



*"Equity and
Excellence"*

Ocean View School District

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Dear Sixth Grade Parents and Guardians:

As most of you are aware, California's budget crisis has severely impacted the school districts across the state. To address the substantial cuts to our budget, Ocean View School District made over \$9.4 million in reductions to date, and is preparing for even more cuts for 2010-2011. To accomplish this, we have met extensively with our administration, teachers, support staff, and Community Budget Advisory Committee, to identify areas for changes that would have the least impact on our core program and the academic achievement of our students. During this process, we have identified numerous areas where program changes not only lead to cost savings, but an improvement in the delivery of our program.

One area that has been refined and adjusted, beginning this year, is our sixth grade middle school program. Our outstanding sixth grade teaching staff remains in place to maintain our strong academic program. Beginning this year you may notice the following sixth grade program adjustments:

- Students will have fewer teachers in the four academic areas than seventh and eighth grade students. This structure of self-contained sixth grade aligns with the structure of fifth grade, as well as provides transition into the traditional seventh and eighth grade departmentalized program.
- The self-contained structure provides 90 minutes of English/Language Arts and 60 minutes of Mathematics daily. Students will also have Social Studies and Science daily, a change from previous years. This extra time in Social Studies and Science will better prepare students for high school coursework.
- Middle school students will be on an Algebra track. In sixth grade, mathematics is now Pre-Algebra Prep. Seventh grade students take Algebra I Prep, and Eighth grade students take Algebra I. This change in our program is required under No Child Left Behind and the California State Mathematics Framework.
- Physical Education and Electives will be provided on alternate days. However, during the first trimester sixth grade students will not dress-out for P.E. as a way to provide additional time for students to adjust to the middle school setting.
- Honors classes will continue to be offered to eligible sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students.

This change to the sixth grade self-contained structure, not only saves the District \$400,000, but will continue to ensure students have an exceptional academic program. We are proud of our students' academic accomplishments and overall successes, and as a District are committed to keeping our focus on student achievement. As in the past, we appreciate your continued support.

If you have any questions regarding these adjustments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Middle School Principals