



December 3, 2009

Dear NSA West Families:

As you may remember from last fall, we have been assessing the grade level interest for our opening year based on how many Intent to Enroll forms we received per grade and the impact this decision has on our school budget. For the 2010 – 2011 school year, NSA West will serve students in preschool through 5th grade, adding an additional grade each year to reach full enrollment of approximately 625 students in grades Kindergarten – 8th by the 2015 - 2016 school year.

There are several reasons for this decision:

- In order to minimize some of the startup challenges we will inevitably face, our goal is to start with fewer students and grow the program each year.
- A minimum of 2 classrooms are needed in each grade served in our opening year in order to advance these students to the next grade the following year. Based on the number of Intent to Enroll forms received for sixth and seventh grade in the past twelve months, there is not enough interest in these grades to offer two classrooms.
- Opportunities for meaningful grade-level teacher collaboration was also considered as this requires a minimum of two classrooms per grade.
- Staffing requirements were also considered as sixth graders rotating core classes as part of their daily program. Our budget could not support multiple teachers for one classroom of sixth and/or seventh graders.
- Since the middle school program begins in 6th grade, the break at 5th grade made the most sense.
- Our team is committed to offering a high quality middle school program and believes an additional year of research and planning will provide a more successful program.

Our team is committed to creating another high quality charter school in Highlands Ranch and believes this to be the best decision to ensure a successful opening. We realize this may be a disappointment to those of you with children entering the 6th or 7th grades in the upcoming school year and hope this message will provide you with the necessary time to make the best choice for your family for the upcoming school year.

Regards,

The NSA West Founding Board

Jennifer Larson, Lisa Nolan, Kristin Hill, Lorrie Grove, John Schlichting