



Garden Grove Unified School District  
**Garden Park Elementary School**

6562 Stanford Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92845  
714-663-6074

Dr. Laura Schwalm, Superintendent

Gary M. Gerstner, Principal

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### **Principal's Message**

May is a beautiful and exciting month for many reasons. This is the month we have an opportunity to honor our mothers, our teachers, and show the world how much we learned throughout the school year.

It is our hope and wish that every Garden Park mother is showered with love, flowers, and moments of relaxation on Mother's Day. May the honor you earned everyday of the year, be liberally bestowed upon you on this special day. Happy Mother's Day!

The day after Mother's Day, Garden Park Elementary School will begin the California State Testing. All students in grades 2 – 6 will be assessed in English Language Arts and Math. Our fabulous 5<sup>th</sup> graders will also be tested in the curricular area of Science. Testing will begin on May 10<sup>th</sup> and conclude on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Testing begins at 8:10 a.m. and concludes at 10:10 a.m. every day during our testing window.

As you know, our students have been working hard all year to master their grade level standards so they can shine as Garden Park students. You can help your child experience academic success on this statewide assessment by making sure your child gets a good night of sleep, eats a nutritious breakfast, and comes to school on time. Individual student results should begin arriving in the mail near the end of August.

The week after state testing, the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Garden Park community will have an opportunity to honor our teaching staff. Teachers work with our students over five hours a day. They teach our children, listen to our children, and guide our children through 180 days of school. Unique and special relationships have been developed and nurtured throughout the school year. This week provides a wonderful opportunity to show our ever growing appreciation for those who teach our children.

Garden Park Elementary School's annual Open House will be on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This evening has been specially designed for our community. Recognition Awards will be distributed in the MPR from 06:30 – 07:00 p.m. This will be the time we "brag to the community" about the accomplishments some of our students have achieved in the area of reading, spelling, math, and academic competition. The remaining hour is your time to visit your child's classroom and see all of the visual evidence supporting every grade level standard your child has learned throughout the school year.

Lastly, before Open House, you are invited to a PTA Association meeting where Honorary Service Awards will be given. These awards are given to selected community members who have had a positive and powerful impact on the culture of the Garden Park community and the education of our Garden Park students. This PTA Association meeting will begin at 06:00 p.m. in the MPR.

Gary M. Gerstner  
Principal

P.S. Please note that our scholarly students will not attend school on May 31<sup>st</sup> in observance of Memorial Day.