



# HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

20451 Cramer Lane, Huntington Beach, California 92646 (714) 964-8888

March 3, 2014

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Dear Elementary School Parents,

The California State Board of Education has adopted the Common Core State Standards which are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our students need for success in college and careers. Implementation of the Common Core State Standards in the Huntington Beach City School District has begun, and, as is the case in most school districts up and down the state, the transition process will continue over the next several years.

Unlike the California Content Standards of the past, the Common Core State Standards focus to a greater extent on rigor and deep conceptual understanding of mathematics. While the Common Core State Standards and California Department of Education Mathematics Frameworks provide students with an option for acceleration to Algebra 1 in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, these newly adopted standards and framework guidance do not include a Geometry acceleration option at the middle school level. Another key change is that the decision point for student acceleration in mathematics now occurs after the completion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics. Elementary teachers will no longer make recommendations for acceleration into the middle school program, but they will continue to provide a high-quality differentiated learning experience for high achieving students. Students may be recommended for acceleration in 7<sup>th</sup> grade after successful completion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics.

In order to ensure our students have every opportunity for success, we are working collaboratively with the Huntington Beach Union High School District to make sure our instructional program is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and to the high school mathematics program. Toward that goal, the 2014/15 school year will be the last year that Geometry will be offered as an accelerated course option for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The new accelerated course plan for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, which will also begin in the 2014/15 school year, will offer placement in Math 7 Accelerated and Math 8 Accelerated (which includes all required Algebra 1 standards). This course plan will ensure the appropriate level of acceleration and rigor for our students, and will align with the course planning options available in the high school district.

Our district will be working through transitions as our programs, practices, and course options are aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Decisions will always be made in the best interest of our students and in consideration of course planning alignment with the Huntington Beach Union High School District. In the interim, we have added a new resource to the District's Common Core webpage entitled *CCSS Parent Guide: Middle School Math* and details the Algebra 1 acceleration option and subsequent high school coursework. You can find this document at <https://huntington-ca.schoolloop.com/CCSS>.

The Huntington Beach City School District remains committed to providing a high-quality educational program for the children of our community so that they are well-prepared for success at every level – high school, college, and career. Please feel free to contact your school principal or the Educational Services office at (714) 964-8888 if you have questions.

Jennifer Shepard  
Assistant Superintendent – Educational Services