



August 19, 2016

Dear Parents:

It hardly seems possible that another summer has gone by and school has started. As the Superintendent, it is energizing to know that our District is in a position to continue providing an excellent academic educational program for our children. We look forward to working with our stakeholders: students, parents, staff, and community members.

**BOARD'S NEW MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Board reviewed and revised its Mission Statement and its Goals with administrators this summer.

*Banning Unified School District is a diverse community that collaborates to develop responsible, respectful, prepared students to achieve their full potential in a global society.*

**NEW GOALS:**

*Goal 1: BUSD will recruit, retain, and professionally develop highly-qualified teachers.*

*Goal 2: BUSD will provide and assess all students with instructional materials aligned with Common Core Standards.*

*Goal 3: BUSD will provide all students access to core curriculum, materials, and high quality instruction that leads to college and career readiness.*

*Goal 4: BUSD will provide a safe school climate.*

*Goal 5: BUSD will actively engage all stakeholders.*

*Goal 6: BUSD will maintain fiscal solvency through effective and efficient District operations.*

**BANNING HIGH SCHOOL EARNS SILVER RANKING:**

U.S. News and World Report published the 2016 high school ranking. Banning High School was awarded a Silver Ranking. The distinction was based on students' scores on reading and math results from state proficiency exams, performance of disadvantaged students in math and reading from proficiency exams, graduation rates, and level of college readiness based on AP exam results. The only other High School in our area to receive this is in the Palm Springs District.

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Board of Education • Alfredo Andrade • Martha Bederio • Alex Cassadas • Kerri Mariner • Jan Spann

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## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:**

California's challenging academic standards and assessments, which include the ability to write clearly, think critically and problem solve in high cognitive levels take time and effort to master. However our students will need them to succeed in college and 21<sup>st</sup> century careers. We are making progress in creating systems to ensure students have access to high quality curriculum and instruction. For example: new language arts curriculum has been adopted to align with the common cores standards; all schools have implemented AVID District-wide; and new career pathways are offered at Banning High School.

## **PRESCHOOL:**

It is our belief that children who receive a high quality education in their early years, develop the necessary skills to lead productive and successful lives. Our Preschool at Florida Street Discovery Center is a full day program.

Children enrolled in preschool will learn:

- Approaches to learning self-regulation
- Social and emotional development
- Language and literacy development
- English language development
- Cognition including math and science
- Physical development health
- History-social science
- Visual and performing arts

## **TECHNOLOGY**

The infusion of technology helps foster engagement. Technology makes learning more interactive, and provides our teachers with tools that enhances instruction. All schools have technology such as interactive white boards, tablets, iPads, computers and/or chrome books that students have access to daily.

## **RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOR:**

This year we launched our new Tiered Behavior Intervention Guide (TBIG) district wide, which supports Response to Intervention (RTI). RTI is a three-tiered approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs. This system allows educators to identify the needs of all students, match the level of support to the severity of the behavior problems and then assess the students' response to intervention.

We are in our third year of implementing Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is an approach for assisting school personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral intervention into an integrated continuum that enhances academic and social behavior outcomes for all students.

## **BULLYING:**

Our Anti-Bullying Program is comprised of an array of systems and supports such as reporting and tracking, Keenan Safe Schools, Safe School Ambassadors, Link Crew, Restorative Practices,

anti-bullying assemblies and anti-bullying curriculum. Through concerted efforts we anticipate that students and staff will develop skills to deal with bullying and problem solving.

**ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES CONTINUE:**

Students learn best when in class on time, every day. A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn. Poor attendance has serious implication for later outcomes. We will continue with our attendance programs and Saturday School to improve student learning. Every school day counts. Starting this August 2016, the Banning Unified School District is launching, “All Day, Every Day, #IM IN!” district wide campaign to promote good attendance practices all year long, while also providing support and intervention for those students that are chronically absent (coming to Face Book soon).

**ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT**

Banning Independent Study School (BISS) stresses a rigorous blended on-line learning program with flexible hours that ensures that students meet grade level requirements and a diploma from an accredited school. It is located at the Coombs Alternative Site.

**IMMUNIZATIONS – SB 277**

The State has new vaccination rules as of January 1, 2016. Senate Bill prohibits parents and guardians from exempting their children from receiving vaccines. All students must have up to date immunizations.

If you want to opt out of their immunizations for your child, you must provide a written waiver submitted by a medical doctor that describes a child’s physical condition or medical circumstance that prevents immunization. Each waiver must include what vaccines are being exempt and if the exemption is permanent or temporary. If temporary, an expiration date must be stated.

**CALIFORNIA LAW ON TRANSGENDER**

State law specifies that students cannot be discriminated against based on gender identity or gender expression. BUSD is responsible for keeping students safe, preventing violations of students’ rights and addressing problems.

**CONCLUSION**

I want to wish all students and families a successful and productive school year. It is an honor to be a part of this District and serve as your Superintendent.



Robert T. Guillen,  
Superintendent