



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HATTIE MAE WHITE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
4400 WEST 18th STREET • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092-8501

May 8, 2013

Dear North Forest Community:

Texas Education Commissioner Michael Williams has ordered the North Forest Independent School District to become part of the Houston Independent School District effective July 1, 2013.

We know recent years have been difficult for the North Forest community, and we are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible for students, their families, and the community.

Our promise to North Forest students is the same as our promise to every student attending HISD schools — you will attend safe schools with effective teachers and principals.

As the largest school district in Texas, HISD has a wealth of resources, including a \$1.89 billion bond to repair or replace 40 schools across the district. In addition, a portion of these funds will be used to make all schools safer and to upgrade existing technology. As part of HISD, North Forest students will benefit from these improvements.

HISD students have been making strong and consistent academic progress. The district's graduation has never been higher, and the dropout rate now stands at a record low.

More seniors than ever are scoring high enough on the SAT college-entrance exam to be considered ready for college. The Class of 2012 earned a record \$180 million in college scholarship offers, up from \$51.4 million in 2009.

HISD welcomes the North Forest students and the entire community into our family with open arms. We are committed to keeping North Forest High School open, and to offer students rigorous courses that prepare them for college and rewarding careers.

In 2011, HISD won the prestigious Award for Excellence in Financial Management from the Council of the Great City Schools. We have the lowest property tax rate among the two dozen school districts in Harris County. The owner of a North Forest home valued at \$100,000 can expect to pay about \$400 less per year in property taxes as part of HISD.

We need your help moving forward. Please consider sharing your experience and expertise, volunteering, and supporting school programs and initiatives. If everyone works as a team, North Forest students will graduate from high school in record numbers, prepared to tackle the next challenge.

For more information about the HISD North Forest transition, please visit our website: www.houstonisd.org. You may also call us at 713-556-9595, or email your questions to northforestinfo@houstonisd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry B. Griek".

Dr. Terry B. Griek
HISD Superintendent of Schools