



COTATI-ROHNERT PARK
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT

September 2008

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! School opened on Tuesday, September 2, and from all accounts, it was the smoothest opening day in many, many years. New students and new teachers at our six elementary schools are getting to know each other and are working and learning together. Our middle and high schools are brimming with energy, and staff and students alike are engaged in learning.

Rancho Cotate's Cougar Stadium is finally complete with the installation of a life-size bronze cougar to guard the front gates. The entry is very impressive, and visitors certainly know that they are in Cougar territory once they step into the stadium! The Cougar was a gift of the Class of 2008; if you haven't had a chance to see it up close, stop by the stadium and take a look.

As projected, our enrollment declined once again, dropping from 6,611 students at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year to 6,367 this year, for a total decline of 244 students in grades kindergarten through twelve. A bright spot in this otherwise gloomy picture is that Rancho Cotate's enrollment did not decline to the extent it had been projected. In fact, Rancho opened with 65 more students than anticipated, and the District was able to hire additional teaching staff to meet this need. I certainly hope that this trend continues as more and more students and parents become aware of the excellent programs offered there.

Finally, I want to point out that this year marks the thirtieth year anniversary of the Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District. To mark this milestone, the District will be highlighting many of its successes during this thirty year period. Keep an eye on the website and on school newsletters as we take a walk down memory lane!

Sincerely,

Barbara Vrankovich, EdD
Superintendent