

As a high school district, our basic mission is very clear: **100% of our students must graduate with a high school diploma**. Earning a diploma is crucial for success in our 21st Century global economy, and every employee of this district has been hired in support of that goal. **We know our parents and families want what's best for their students**, and they've told me countless times how important it is for their student to graduate. Since we all have the same goal, it is my desire to **join forces with you** and become **allies in the success of all students**. As partners, we have a much greater likelihood of accomplishing our goals than we would if we were working separately.

However, the aspirations we hold for our students go far beyond a high school diploma. The true measure of our success will take place after the diploma has been earned and our students face both the challenges and **opportunities in the real world** as adults. To succeed, we must first provide students with as many **options for furthering their education after high school** as possible. Having worked with students at every grade level over the years, I can't count the number of times I've asked students, "Who's going to college?" Undoubtedly, every hand would go up and every student would pledge to do so. Students, and their families, are often surprised when they discover that most colleges and universities have a much higher standard for admission than simply a diploma. Students must complete the UC/CSU "a-g" requirements, score high marks on college entrance exams, participate in numerous clubs and extra-curricular activities as well as submit lengthy applications before unwavering deadlines. At each step of the process, **our staff is ready to assist students and their families** with much needed guidance and support.

Today, high schools must also prepare their students for careers. While seemingly obvious, the purpose of getting a diploma and going to college is, in fact, to **get a good job** afterwards. Our students must have the knowledge and skills necessary to earn a living. We are a **Linked Learning** district which means we are committed to connecting the learning that takes place in the classroom with the needs of business and industry in our global economy. Our schools offer numerous opportunities for **work-based learning** through our **academies**, field trips, guest speakers, and internships. We aim to prepare our students to enter the competitive job market and land a job that meets both their social-emotional and financial needs.

Finally, we want our students to be **prepared for life**. We want them to be **good people** that **care about others**. We want them to be able to make good decisions that make their life and this world better. We want them to **value diversity**, respect the views of others even when they are different from their own, and **work collaboratively** with individuals from multiple cultural backgrounds. We want them to be **informed citizens** as well as **wise leaders** in our community, our state, and our nation. We want them to lead fulfilling lives

and to have greater opportunities and accomplishments than any previous generation.

Centinela Valley has many **lofty aspirations**, and we have committed ourselves to ensuring all of our students are ready for college, career and life. We know that each student is unique and will face a number of barriers to success along the way. We also know that countless students have overcome similar challenges in the past. Let's work together to make each student's dream come true, and transform Centinela Valley into a model 21st Century urban district that is a leader in student-centered education.