OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Mark A. Peterson
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As summer winds down and the beginning of the school year approaches, I welcome you and your child to a year of successful learning. I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to do everything possible to be sure that your child attends school throughout the year on a regular basis. Attending school regularly is an important part of the learning process and an indicator of school achievement. For those reasons, California law *requires* every child from the ages of six to eighteen to attend school.

You might wonder why the Contra Costa District Attorney is writing you rather than a school official. The reason is simple. I don't need anymore business prosecuting juveniles and adults and I want your children to be successful. **Parents of school aged children are responsible for their children's attendance in a full time, educational program**. Three or more unexcused absences can result in your child being recorded as "truant," and can result in your child being referred to the School Principal, the District Superintendent, and/or the District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney's Office may prosecute parents and child in court for the child's failure to regularly attend school.

The District Attorney's Office knows that, quite often, children who do not attend school run the very real risk of either committing crimes or becoming the victims of crime, and those students who do not graduate from high school will find it difficult to find jobs or succeed in life.

Your school is here to help your child learn. With support, encouragement, advice, and consequences, your child can thrive, and will also learn that discipline, hard work, and studying pays off.

Please make every effort to ensure your child's attendance at school, and help them to get to school **on time and every day**. Your efforts will make a difference to your child.

Sincerely yours,

MARK A. PETERSON
District Attorney
Contra Costa County

The mission of the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office is to seek justice and enhance public safety for all our residents by fairly, ethically, aggressively, and efficiently prosecuting those who violate the law, and by working to prevent crime.

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