

EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 2012

To the EDUHSD Community:

Happy 2012! I hope the holiday season was filled with great joy for you and your family. I enjoyed some down time and am excited about 2012.

The fall semester has come to an end. All indicators reflect that our students and staff enjoyed great successes. Our athletic teams performed well across the district. The highlights included a State Championship for the Union Mine Girls Volleyball Team. Winter sports are up and running, and our teams are doing great. Congratulations to all of our student athletes.

We have successfully completed our third annual winter intersession during the third week of winter break. This process improves the continuity of instruction by allowing us to more effectively identify and address student learning gaps earlier. A total of 332 students during intersession have successfully improved their course grade, which means there is no need for the student to repeat a course. Successful remediation also means students are now ready to engage in their spring semester courses, along with their peers. The efforts of both the students and staff are greatly appreciated.

This is an exciting time of year for our seniors. Many are receiving acceptance letters from colleges and universities. All of their hard work is paying off. Students are being accepted to the University of California and California State University campuses, as well as a wide variety of private and vocational schools. Information regarding all of the senior activities scheduled for this spring will be distributed shortly. It is important that our seniors stay on task to fully participate in all of the exciting activities.

Registration for 2012–13 is about to begin, and it is critical that families understand and approve student course selections. Counselors will be working with students to develop plans that will ensure they are prepared to meet their post-high school goals. Families are encouraged to discuss post-high school plans with their child. If your child is planning to attend a four-year university, community college, branch of the armed services, vocational school, or some other postsecondary option, please keep in mind that such programs prefer and/or require a course of study that includes at least some college preparatory courses, especially in the core content areas of English, math, social science, and science. If you have any questions, please contact your child's counselor.

The start of the spring semester brings with it great anticipation. Soon the trees will bud and the flowers will bloom and, of course, the testing season will arrive as well. The first important examination will be the California High School Exit Exam. Passing the CAHSEE is required for graduation and is first administered to 10th grade students. The exam includes an English language arts and a mathematics section. Following the CAHSEE will be the array of content area tests that make up the State Testing and Reporting program. Students in grades 9–11 will be participating in end-of-course exams designed to assess how well they have learned the state content standards. Results from the English language arts and mathematics STAR exams will be used by state

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universities and many community colleges to determine course level placement. Finally, those students participating in Advance Placement courses will take exams in a wide variety of courses. Successful completion of these exams can result in college credit. College credit policies vary by institution, so please contact your child's guidance counselor if you have questions. As you can see, all of the exams are significant. You will receive specific information from the school sites regarding testing schedules. Please make every effort to have your child attend each of the exams they are scheduled to take. If you have any questions regarding any of the testing information, please contact the counseling office at your child's school.

The spring also brings about a new budget from the state capitol. Early indicators show that the economy is recovering, but doing so at a very slow pace. As a result, education funding will continue to be a challenge. In spite of this challenge, we still have a great deal of work to do to meet the needs of "*Each Kid, Every Day*." We will continue to focus on encouraging students to challenge themselves with rigorous courses of study and provide the support systems necessary for students to be successful. Through the direction of the Board of Trustees and in cooperation with our employees, we will allocate resources in support of these goals. This work is challenging and inspiring.

Sincerely,



Chris Hoffman, Superintendent
"*Each Kid, Every Day*"