



December 17, 2009

Dear NSA West Parents and Prospective Parents –

As recently announced, the founding team for NSA West has successfully secured the financing required to open our school in Highlands Ranch this August. The school will be located at 6161 Business Center Drive, off Quebec and C470. This will be the new and permanent home for NSA West and construction plans are currently underway.

As many of you know, the vision of North Star Academy was created by our founders almost six years ago based on parent and community feedback, surveys and input from other charter schools and industry professionals. This vision was built upon the following principles that continue to serve as the foundation for our school's educational program today:

1. To offer a rigorous curriculum that challenges students to achieve at their highest potential
2. To provide an opportunity for children to learn a foreign language at an early age and be more respectful of other cultures, languages and traditions
3. To develop a program that effectively teaches students to be respectful and responsible participants in the school and community
4. To ensure that parents feel welcome at their child's school and have an opportunity to be actively involved in their child's education

It is common for charter school schools to struggle with their facility plans during the startup phase and North Star Academy was no different. As a result, our founding team opened the original North Star Academy in Parker in August 2006 due to a lack of available facilities in Highlands Ranch. Our founding team's original intent had been to utilize the Parker facility as a short-term, temporary solution because it was not located in the originally desired geographic location. The intent was to relocate the school to Highlands Ranch in three years after a suitable facility could be identified and long-term financing could be secured.

What our founding team did not expect was the huge demand for the North Star Academy program from the Parker community. The support of this community and the success of the North Star Academy program is largely impart to the parents and staff members who have been committed to the school for the past four years.

Our founding team was quick to acknowledge the demand and support from the Parker community and in the spring of 2007, the North Star Academy Board unanimously and collectively agreed to develop a new multi-campus strategy which would keep the

original school in Parker and create a sister school in Highlands Ranch. The sister school would open with the same mission, vision and educational program of North Star Academy. The Board spent the next two years further developing this strategy, working with experienced consultants from the charter school industry. In November 2008, the team received the necessary approvals from the Douglas County Board of Education and was on track to open in fall 2009.

Unfortunately, several things happened in a short period of time that forced the founding team to postpone their opening to August 2010. The state of the municipal bond market caused the abandonment of the initial bond financing plan. A new team had to be created to identify other possible financing opportunities that would provide the necessary funds to acquire the intended facility and proceed with the renovation. Additionally, the NSA West Board was informed by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) that in order to receive necessary startup grant funding for NSA West, changes would be required to the intended governance and administrative structure.

As a result of these required changes, our founding team has made the decision to rename NSA West prior to its opening in August. The schools will also create and maintain a separate governance structure. These decisions will help minimize any confusion between the two schools, enable both schools to create a strong brand identity within each of their respective communities and also recruit parents of students at each of their schools for key leadership and governance roles. The NSA West founding team has engaged a consulting group to assist with the school naming process and the new identity will be unveiled during a Groundbreaking Ceremony in early February (more details on this at a later date).

In light of these modifications, the original vision for NSA West remains in tact and supported by the founders, administration and boards of both schools. The schools will continue to collaborate, share ideas and teaching strategies as the new Highlands Ranch school is developed. This is a unique situation in the charter school community and something that we strongly believe will have a positive impact on both of our school programs, and possibly the charter school industry overall.

As always, we appreciate your dedication and support of our program. We are proud to be involved in such a strong movement across the nation and believe our new Highlands Ranch school will provide another great option for parents in Douglas County.

Regards,

The NSA West Founding Board
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