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*Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members:*

*Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year in Santa Rosa City Schools! We look forward to working with you as parents, community members, and students in the creation of an excellent educational experience this year. The annual **Information Handbook** will be sent home to you with information and guidelines for this year's activities. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to call either the school office or the district office so that we may assist you.*

*Teachers and administrators will be prepared to welcome students on Monday, August 17, at each of our school sites. The SRCS School Board's work continued through the summer to prepare the district for a successful year. The Board's meeting agenda, subcommittees' agenda, and minutes are on the district website ([www.srcs.k12.ca.us](http://www.srcs.k12.ca.us)) for the public's convenience. Emails, as well as responses to Board items, can be sent directly to the Board of Education and to me. Calendars are also available on the website for your convenience.*

*We are constantly looking for new ways to increase our communication with you, particularly two-way communication. Last year we transitioned to a new Student Information System. As the implementation continues, the system will allow greater flexibility and access to information to guide our work with students. Parents and guardians will be able to access their student's records to monitor student progress with the new Home Access Center. From the comfort of your home or any available computer, you will be able to see your own student's (but not other students') test scores, attendance records, and other information at any time you choose. Email links will enable parents or guardians to easily contact teachers or the school office. Information on the Home Access Center will be available during orientation or Back to School events at your school.*

*Another way that we involve the community is to offer a mode to give input on Board agenda items for each Board meeting. You can click on each item and send comments to the Board and me. In September a new list of potential budget cuts will be posted on the district website for 2009-10. Approximately \$5.6 million in cuts will be needed to address the revenue loss for 2009-10. Each item will be set up so that you can click on it and send information to the Board and to me. Previously, we collected well over 300 comments to present to the Board and the public when it was time to make fiscal decisions for the school year. The SRCS Board will revisit the overall financial situation, schedule Board items to hear from the public, and make any decisions that may be necessary regarding additional reductions.*

*Our Santa Rosa City Schools' Choices Magazine offers families information on a range of quality educational opportunities in secondary that can be chosen based on a student's own aspirations. These choices cover Career Pathways, such as agriculture and natural resources; visual or performing arts and communications; green design, building trades, construction, and engineering; GIS/GPS and space science; business management, computer applications, and Cisco Academy; culinary arts and hospitality; translations, and child development; as well as industrial and automotive technology. Choices in specialized programs include ArtQuest; the University Center; International Baccalaureate; and the Early College Magnet Program. Choices Magazine is available online, at schools, or at the district office. The 2009-10 editions will be sent to schools and families in the fall.*

*A new publication this year called, **A World of Opportunities - High School Curriculum Guide**, is located on the website for your convenience. This new district-wide curriculum guide is designed to introduce you to the many opportunities offered through strong academic, arts, athletic and leadership programs at each of our comprehensive high schools. Both the **Choices Magazine** and **High School Curriculum Guide** received national recognition this year from the National School Public Relations Association.*

*Our work with the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Agilent, JDS, and Medtronic, as well as Redwood Credit Union, resulted in an expanded summer algebra academy and a financial literacy academy. We work with the Mayors' Gang Prevention Task Force, acknowledged as a factor in the city's reduction in crime, and the Santa Rosa Police Department in concentrated efforts to make our community and our schools safe. The Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks Department is a partner in some school with afterschool programs. The Sonoma County Volunteer Center provides our district with many volunteers to work with students in a great variety of subjects at all grade levels. Graduates from our high schools received scholarships and admission at colleges across the country, including Harvard, MIT, Brown, Stanford, and many others.*

*The Board and I are looking forward to another excellent year working together with you. It is a privilege to serve you as the superintendent of this wonderful district. Please let me know if we can be of assistance to you.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sharon Liddell*

*Sharon Liddell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent*

*Cc: Board of Education  
Community Partners*