August 20, 2014

Dear Friends and Families,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year. On behalf of the Board of Education and all of us at San Rafael City Schools, we want this to be an exceptional year for our students and our district.

We are dedicated to the children we serve and want them to have their greatest academic year ever. As we join the nation in shifting to Common Core standards, students will face rigor every day, but they will also be provided with support to be successful. We are dedicated to the children we serve and want them to have their greatest academic year ever.

Common Core is not a curriculum but is a set of shared goals and expectations for what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. In 2010, more than 40 states adopted Common Core State Standards for English and math. Our local implementation may look slightly different from that of other districts, and Common Core was designed so that local experts (our instructional leaders and teachers) have some flexibility in the best ways to reach and teach our students.

Our greatest efforts will be in helping students take responsibility for their own learning. The reason is that we want children to excel; to be excited about learning and to become lifelong learners. Our entire San Rafael City Schools team is singularly focused on helping children achieve so they can reach their dreams. Education is the gateway to success in life.

Families will regularly receive information on what the academic expectations are for their students, how parents can help, and what we are doing as an instructional team to prepare children for success.

We warmly welcome and invite parents to be actively involved at your child’s campus. Your principal will let you know about the many ways you can help, whether you can devote many hours or just a few. We want you to be excited about your child’s education and we welcome you at our campuses.

It’s an honor to have your children in the San Rafael City Schools. All children are welcome here with open arms. All children deserve the brightest futures we can deliver.

We look forward to working with you this school year and wish you and your family all the best.

Sincerely,

Michael Watenpaugh, Ed.D
Superintendent