



July 31, 2009

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your children are enjoying your summer. The district office staff has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming year. I'd like to thank our dedicated Summer School Staff who has done an outstanding job supporting our middle and high school students. This year we instituted an Algebra Academy for students at BMS who need additional help in mathematics, as well as offering a variety of classes for our high school students. Students and staff report that it has been an exceptionally successful learning experience.

We have several important additions to our district staff. I am pleased to welcome Mr. Timothy Rahill as our Chief Business Official. Mr. Rahill is an experienced and highly qualified CBO and we are lucky to have him join our team. I am also happy to welcome Mr. Gary Jensen as the new principal of Benicia High School. Mr. Jensen is enthusiastic, energetic and excited to be joining us at Benicia High School. He comes with extensive high school experience and fresh ideas and energy. Mr. Jensen will be a great addition to the district.

As you may imagine, dealing with the state budget shortfall has been one of our highest priorities. On June 29<sup>th</sup> the School Board adopted the 2009-2010 Budget. This adopted budget reflects more than one and a half million dollars in reductions for the upcoming year. It has been difficult to make these reductions and unfortunately they will impact the education of our students. I want to thank the community, our staff and our school board for the efforts that have gone into developing the current budget. I am extremely grateful for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration involved in making these difficult decisions. The reductions in state funding have been extensive and at this time there is no way to know what additional cuts will need to be made, since the state continues to struggle with a huge budget deficit. Fortunately, BUSD has benefitted from Federal Stimulus dollars that will help us through this difficult time. In addition we have received outstanding support from our community.

The Benicia Education Foundation continues to do a tremendous job of supporting our students. Thanks to the BEF we can continue to support Library and Technology Resource programs at all schools for the upcoming year. Benicia is a community that cares about its children. As a community, we can continue to make children our priority by volunteering in our schools and in our community and we can support the BEF during the 2009-2010 school year. Strong school districts have strong education foundations. They go hand in hand. The district is grateful to the BEF for its Partnership and its support of our youth. Please join me in supporting the Benicia Education Foundation during the 2009-2010 school year.

School will be starting sooner than we realize. This year you can go to the BUSD Website at [www.beniciaunified.org](http://www.beniciaunified.org) for back to school/registration schedules. You can get a "jump start" on registration by downloading some district forms ahead of time. This should save you time on registration day.

In spite of the financial situation we have the ingredients for an outstanding district. Our talented and dedicated staff, involved parents, and supportive community make Benicia a wonderful place for students to learn. There are many exciting things in place for the upcoming year. By working together we can continue to improve the education of our youth. They deserve the best we can offer. Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing your children on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,  
*Janice Adams*  
Janice Adams  
Superintendent