

Dear parent:

The start of every school year brings anticipation and excitement along with a little anxiety. Students want to know about their new teachers, classes, and friends both new and old. As parents, we want to make sure our students will be in a great learning environment and we want to know what they will be learning this year. We want to make sure that our children are challenged to do their best work with the support they will need to succeed.

I often speak of the importance of connection, value and challenge in our school system. In Lake Washington, we want to make sure that each student is connected to an adult in school, believes in the value of their learning and faces appropriate levels of challenge in their work. We take these values seriously: we are working hard to ensure that every classroom in our system reflects them. Last year, we revised the district's student profile and guiding principles with these values, and the district's mission and vision in mind. The student profile describes the skills and attributes that students will achieve by the time they leave our system, and the environments that will enable students to achieve these goals. This document is our roadmap for student success and I hope that you will take a few minutes to become familiar with it ([www.lwsd.org/about](http://www.lwsd.org/about)).

This year, as a school system, we will focus specifically on the area of challenge. Each school will look at their programs and practices to ensure that student needs are being met in light of our content and performance standards, as well as what we believe students will need to be competitive in this new century. We understand that much of our students' future success will rely upon their ability to take on difficult challenges and complex problems.

This fall is especially challenging for us as we prepare to do more with less as a result of significant state budget cuts. With the input from parents, staff and community members, we developed a budget that reflects \$7.7 million less in revenue from the state but still keeps in place our highest priorities, specifically class size and teachers. But hard and real cuts were made. We reduced the budget in areas such as central office administration, teacher professional development, support services and custodial services. Fees were increased for athletics, all-day Kindergarten and other optional programs. Bus stops will be fewer and farther apart. And we are anticipating the possibility of more cuts to come as the economy continues to struggle. These are lean and challenging times. But in Lake Washington, we understand that our success is a function of our resiliency, innovation, and the quality of our faculty, staff and families. We know how to step up to the challenges before us, just as we expect our students and families to do the same. This year will be no different. Your students will receive an outstanding education in Lake Washington and our team is ready to do an amazing job.

We also know that YOU are an integral part of our success. There are many ways that you can become involved in your local school or the district at large. Now more than ever, we need the help of our local community. For ways to help, please contact your school principal, local PTSA, the Lake Washington Schools Foundation ([www.lwsf.org](http://www.lwsf.org)), the LINKS volunteer mentoring program ([LINKS@lwsd.org](mailto:LINKS@lwsd.org)) or our district communications office ([kreith@lwsd.org](mailto:kreith@lwsd.org)). We will get you plugged in.

Student Future Ready: Prepared for College, Prepared for the Global Workplace, Prepared for Personal Success.”

Have a great year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Kimball". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dr. Chip Kimball  
Superintendent