Dear Students,

Whether you are new to Alameda Unified School District or a returning student, I welcome you to the 2012/13 school year! I am excited to begin yet another year as Superintendent of Schools in AUSD. During my time here, I have come to know many of you and I hope this new year will allow me to get to know many more students and families.

As Superintendent, I am so proud of the tremendous strides we are all making together. Last year was another year of achievement. For the fourth year in a row, our API test scores improved, with 9 of our schools exceeding last year’s scores and 12 of our schools exceeding the state’s target score of 800 (a score of 800 is considered excellent). AUSD improved overall from 833 to 842, a growth of 9 API points. Let’s work together to make it five years in a row!

We were also proud that both Alameda High and Encinal High were placed among the “Best High Schools in the U.S.” by U.S. News and World Report, with Alameda High ranked #109 in California and #566 nationally and Encinal ranked #221 in California and #1102 nationally. This fall our most recent high school graduates will be heading off to a wide variety of colleges and universities including, UC Berkeley, UCLA, most other UC and CSU campuses, Brown, Princeton, Dartmouth, Harvard, Cornell, Stanford, Barnard, Vassar, Wesleyan, Amherst, Boston University, NYU, American, Pomona, Occidental, USC, UOP, Puget Sound, DePaul, Syracuse, Swarthmore, Bowdoin, Macalester, Xavier, Lewis and Clark, Hofstra, University of Virginia, University of Michigan, University of Vermont, University of New Hampshire, University of Oregon, University of Colorado, University of Washington, University of Massachusetts, Indiana University, Arizona State, Boise State, and many others.

Beyond academic successes, as is traditional in our District, last year we also had many achievements in athletics, the arts, and continuing community engagement in our schools. There is still work to do to, but as a community, we should reflect on our successes and be proud!

One of the biggest factors in the overall success of our students and our District as a whole will always be the ability to work in partnership with our students, parents, and community members. Please take advantage of the many opportunities to become involved and to learn more about the District and your school.

I invite you to stay informed by regularly visiting our District website, www.alameda.k12.ca.us for up-to-date information about what is going on at our school sites and the District. You can also sign up for email updates by clicking “subscribe” in the “Stay Informed” box on the home page or our website. Of course, your input is always welcome. You can contact me at 510-337-7060 or via e-mail at kvital@alameda.k12.ca.us with your comments or questions.

Again, welcome to the new school year!

Sincerely,

Kirsten Vital
Superintendent of Schools

www.alameda.k12.ca.us