

January 2017

Happy New Year!

We were excited to welcome students back from the winter break and are already into the third quarter of the school year! Students will be bringing their second quarter report cards home today. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about their progress so far this year.

Over the past several months, I have shared the progress of our district improvement efforts and we are pleased to share these goals with our families and community. You may recall that the district improvement process began with a thorough analysis of data that included demographics, academic performance, program availability and usage, parent engagement, and school culture by a group of teachers, social workers, instructional coaches, administrators, parents and board members. The team identified goals for increasing student achievement in literacy, math, and language acquisition and for improving communication within the district and with our parents and community. The goals will guide our district and school improvement planning and will allow us to continually monitor our progress. This year, work towards achieving these goals include curriculum development in English language arts, math, and dual language, professional development in data usage, goal conferencing, and instructional best practices, and creating a staffing plan for programs for English learners.

Goal #1: By 2018-2019, student achievement will increase in literacy and mathematics by at least 10% as measured by state and local assessments

- By 2018-2019, all teachers will implement a district aligned curriculum
- By 2018-2019, teachers will use district-wide common assessments
- The district will analyze assessment data to drive instruction

Goal #2: By 2018-2019, students in language acquisition programs will have an increase of 5% in average to above average growth in reading, writing, and composite scores as measured by language acquisition assessments.

- By 2018-2019, the district will implement EL programs that are equitable to fit the needs of students across the district
- By 2018-2019, staff will implement a district-wide curriculum that has the WIDA standards embedded

As you know, the Board of Education voted to put a referendum on the ballot for the April 4, 2017 election. The referendum would bring \$2 million to the district to improve educational programs, retain quality staff, continue to offer after school sports and clubs, maintain preschool programs, and begin to provide a more financially stable environment for the future. The attached informational flyer will also be sent home with your child's report card. Over the next several months, we will have a series of community meetings to share important information about the referendum. These meetings are being held at various locations in the district based on accessibility and convenient parking. The locations are not specific to the families of that school. All parents and residents are welcome to attend any of the meetings. Please join us for one of these meetings and visit our website for additional information.

February 3 – LaVergne Education Center at 9 am
February 6 – LaVergne Education Center at 9 am (Presentation will be given in Spanish)
February 7 – Heritage Middle School at 6 pm
February 15 – Hiawatha Elementary School at 6 pm
March 2 – Komensky Elementary School at 6 pm (Presentation will be given in Spanish)
March 8 – LaVergne Education Center at 9 am
March 9 – LaVergne Education Center at 9 am (Presentation will be given in Spanish)
March 15 – Irving Elementary School at 6 pm
March 29 – Pershing Elementary School at 6 pm

Please contact the district office at (708) 795-2300 if you have any questions regarding these community meetings.

Mary Havis