Dear Parents,

We are excited to start the school year and have a number of changes in place that we look forward to bringing to you and your children. In addition to new administrators at El Rodeo, Hawthorne, Beverly Vista and Beverly Hills High School, we are embarking on curricular changes as a result of the state adoption of the Common Core Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and English Language Development Standards for our English Learners. We are educating children in a time of curricular change; however, we are working diligently to implement a plan that ensures the finest education for our students.

When the State Board adopted the Common Core Standards in August of 2010, our district began work on developing an implementation plan. Our 3-year process has included the following plan:

- BHUSD begins an analysis of new standards: 2011-12
- BHUSD begins aligning curriculum and assessments: 2012-13
- BHUSD finalizes assessment alignment: 2013-14
- BHUSD pilots Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) computer based testing at K-8s and high school: 2012-13 and 2013-14 (no scores in 2014)
- BHUSD implements curriculum and assessments that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards: 2014-15

K-5 teachers have led the process of aligning trimester assessments, which include updates to the standards-based report card. Mathematics alignment occurred over the course of last year and will be refined with updated Envision Math textbooks, aligned to the Common Core Standards.

Middle and high school mathematics and English teachers have completed alignment, including a review and revision of course descriptions and pacing guides, including the adoption of new textbooks and curricular materials.

Professional development and articulation between the middle and high school mathematics and English language arts departments have been essential. Middle and high school Science and Social Studies teachers have also engaged in articulation on the Common Core Standards, and the Next Generation Science Standards, adopted by the state in 2013. And, while we feel the challenge of so many new standards, we have found that the Common Core Standards “build on the best of
existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students will need to succeed in college, career, and life” (corestandards.org).

In July, 2013, the Board of Education approved a plan for Common Core implementation, which included funding to support curricular materials, professional development, and technology. Our teachers and administrators continue work on refining alignment and using state resources, particularly those related to the new forms of computer based assessments (SBAC) to create best practices for student learning.

There are a number of useful resources to that offer updates on changes to the State’s standards, frameworks and assessments:


- California Department of Education, Common Core State Standards: [http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/)

- Achieve the Core Parent Resources: [http://achievethecore.org/common-core-intro-for-parents](http://achievethecore.org/common-core-intro-for-parents)

- California Department of Education, Resources for Special Education: [http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/cc/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/cc/)

- Brokers of Expertise Online Resources: [http://www.myboe.org/](http://www.myboe.org/)


As we continue our work on revising our curriculum and assessments, we will update you and look forward to starting this process at our Back to School Night in the Fall.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Woods, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Jennifer Tedford, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer