter School to assist students in their social and personal development as well as academics. The counseling staff provides special attention to students who experience achievement problems, difficulty coping with personal and family problems, trouble with decision-making, or handling peer pressure. All counseling and support services are provided on an as-needed basis for all students by the Hart-Ransom Union School District.

### Counseling and Support Services Staff

available to the Hart-Ransom  
Union School District

	Number of Staff	Full Time Equivalent
Academic Counselor	1	0.6
Nurse	1	0.4
Psychologist	1	0.25
Resource Specialist	1	1.0
Speech/Language Specialist	1	0.6

Hart-Ransom Charter School offers the "Powerline Reading Program" which requires additional training for teachers who provide students "Powerline" tutoring. "Powerline" tests students to see if they qualify for this reading instruction, and tests them at the end of each school year to monitor their growth. The school has trained three teachers that work with students struggling in reading, and have had tremendous success over the past three years utilizing "Powerline".

## Teacher Evaluation & Professional Development

A constructive evaluation process promotes quality instruction and is a fundamental element in a sound educational program. Evaluations and observations are designed to encourage common goals and to comply with the state's evaluation criteria and district policies. Evaluations are conducted twice a year by Hart-Ransom Charter School's director, who has been trained for competency to perform teacher evaluations. The evaluation process consists of three distinct parts: teacher performance, professionalism and personal qualities.

## Teacher Assignment

Hart-Ransom Union School District recruits and employs the most qualified credentialed teachers. For the 2001-2002 school year, Hart-Ransom Charter School had 13 fully credentialed teachers who met all credential requirements in accordance with State of California guidelines.

Hart-Ransom Charter School supports efforts made by teachers to attain additional education and training through local colleges and universities for their personal growth as well as for the benefit of the school. During the 2001-2002 school year, staff consisted of 13 employees (including administrators): all with 30+ additional units beyond their bachelor's degree.

### Teacher Credential Status

	2000	2001	2002
Fully Credentialed	8	11	13
Emergency Credentials	0	0	0
Waiver	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>
Average Years Teaching	9.9	10.4	10.3
Average Years in District	3.5	3.5	3.8

## Training & Curriculum Improvement

All training and curriculum development at Hart-Ransom Charter School revolves around the California State Content Standards and Frameworks. Teachers align curriculum to ensure that all students are striving to meet or exceed state proficiency levels. Teachers also utilize test scores and individual student needs to assess the current curriculum.

The writing and implementation of Hart-Ransom Charter School's curriculum is an ongoing process. Advisory Teachers, parents and the director are all involved with the curriculum decisions. The school's curriculum guides are updated regularly to align with the state standards, district goals, and the statewide assessment program.

Hart-Ransom Charter School offers a number of staff development days for its Advisory Teachers and staff. Staff members build teaching skills and concepts through participation in conferences and workshops throughout the year.

During the 2001-2002 school year the school had three staff development days; topics included various forms of communication such as body language, perception checks, paraphrasing and lag time. Hart-Ransom Charter School believes that clear communication enhances their work with the students and their families, thereby enabling us to assure a better education for each student.

### Quality of Instruction & Leadership

Leadership at Hart-Ransom Charter School is a responsibility shared between the director, instructional staff, students, and parents. The district's emphasis is on a well-balanced and rigorous core curriculum at all grade levels. Instructional programs are aligned with state and district standards.

Staff members and parents participate on various committees that make decisions regarding the priorities and direction of the educational plan. These committees ensure instructional programs are consistent with students' needs and comply with district goals. These committees/ teams include:

- Parent Connection
- KRA - Key Result Areas
  - Curriculum Committee
  - Facilities Improvement
  - Customer Service
  - Internal Process

The Parent Connection, consisting of parents and staff, is an advisory body that meets monthly to address programs and components that make up the school. They discuss ideas, field trips and the value of the various programs relative to the goals of the school, acting as a communication liaison between the community and the school.

The KRA (Key Result Areas) are various committees who oversee various needs of the Hart-Ransom Charter School. The KRA Teams are divided each year among the entire staff. Each staff member has the ability to choose from four key areas including customer service, facilities, internal process and curriculum committees. The teams meet regularly and report updates at the monthly, All Staff meetings.

For the past seven years Sherry Smith has been a dedicated director of the Hart-Ransom Charter School. Prior to this position she was a teacher who tutored and also worked with home school families for 16 years.

### Substitute Teachers

Hart-Ransom Charter School does not experience any problems finding qualified substitutes. On rare occasions the school may need a substitute to cover a teacher who will be out of work for an extended period of time. When this happens an Advisory Teacher will fill in for the role of substitute when necessary.

### Special Events Calender for 2002-2003

- Back to School Picnic and Social  
Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>
- Back to School Skate  
Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>
- Family Camp Out  
Friday-Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>
- Spring Registration Reception  
Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>
- Fall 2003 Registration & Curriculum Selection  
Tuesday-Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Festival  
Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Testing  
Monday-Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation  
Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>
- Year End Bash/ Summer Kick-Off  
Watch your Newsletter

## Community Involvement

As a home based program, parents are naturally supportive of the education program of Hart-Ransom Charter School. The school also encourages parents to volunteer in various capacities and to participate in the "Parent Connection". Hart-Ransom Charter School also offers parent and student workshops, covering topics such as creative writing, math manipulatives, and various reading programs.

## Contact Information

Parents who wish to participate in Hart-Ransom Charter School's leadership teams, school committees, school activities, or become a volunteer may contact the main office at (209) 523-0401.

## Expenditures & Services Funded

Hart-Ransom Union School District spent an average of \$4,988 to educate each student (based on 2001-2002 audited financial statements). The figures shown in the following table reflect the direct cost of educational services, per ADA, excluding food services, facilities acquisition and construction, and certain other expenditures. This calculation is required by law annually and compared with other districts statewide.

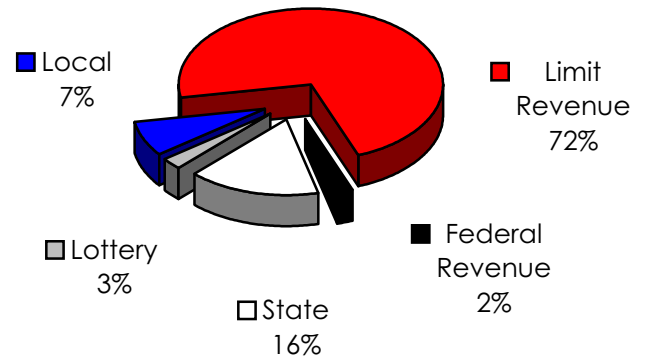
Hart-Ransom Charter School receives Block Grant Funding for all expenses and instructional costs incurred.

### Current Expense of Education Per Student\*

Hart-Ransom Union	Statewide Average	
	All Unified Districts	All Districts
\$4,988	\$6,092	\$6,360

\*Ed-Data and California Department of Education, School Fiscal Services Division - J-200 Reports.

### District Revenue Sources



### District Expenditures

