



February 23, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Groups of teachers, students, and parents across California have called for a day of action on March 4, 2010 to show support for public education and to demand an end to the deep cuts in funding for education. The Oceana staff has decided to change its regular school schedule on March 4th and participate in public education activities on this day.

The California legislature has repeatedly cut funding for education over the last few years. This year, the Jefferson Union High School District (JUHSD) had to cut \$1.9 million from its budget. The result is a shorter school year, the elimination of most summer school programs, lower salaries for all employees, cuts in student transportation, an increase in the student to counselor ratio, cuts in books and classroom materials, and the elimination of several clerical support staff. In addition, the Community College system will deny services to approximately 250,000 students next fall, the University of California has raised tuition by 32%, and the list continues.


We believe it is important for high school students to understand how these cuts affect their current education and their future educational goals. We also believe it is important for students to understand the political process and to know they have a chance for their voices to be heard. That is why we want Oceana students to be a part of the events on March 4th.

Our day will begin with activities that actively involve students. Small groups of students and teachers will meet at locations in Daly City and Pacifica to talk to the public about their concerns with funding for education. Some students will meet teachers at the Daly City or Colma BART station or the Westlake shopping mall. Other groups of students and teachers will leave from Oceana and walk or take public transportation to local stores, shopping areas, or the pier in Pacifica. Students who participate in one of these off-campus activities must have written permission from their parent or guardian to leave campus. Students without permission to leave campus will be involved in activities at school.

Everyone will return to school by mid-morning. The remainder of the day will be filled with educational workshops on the budget crisis and the political process. If you are available that day, we would love to have parents and guardians join us in the morning activities and attend the workshops on campus.

Please complete the bottom portion of this letter if you would like your student to participate in one of the off-campus events. You will be notified about the exact time and location by Monday, March 1st.

Sincerely,


Caro Pemberton
Principal

I _____ (print name of parent/guardian) give my permission for

_____ (print name of student) to meet an Oceana teacher off campus at 8:00 AM on March 4, 2010. I understand that my student will take public transportation back to Oceana High School with the teacher by 10:30 AM.

_____ I am available and would like to join in the morning activities on March 4th.

Emergency Contact information _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____