

Dear Northgate Community,

August 9, 2010

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Northgate High School for the 2010-2011 School year. This is my third year at Northgate High and I have learned the powerful truth about Northgate, we have a dedicated community of students, parents, and staff that make Northgate one of the best high schools in the state!

While we are very proud of what we have achieved at Northgate, we can and will get better. To accomplish this we need your support and partnership in our quest to improve. This support is most needed in financial and volunteer assistance. Your participation at PFC meetings, social functions, and volunteer events such as clean up days are instrumental in creating the community of positive energy that moves Northgate forward. Your financial generosity is critical in providing Northgate the resources to focus on quality learning in every class every day.

Monday August 16<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, you will be attending Walkthrough registration at Northgate High. In the past, our parents have been extremely generous in providing support and funding for courses, staff development, additional staff, and supplies at Northgate High; I trust this support will continue. We need more electives and the ability to offer additional core classes at different times during the day to allow students the ability to take electives such as band, choir, and Advanced Placement classes while completing their required classes. These sections cost between twelve and twenty thousand dollars per section, depending on the salary of the teacher involved. Any contribution you can make to Northgate PFC will help with this effort. I understand these are difficult economic times; anything you can do to support us in this endeavor will be appreciated. When you compare the price of education our neighboring private schools such as De La Salle and Carondelet charge (\$14 K per year), a few hundred dollars donated to Northgate is quite a bargain!

I have some good news to share with you that might help convince you to support us in our fundraising efforts:

- Our STAR scores last year were only 3 points below our neighbor Las Lomas High School. They scored a combined 858 while we scored 855. In math scores our students scored 12 points higher than Las Lomas students. Both schools had excellent scores with only 3 points between the two, yet Acalanes District spends over \$9,000.00 dollars per student while Mt. Diablo spends a little over \$5,000.00 dollars per student. Quite a gap, yet we are right there with them!
- Our Advanced Placement (AP) test scores have increased as well. We increased the number of tests taken by 80 tests and 75% of our students passed their tests. In addition, we have added a number of AP classes in the past two years; this is due to contributions by parents at walk-through!

Thank you for all you do to support our community. I am proud and thrilled to be your Principal and look forward to an outstanding school year.

Sincerely,

John McMorris  
Principal  
Northgate High School  
[mcmorrisj@mdusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:mcmorrisj@mdusd.k12.ca.us)