Dear Northgate Community,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Northgate High School for the 2012 – 2013 school year. The opening of school is always an exciting time with great promise, dreams and hopes for a stellar year. The promise is yours to make. Student involvement, positive attitude, and hard work can make this an unforgettable school year. To make this happen, urge your child to get involved! Join a sport, club or academic team. Be part of our award winning performing arts program or our dynamic leadership team. Take an elective class that challenges you in areas you have not explored before. The opportunities for involvement at Northgate are wide and varied; the only barrier to participation is if you choose not to get involved.

I have just finished my fourth year as Principal at Northgate and I can say with pride that Northgate High School is a fantastic school with interesting teachers and programs, plus we have aggressive plans and a dynamic Strategic Plan to make things even better in the near future. This does not imply Northgate does not face challenges, we have plenty; shrinking state budgets and lingering economic difficulties have affected Northgate leading to staff and program cuts. Because of this, we are asking you to reach down and contribute all you can as you come through walk-through this year. I know things are tight, I hope you can agree we provide a tremendous value for a small investment. Below are some of the reasons Northgate is such a great place:

- Northgate students have tremendous pride in our school and community. They are respectful and have a strong focus on academic and personal excellence.
- Over 90% of our students move on to post high school education.
- Interesting and challenging academic programs including Mock Congress for all seniors, and a Senior Project that challenges students to use what they have learned to think about the larger world.
- Academic competition teams such as Mock Trial, Academic Decathlon, and Model United Nations provide intellectual challenges in a fun and authentic learning environment.
- A Model Sports Medicine program with over 200 students learning about medicine and the human body in a hands-on venue working with our athletic programs under the guidance of Mr.
 Glen Barker, who has set the standard for teaching Sports Medicine in Northern California, if not the entire nation!
- Outstanding Performing Arts Programs in vocal and instrumental music, drama, and dance productions. These programs provide shows that rival professional production numbers for a fraction of the cost.
- First-rate athletic programs, with a number of teams making post season playoffs. Swimming, Wrestling, Track and Field and Cross Country provide no-cut opportunities for athletic excellence.
- New engineering wing and design lab with Northgate engineering students placing in top three in County design competition.

This is a small sample of the great things people have built and accomplished at Northgate High. Together we can have a school year that will be one of the most significant and memorable in our lives. I look forward to meeting you at walk-through and extend to you my open door. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have a concern, question or simply a nice thing to say!

Sincerely,

John McMorris, Principal Northgate High School

Email: mcmorrisj@mdusd.org