



School Accountability Report Card Summary

Nicasio School District 2001-02

Nicasio School

5555 Nicasio Valley Road, Nicasio, CA 94946

PHONE: (415) 662-2184

PRINCIPAL: Gerald Austin GRADE LEVELS: K-8

Principal's Comments

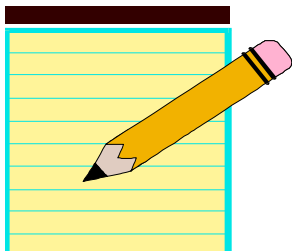
Welcome to Nicasio School! We are a unique public school that has been serving the Nicasio community for over 140 years. We offer a multi-graded educational program that focuses on the intellectual, emotional and social development of each of our students. Nicasio School students receive a challenging and creative academic program in a beautiful, safe and welcoming environment. Small class sizes, a committed staff and school board, and dedicated parent volunteers contribute to our success.

We have worked collaboratively to develop a balanced curriculum that reflects both the State and local school district educational standards. At Nicasio School, we use ongoing multiple assessments of student achievement including participation in the Marin County Education Task Force assessment programs.

The support of the Nicasio community at large has been overwhelming. We recently moved into a brand new campus that includes four large classrooms, an administrative building, library, multimedia lab, multi-purpose auditorium/gymnasium, science lab and art room.

We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to further enhancing our educational program and meeting the needs of our students.

—Gerald Austin

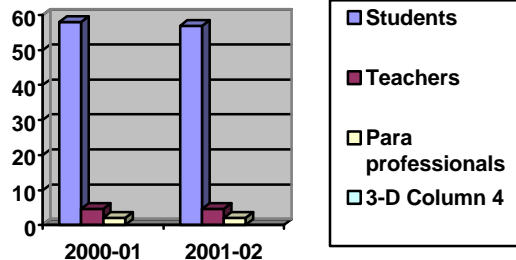


NICASIO SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Working together as a school community, we will provide a safe, quality program with high standards for all students to achieve personal excellence in the areas of scholarship, citizenship, wisdom, emotional well-being and physical health.

Teachers and Students

	2000/01	2001/02
Students	58	57
Teachers	4.6	4.6
Para-professionals	2	2



Teachers

All of our teachers are credentialed. The teachers at Nicasio School have varying levels of experience. Three have masters degrees in education. The teachers participate in both contractual and voluntary staff development programs. The teachers at Nicasio School have a broad range of both classroom and other vocational experiences. New teachers are mentored through The Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment State program. All substitute teachers are registered with the Marin County Office of Education.

Class Size and Enrollment Breakdown

During the 2001/2 academic year Nicasio School has had as many as 57 students. With 4.6 teachers dedicated to core curriculum, class sizes can remain uniquely small. Average class size is 1:12.6.

Class Sizes

Nicasio School takes advantage of the State funded Class Size Reduction Incentive program. This enables us to keep our class sizes in grades K-3 at 20 students and below. Our class configurations for 2001/02 are K/1, 2/3, 4/5, and 6/7/8.

Enrollment Data

	2000/01	2001/02
K	6	5
1st	8	6
		K/1 11
2nd	2	9
3rd	6	3
		2/3 12
4th	7	7
5th	5	8
		4/5 15
6th	11	6
7th	5	8
8th	7	5
		6/7/8 19

Attendance

ADA (Average Daily Attendance) as of March 22 is 50.34. Students attend 180 days of instruction. The school day starts at 8:45am and ends at 3:00pm. Parents and guardians are requested to inform the school office early in the morning if children are to be absent. A new policy requiring students and parents to check into the school office if they arrive at school late (or must leave early) has been very effective in reducing tardiness and minimizing disruption in the classroom.

How Students Are Achieving

API

The API (Academic Performance Index) is a way of comparing schools based on

their students test scores. Scores are based on a scale from 200 to 1000.

Year 2000 API	827
Year 2001 API	868

Stanford-9 (STAR-9)

Students in grades 2-8 participate in a Student Assessment Reporting System (STAR) The results of the test can be used, in concert with other measures, to assist the school board and school staff in evaluating the effectiveness of teaching programs and to help set priorities for the future.

Test results for the 2001/2 school year will be available in July, 2002. Due to the small size of the school, and the requirement to protect the privacy of individual students, individual test results for the Nicasio School students are provided to parents and administrators only, however, the following statistics indicate that Nicasio School students performed extremely well in Spring 2001:

Percent of students in grades 2 thru 8 scoring at 50% or higher

Math	92%
Reading	88%
Language	90%
Spelling	71%

100% of students in grades 2-8 were tested.

