

## LOOKING AHEAD TO HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

As a student begins the seventh grade, it is time to start thinking about what sort of academic program is most appropriate. What a student takes in seventh and eighth grade affects course selection in high school, so it is important to consider seventh grade as the *beginning* of a six-year curriculum at the secondary level of public education.

Parents and students should be aware that course selection should be a good fit for the student's abilities, work habits, and interests. For example, if a student is not ready for an academic elective such as French or Spanish, then he can wait until ninth grade to begin his study of Foreign Language and still meet the requirements established by the University of California / California State University systems.

Middle school students still need to explore what they are interested in, what they excel at, and what engages them, which is why we have so many elective options available. Please read the course offerings carefully, consider the prerequisites and expectations, and choose what works for *you*.

## CERTIFICATE OF PROMOTION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Students who wish to receive a Certificate of Promotion to high school and participate in the Promotion Ceremony and activities at the end of eighth grade must have passed the following requirements:

- ❖ Met the minimum standard for promotion in Reading, Language Arts, and Math as defined in Board Policy.
- ❖ Passed four semesters of English, History, Mathematics, Science, and Physical Education in seventh and eighth grades.

## HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM

All students are required to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), which they will take in tenth grade. Please read the important information on the next page about the CAHSEE and note that *most of what is tested is covered in middle school*. This increased level of accountability is something that parents and students should discuss as this school year begins, so that students can realize the important connections between what they learn in middle school and what they are accountable for in high school.

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The academic requirements for the University of California and the California State University systems are as follows:

- ❖ Two years to include one year of US History (or one semester US History and one semester American Government) and one year of World History.
- ❖ Four years of college preparatory English.
- ❖ Three years of mathematics to include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II; (four years recommended).
- ❖ Two years of Laboratory Science (three years recommended) to include Biology or Marine Biology and either Chemistry or Physics.
- ❖ Two years of one Foreign Language; (three years recommended). Foreign Language satisfactorily completed in grades seven and eight may be used to meet one year of this requirement.
- ❖ Two semesters of fine or performing arts.
- ❖ One additional year of college prep electives in the areas of English, history, foreign language, lab science, social science and visual or performing arts.