

A Short History of Crest Elementary School

The first school district formed in the El Cajon, California area was known as the Cajon School District and was organized on October 4, 1870. The first classes were held in a squatter's cottage on the south side of Main Street between Magnolia and Orange Avenues. Enrollment consisted of only 15 students in the year 1871-1872.

In the years following, a slow but steady population growth of the area, required that many more schools be built by the Cajon School District. In 1920, the name was changed to the Cajon Valley School District, as smaller school districts in the area were incorporated into one.

During the early 1950's, El Cajon Valley's population was increasing so rapidly that it was impossible for the school building program to keep up with the rapidly increasing school enrollment. The community of Crest had enough school children to support a school and plans were put in to build a school.

On May 12th 1954, negotiations were begun to purchase a school site in Suncrest. Suncrest or Crest, as it is known today, is a small mountain top community in an unincorporated portion of San Diego County. Located roughly 25 miles from San Diego city center, it is close knit community the boasts endless views, a peaceful quiet and a great neighborhood atmosphere.

This negotiation was completed four months later and plans for building the Crest School were initiated. Following the sale of bonds authorized by an election in June of 1954, ground work was laid for the construction of Crest School. In the spring of 1955 initial planning had progressed to a final stage with regard to the proposed Crest Elementary School. The school was opened in 1956.

In 1958 additional classroom space was added to help with the rapid growth of Crest. In the 60's, the El Cajon area had become, to a certain extent, a bedroom community for the burgeoning aerospace industry, as well as the already established naval and port industries. During 1976-1977, discussion and planning was underway to add additional space again at Crest School to include a library and other needed auxiliary space. In 1977-78, the Crest School addition was bid for \$210,554. An addition of a library, classroom, kitchen and custodial storage; teacher workroom and two student restrooms were included. The addition was complete in 1978-79 and paid for with local bond funds.

In 1987, the school was awarded the Distinguished School Award of Excellence. This prestigious award is considered the state's predominant recognition of a school's total educational program, including high expectations for all its students, the implementation of state-adopted standards, and visionary and collaborative leadership.

The 90's came along and Crest School was in great need of an auditorium or general meeting area. The Multi Purpose Room was built in 1997 with granted funds.

The MPR is now a necessary part of our school and an important gathering place for students and the community. In 2003, the area was ravaged by the Cedar Fires and the MPR was extensively used as a relief center, supply center and town meeting place.

In 2004, the school was once again awarded the Distinguished School Award and is proudly flying its flag to this day.

Crest Elementary School, established in 1956.
A California Distinguished School

Crest, California
County of San Diego
Elevation: 1620 ft.