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BOARD OF EDUCATION: Andrew Cruz • Charles E. Dickle • Irene Hernandez-Blair • James Na • Sylvia Orazco • **SUPERINTENDENT:** Wayne M. Joseph

August 2013

Dear Parents / Guardians:

The Chino Valley Unified School District joins the forty-four districts throughout the state and the nation in implementing The Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The CCSS were recently adopted by the State of California to replace current state standards. The Common Core State Standards are designed to provide a practical way to prepare children for the challenges of a constantly changing world. The new standards will support students' learning by increasing the level of rigor and depth of learning that results in better critical thinking skills and the ability to apply what has been learned.

The goal of the CCSS is to have all students graduate from our public school system as life-long learners who will have the skills and knowledge necessary to assume their positions in the 21st century global economy. The new standards are designed to be relevant in the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills students need for success in both higher education and career. Communities will be stronger if students graduate with the skills and knowledge needed in today's job market.

Nearly 300 CVUSD teachers spent six days over the summer training for the transition to the English/Language Arts and Mathematics Common Core State Standards. Our teachers are excited to begin the process and will be implementing many new things from the first day of the new school year. When transitioning to new programs, procedures and practices, things may not initially work as smoothly as they have in the past. However, CVUSD teachers have been encouraged to learn and try new things this year, knowing that there may be a few bumps in the road.

Parents can expect to see some changes in the instructional materials being used in their students' English/Language Arts classrooms this year as we begin our transition process. Many more changes are needed as a result of the adoption of the CCSS. Writing prompts and rubrics, assessments, pacing guides and report cards will all need to be changed.

Parents and guardians are crucial partners in laying the groundwork for a smooth transition to the new standards. Parents are encouraged to speak to the principal and their child's teacher(s) about the plans for the transition to learn what will be different about these new standards and what will remain the same for children.

Along with the adoption of the Common Core State Standards, new assessments are under development which will measure student progress toward career and college readiness. This will be the last year for students to be assessed via the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) test. You may learn more about the new tests and California's participation in the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp>.

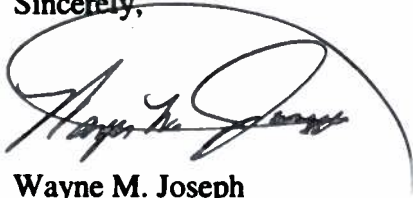
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To better inform parents about this shift in education, CVUSD will be providing a series of news articles which will be provided for school site newsletters. Parents can visit the District's Web page at <http://www.chino.k12.ca.us> (select "Students/Parents" tab then Common Core State Standards) and Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chinovalleyusd>.

The following Web reference is the main CDE CCSS Web Page which includes the *Common Core State Standards Systems Implementation Plan for California*, the Significant Milestones Timeline, and a "Learn More" section that provides additional links to audience specific information. **California Department of Education CCSS Web Page:** <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/> (select "Students/Parents" tab)

Research shows that parent involvement is crucial to a student's success. As CVUSD and school districts throughout the nation move forward with this ambitious education initiative, your support and partnership are more important than ever to its success and that of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne M. Joseph", enclosed within a large, thin, hand-drawn oval.

Wayne M. Joseph
Superintendent

WMJ:VLB:sg