Educational Task Force (ETF)

Students in grades 3-8 participate in the Marin County ETF assessment program. Assessment consists of on demand writing tests in grades 3, 4, 6 and 7, and portfolio assessment in grades 5 and 8. Both "snapshot" assessments are graded by a consortium of Marin County educators on a 5. rubric with a score of 4 or higher being classified as proficient in assessed areas.

RESOURCES

Textbooks and the Use of Technology

All textbooks utilized at Nicasio School are fully in compliance with State adopted materials outlined by the State of California. There is a sufficient supply of textbooks to meet the needs of all students. This year, newly adopted texts were purchased in grades 2-8 for Science and Math. With the

move to the new campus, a fully networking computer lab is now available to students in all grades. In addition, each classroom has a sufficient number of computers to support in-class projects that require computer technology or online research. All computers have Internet access and are linked to the school's server. With this new wealth of technical resources and campus facilities, the challenge facing teachers in the coming years will be to integrate these resources into their curriculum thereby making the best use of this extraordinary environment.

Climate for Learning: Discipline, Homework and Safety

Where possible the school activities for each classroom focuses on the core curriculum: Math, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science during the morning. (8:40-12:00) Enrichment activities are developed in the afternoon. Homework is expected at each grade level. Fieldtrips planned at each grade level seek to support ongoing classroom curriculum work.

During the past year, several surveys have been conducted and many special meetings have been held to encourage all students and parents to communicate their concerns about, and vision for, the future of Nicasio School.

Grade level	Minutes required	Minutes attended
K	36,000	41,720
1-3	50,400	55,220
4-8	54,000	57,020

Discipline

The teachers and staff follow a discipline policy set forth by the Board. This policy is structured whereby continual offenses result in more stringent consequences. Information on the discipline policy is sent home with back-to-school packets. Students and parents are expected to sign the policy and return it to the school office. Parents are notified when a students behavior violates the discipline policy. No students have been suspended or expelled in the most recent three year period.

Homework

A survey of both parents and students regarding the amount and content of homework was recently completed and analyzed. Results of the survey were presented to the School Board, which adopted a school-wide Homework Policy that reflected the survey results. Of equal importance, individual comments/concerns were passed on to teachers in each classroom to encourage any changes that might better challenge individual students. A limited after school "homework club" is currently being pilot-tested. Additional funding is being sought so that this program can be expanded to include more students and resources.

Homework Policy by Grade Level

Grade	Amount of minutes per day
K-1	15-20
2-3	20-30
4-5	30-60
6	45-75
7-8	60-90

Safety

The school recently completed a survey of parents, teachers and students to help identify concerns about safety and the over-all environment for learning. A full analysis of results was presented in a meeting that was open to parents, students and teachers. As a result of these findings a number of changes are being made to the school discipline policy, rules regarding access to the school grounds, etc. The school safety plan was adopted by the Board on February 25, 2002. A copy is available in the school office.

Specialized Programs

Some students are in specialized programs:

English as a second language	11%
Gifted/talented (GATE)	7%
Special Education	11%

Support Services

Support services for students with additional needs are contracted through the Marin County Office of Education. Resource Specialists, Speech and Language Specialists, Occupational Therapists,

Psychologists, etc. are available to any student with a documented need.

Major Achievements

During the past year, many changes were initiated that have positioned Nicasio School to become an extraordinary learning environment in the years and decades to come. The new campus (including classrooms, the multi-purpose auditorium, science lab, computer room and library) is almost fully completed and provides an extraordinary teaching environment for students and teachers alike. Teachers and staff are working together effectively, both as a team and within their individual classrooms. This core team of teachers is strongly supported by specialized teaching assistance in art, music, Spanish and the sciences, all generously funded by the Nicasio School Foundation. The wealth of volunteer support from within the Nicasio community provides yet another level of excellence that puts Nicasio in the unique position of being able to educate each student in a manner that individually meets their needs and abilities. Those wishing more information on volunteer opportunities can call Foundation president Kim Wallach at 662-2497.

Teachers, staff, parents, community members and students are collaborating in an open and energetic forum to make Nicasio School a unique educational environment for every student on the campus.

Budget

The operating budget for 2001-02 is \$663,562. With 57 students, expenditure per pupil is currently \$11,641. The majority of funds are spent on staff salaries, enrichment programs, classroom supplies (textbooks, paper, etc.), and campus operating expenses and maintenance. The following table compares general fund expenditures with the high and low expenditures for school districts in Marin County.

Per student expenditure comparison

Novato Unified School District	\$7,424.98
Nicasio School District	\$11,641.00
Sausalito School District	\$16,354.75
Marin County Average	\$10,239.43

Keeping You Informed

While this report cannot tell you everything about our results, it is a good starting point for discussions with our teachers and principal. We are open to communication and welcome your questions, comments and suggestions.