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Local Students at Custom Learning Academy Perform Above Grade Level and Higher than National Standard, 2009/2010 Test Results Show

Truckee private school attributes high test scores to student-teacher ratio and targeted course mastery

[Truckee, CA] October 19, 2010 – Custom Learning Academy, a non-profit private Kindergarten through 12th grade school in Truckee, CA, released 2009-2010 IOWA Test Scores today. Offering full-time instruction in grades K through 12th grade, the Custom Learning Academy (CLA) takes a highly personalized approach to education, offering national standard-based curriculums tailored to the individual needs of each student. After two consecutive years of remarkable national standardized test scores, Custom Learning Academy is excited to share 2009-2010 student test score data that show CLA students are meeting or exceeding national standards in all 5 core areas.

Custom Learning Academy attributes its astoundingly high national standardized test scores to the school's course mastery philosophy and 10 to 1 (or less) student-teacher ratio, a figure virtually unheard of in modern education.

"Our exceptionally low student teacher ratio and thoughtfully chosen, researched based curriculum together lead to students' success. Learning begins with sound teaching by educators with exceptional content skills. Classes of 10 students or less allow CLA teachers time for frequent comprehension checks and close monitoring of each student's progress," says Lisa Crosby, Executive Director, of CLA's test scores. "Every educator knows that if they had the time, they could reach all of their students. The difference in the design of Custom Learning Academy is that we identify student needs specifically with each entering student, then we fill in the needed gaps, while teaching national standards curriculum."

This sentiment is seconded by CLA parent testimony. "Lisa and her staff truly know who my son is, all his strengths, weaknesses and most importantly how he learns," exclaims Kate Wagner, whose son Richard is a full time student who commutes to CLA every day from Sparks, NV. "CLA not only offers a personalized academic program they also offer fantastic tutoring. My son's reading level increased three (yes three!) grade levels over the summer."

Perspective parents can find out about the school's offerings firsthand from CLA teachers, students and parents at the Oktoberfest Themed Open House on Thursday, October 28 from 6:30 to 9 pm.

CLA administers the IOWA Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) to measure students' achievement and to provide both parent and educator national data on student performance level relative to students in the same grade level across the country. The ITBS test is chosen for its strong and valued reputation as well as its standardized use among private schools nationwide. ITBS also offers a Cognitive Abilities component (CogAT) recommended every 3 years, to determine if a student is performing at, above, or below their ability level.

The scores reported below are class averages in the form of Grade Equivalents. A Grade Equivalent score of 8.4 means that the students are performing at a level equivalent to the national standard for 8th grade + 4 months into the school year.

Here are Custom Learning Academy's June, 2010 results in the core areas:

Grade Level	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Kindergarten	1.6	2.0	2.5
1 st Grade	2.2	1.8	2.2
2 nd Grade	3.4	3.4	3.4
3 rd Grade	4.9	3.3	3.4
4 th Grade	7.9	6.0	7.7
5 th Grade	9.1	9.6	7.9
6 th Grade	8.4	10.4	9.4
7 th Grade	10.0	12.5	9.4
8 th Grade	13+	13+	12.8
9 th Grade	*	*	*
10 th Grade	13+	13+	9.5
11 th Grade	13+	12.7	11.4
*None enrolled			

KEY: 3.5 = 3rd grade 5th month

Source: ITBS Building Summaries, Custom Learning Academy, 6/2010.

In addition to testing the core areas, the ITBS also tests Social Studies and Science national standards for 1st through 11th grades. Additionally, the composite score blends the results from all the core areas: Reading, Writing, and Math with Social Studies and Science to determine an overall skill level for each student.

Here are Custom Learning Academy's June, 2010 Social Studies, Science and Composite Scores:

Grade Level	Social Studies	Science	Composite Score
Kindergarten	**	**	1.9
1 st Grade	2.6	2.0	2.2
2 nd Grade	2.9	3.9	3.4
3 rd Grade	5.2	5.3	4.3
4 th Grade	7.1	10.0	7.7
5 th Grade	7.7	12.2	9.7
6 th Grade	7.5	9.0	8.6
7 th Grade	12.9	13+	11.6
8 th Grade	11.4	13+	12.9
9 th Grade	*	*	*
10 th Grade	11.9	6.9	10.4
11 th Grade	13+	13+	13+
*None enrolled	**K not tested in SS or Science		

KEY: 8.5= 8th grade 5th month

Source: ITBS Building Summaries, Custom Learning Academy, 6/2010.

2008-2009 ITBS data is available on the Press Room located on www.customlearning.org

The 2009-10 school year began with 34 full time students, with enrollment spiking to 65 in the 3rd quarter with the influx of ski and snowboard athletes who join CLA during busy travel months. The school year ended in June 2010 with 50 students; it is their data that is reflected in the tables above.

The growing enrollment at CLA includes students of all levels of aptitude. The school is especially popular among top-ranked area athletes, whose extensive training schedules place unique demands on any educational facility. The flexible learning atmosphere allows students to balance pursuit of success in the both the athletic educational arenas, without ever having to sacrifice one to achieve excellence in the other.

"We've created a place where learning happens without frustration," explains Crosby. "We teach students how to learn, and we do it in a supportive environment that promotes success and fuels future learning and success in college placement and beyond. It is a goal for all students that we improve their academic self esteem, by showing them they can accomplish things they thought impossible."

More information on CLA Iowa Test Scores, along with general information on classes, course-specific and SAT tutoring, and full time enrollment at CLA is available at www.customlearning.org or by calling 530-587-5470.

Founded in 2005 by life-long educator and Truckee resident Lisa Crosby, M.Ed, Custom Learning Academy blends traditional teaching with state-of-the-art internet-enabled curriculums. The school ensures course mastery via its 10 to 1 (or less) student-teacher ratio. Located adjacent to the Trout Creek Recreational Center in Tahoe Donner, and open year-round, CLA currently employs 15 teachers serving 76 full-and part-time students and many more for tutoring support.