



# Cupertino Union School District **NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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December 7, 2004 – Last month, a lawsuit was filed in Federal Court against representatives of the Cupertino Union School District alleging that the District’s Board of Education, Superintendent, and Principal of Stevens Creek Elementary School, violated a teacher’s constitutional rights. More specifically, the lawsuit alleges that district representatives unlawfully interfered with an elementary school teacher’s claimed constitutional right to distribute religious materials to fifth grade students. The District has not violated anyone’s constitutional rights.

The District acknowledges that parties have a right in our society to bring legitimate grievances before the courts for a determination of their legal rights and feels that the court system is the appropriate forum to address this dispute.

Media coverage regarding the lawsuit has substantially mischaracterized the content of the Cupertino Union School District’s curriculum. It has incorrectly been reported that the District has banned the teaching of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. In reality no such ban exists. These documents continue to be a fundamental part of the District’s curriculum and full versions of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution appear in the textbook adopted by the District.

The District’s entire curriculum is based on the California State Standards. The State Standards includes the study of America’s Founding Fathers and the political, religious, social and economic ideas and beliefs that led to the birth of our great nation. The District will continue to follow the California State Standards, which include lawful safeguards regarding the separation of church and state.

The Cupertino Union School District has a long-standing reputation of educational excellence and is committed to providing the outstanding education that our community has come to expect.

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