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September 1, 2017

Dear Elk Grove Unified Parents and Families,

The 2017-18 school year is off to a great start. Students and staff are excited and schools are buzzing with activity. The recent solar eclipse proved exciting and kudos to our school teams for creating special viewing opportunities, science related games and several other astronomy related lessons to capitalize on the unique phenomena while ensuring safety remained the top priority.

We continue to improve the quality of the services we provide to students and families. We hired high quality staff across the District, invested in state of the art instructional materials and technology, provided thousands of hours of professional development and started several facility improvements thanks to the community support of Measure M. We also opened two new schools, Robert J. McGarvey and Zehnder Ranch elementary schools. We accomplished all of this in a challenging economic period by leveraging one-time funds, maximizing efficiencies and working collaboratively with our employee organizations. I am proud of the leadership provided by the Board of Trustees and the work of everyone involved in getting ready for the new school year.

Keeping students connected to school and learning in every classroom, in every subject, every day, preparing them to be college and career ready, remains our ongoing focus. We're dedicated to making sure students are reading at grade level, encouraging problem solving and critical thinking and inspiring creativity and curiosity. The start of the new year provides students with opportunities to get involved. Speaking from my experience as a father of two very different young men that attended Elk Grove Unified schools, a connected kid is a successful kid. Connection comes in many forms including clubs, academic or athletic teams, visual and performing arts, career academies, student leadership or any of the other wide variety of options. Please encourage your child to join one or more groups. The benefits are many including improved academic performance, finding new friends and discovering new passions.

Upcoming events to look forward to include many college and career fairs, as well as our annual Map Your Future event. You can find out about these events by visiting the home page of the District's website: [www.egusd.net](http://www.egusd.net). In conclusion, regular school attendance is one of the top predictors of student success. Our commitment to you is to keep your child engaged and connected to learning at school and we depend on you to make sure your student is ready, on time and at school every day.

Thank you for choosing the Elk Grove Unified School District for your child's educational needs.

Sincerely,

Christopher R. Hoffman  
Superintendent  
Elk Grove Unified School District