



August 10, 2015
Message from Superintendent Skelly:
Four of the Most Formative Years in a
Young Person's Life

Dear Parents/Guardians and Members of
the Community,

Having spent my whole life in education,
the only calendar that has meaning for me
is the school calendar. June has always
been the time to celebrate and say goodbye
to students and those colleagues who are
retiring or moving on. July is for family and
recharging batteries. And now in August, it is time to excitedly welcome a new year.

Starting a school year is akin to launching a spacecraft. There is so much prep work that nobody sees before the launch. Custodians spend the summer deep cleaning. Students are enrolled. Cafeterias are restocked and prepared for ravenous teenage appetites. Staff is hired. Students' registration material is analyzed. Hours and hours are spent making sure each and every student has the right classes taught by caring, passionate teachers.

Then with a roar, the new school year is launched. Every August, in thousands of schools, so many difficult, complicated, interrelated things come together in seemingly effortless fashion.

Here in the San Mateo Union High School District, about two thousand families will be taking ninth graders to our schools this Wednesday. The four years a student spends in high school are some of the most formative and important years in a young person's life. As I think about the growth and transformation my four children experienced during their high school years, I am even more determined to do what I can for other students.

It is awesome work we do as educators. We look forward to our partnership with parents and the community realizing our collective dreams for this next generation. School starts August 12. It is going to be a good day!

Kevin Skelly, Ph.D.
Superintendent

