



Principal Burbank with
State Superintendent
Torlakson

Dear Future Wildcats

The most important relationship on a school campus is that between the teacher and the student. Remember a favorite elementary school teacher? Mine was first grade, Miss Macy, and I loved her. She had a great desk with all these pens and papers, and she made me want to come to school. In high school, my favorite teacher was Mr. Hergenreter; he was only my favorite after three years. The first two years, I disliked him; he taught writing, and he was gruff and tough. I'd never received his kind of feedback on my writing. But it made be better, and I respected him. Yes, high school is a place – a campus, a set of buildings and fields. Yes, high school is an institution with a set of rules – a place with bells and handbooks and meetings. But most importantly, high school is a setting where teachers create classrooms (okay, not just classrooms, but settings) where teenagers can learn.

In my work as principal, I will work to provide teachers the support they need to create those optimal settings between easy and boring and hard and frustrating where the most learning occurs. It's about me supporting quality instruction so that quality learning can happen--so that the teacher and the student can connect through the content and through the joy of working hard and mastering a skill or a perspective. The quality of instruction at Woodside High School is our strongest positive, and I will work to make it even stronger because that's where the magic happens.

I believe that high schools have the obligation to get it right. At Woodside High School, we have highly qualified adults on campus, students who really do want to do the right things, and a community that supports both the adults and the students. At Woodside High School, we have diversity and opportunity. Our diversity is in our people-- grade levels, ethnicity, learning styles, and interests. Our diversity is in our programs- Advanced Placement, Green Academy, Business Academy, Special Education, English Leamer Development, Project Lead the Way (an engineering pathway), the Arts, to name a few. Finally, our diversity is in our approaches- SOS (Students Offering Support), Naviance, Living Skills (9th grade Social Studies class), direct interactive instruction, and fostering the "8 conditions of student success", to name a few. My point is that your student will not just *survive* high school, they will *thrive* in high school –at Woodside High School.

Diane Burbank
Principal