



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone's holiday break was enjoyable and that you and your families were able to spend time together relaxing before the beginning of another busy and productive new year. We begin with the exciting news that two of our BCA students have been selected as Intel Science Talent Search 2012 semifinalists. They are among the 300 students chosen as semifinalists from an initial pool of 1,839 entrants from high schools across the nation and one overseas American high school. Congratulations to the students on this achievement, which recognizes and rewards not only their hard work and dedication, but also that of their mentors, teachers, and families.

Last year, I asked teachers and administrators to be part of a new committee called "The Futurists." This group was charged with researching future trends in business, science, and technology for the purpose of providing broad direction for the funding and planning of new programs and tools for all three of our high school campuses. Their conclusions and support were a part of our successful Perkins application for this school year. The next challenge will be to cultivate the new ideas that were generated by that work.

With the themes of innovation already presented in our conclusions last year, trends such as sustainability, smart machines, social networking and mobile computing, and globalization are now playing a central role in shaping the way we enhance our programs moving forward. In addition, the Futurists will dedicate this year's efforts to providing professional development opportunities to inform and inspire others to consider these trends in aspects of their instruction. Half-day workshops, off-site experiences, and webinars will all be vehicles for this initiative. The following ideas have been discussed as potential offerings in this direction:

- A small group trip to the Rutgers Eco-complex.
- A "town hall meeting" on issues of sustainability moderated by an outside expert.
- Off-site training at Columbia University's Earth Institute.
- A presentation by a representative from Apple on their new intelligent, digital assistant SIRI.
- A presentation from university faculty on how mobile technologies are changing the workplace.
- Presentations on the impact of globalization on the job markets our students will enter.

The hope is that by exposing more teachers to these trends, our schools can find new ways to integrate this content into all of our subject areas.

Sincerely,

Howard Lerner, Ed.D.