

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Uschi De Rose

(714) 524-1350 Ext. 111

October 17, 2006

### **Heritage Oak Enters Second Year with MY Access!™**

Heritage Oak Middle School students are using MY Access! for the second year as a key tool to focus on writing, as each Middle School student utilizes a personal laptop computer.

MY Access! is a web-based writing environment that scores student essays instantly and provides diagnostic instruction that engages and motivates Heritage Oak students to want to improve their writing proficiency. The program offers online writing practice with immediate constructive feedback and instructional assessment. MY Access! is based on a simple premise to provide students with more frequent opportunities to write; to provide them with immediate feedback; and encourage improvement through a continuous, iterative process of writing and revising. MY Access! also engages and motivates students to write more frequently, improving their writing proficiency with each revision, and provides teachers with more time for informed intervention, supports the use of rubrics in the classroom, and documents improvement with an online portfolio.

English and literature teacher Lara Governale has been using MY Access! in her classroom for two years: “I love the enthusiasm for revision that MY Access! brings to the classroom. Students are eager to revise and improve their scores, which puts the focus on revision and editing as never before.”

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeing a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are part of its program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 “Blue Ribbon” award. The “Blue Ribbon”, our Nations most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.

