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Superintendent
Dr. David Woodall

Benson Unified School District #9

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Dear Parents,

On behalf of our staff and Governing Board, I would like to welcome you and thank you for the giving us the opportunity to serve your children. The support of education exhibited by the Benson Community for schools and children is remarkable and makes it a privilege to work here. It is our stated mission to provide a welcoming and safe learning environment that prepares your child to be a competitive and productive citizen.

Schools have changed greatly in the past few years. Most of us grew up when there were few if any educational choices. Today's students may choose from public schools, charter schools, private schools and virtual academies. Benson School District is striving to provide a wide variety of quality academic, elective, club and extracurricular offerings that will make us your school of choice.

This year our enrollment has exceeded 1200 students for the first time. Many of these students are choosing to travel to Benson Schools from other communities because of the programs and activities that continue to be offered here in a time of statewide school budget cuts. As we grow we want to maintain a personalized approach to education where there is a niche for every child and the traditional values of hard work, responsibility and honesty are emphasized.

Our district motto is "*Benson Schools...on track for tomorrow.*" Over the past three years we have diligently worked to improve our curriculum, technology and facilities. This has been coupled with intense efforts to recruit, retain and develop our staff. These efforts are critical if we are to provide your student with the necessary skills to succeed in current and future careers.

In early 2012 we hope to initiate Phase II of our bond building program that will see continued improvements to our facilities. New classrooms, a technology center and various minor renovations are among the improvements being considered. These improvements are possible because of the generous support demonstrated by the Benson Community in the 2007 bond election.

This past year the State Department of Education moved to a new A-F School Accountability System. Under this plan schools and school districts are now issued a letter grade based on student academic growth over a year, AIMS scores and graduation and dropout rates. Grades for the 2010-2011 school years were recently issued and Benson School District received a "B" grade. Although we are proud of that grade, our focus is on continual improvement of our day to day practices that will allow Benson School District to achieve an "A" in the future.

Quality education at Benson Schools is truly a joint effort of our schools, our families and our community. We thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide students with the necessary skills to succeed in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Woodall