



Berkeley Unified School District

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Donald Evans, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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Dear Berkeley Technology Academy Parents and
Guardians,

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year! The start of a new school year is an exciting time for all of us.

Great Teams in Every School

We have excellent teams of principals, teachers, and staff in every school working together to use the most effective instructional practices and to strengthen our programs and services. Our schools have the support of a dynamic team of school district leaders and staff who are all committed to offering every student a world class education. We now have a three year plan in place to increase direct services and support to our students and families. As the school year gets rolling, you will be hearing more about the goals and benefits of our new Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Expanding our Resources

As I enter my second year as Superintendent in Berkeley, my focus will be on ensuring we have strong systems of support for all students in every school. At Berkeley Technology Academy, we are working to increase the capacity of our most effective support programs, and are creating more opportunities for students to make post-secondary education and career planning a priority. We now have a Teacher on Special Assignment dedicated to providing supports and intervention services on campus. To further create a positive school setting, each BTA student is being assigned an adult mentor, and an intervention support team is working with teachers and students on practices that promote positive student behaviors.

When you visit the Berkeley Technology Academy campus, you will see the new science lab that just opened, as well as the iMac computer labs that opened last year. These new facilities encourage interactive teaching and rich learning opportunities for our students.

Contracts settled with three of four employee unions; Final phase with classified union

In the spring we settled contracts with three of our employee bargaining units representing our teachers, our administrators, and our classified managers. As we enter the final phase of negotiations with our fourth bargaining unit - the Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE), the union representing our bus drivers, instructional assistants, and other classified employees - we hope to be able to finalize a contract in the fall that includes our best salary increase offer.

Partners at home

Starting a new school year is a good time to make new resolutions. Please talk to your teen about the importance of full participation by attending school every day and arriving to each class period on time. It is equally important that students return to school on time after lunch.

Back-to-School Night (September 18) is the first of many opportunities for us to partner with you this year. I encourage you to introduce yourself to your son's or daughter's teachers. We must work in tandem to impress upon our high school students the importance of making the most of their education, and the opportunities available to them. We want every student to take full advantage of all that high school has to offer, and to leave us on a path to success.

Together we can.

Sincerely,

Donald Evans, Ed.D.
Superintendent