



Building Bright Futures

CHATFIELD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

August, 2009

Dear Parents,

This year our school will be participating in the Jefferson County Public Schools I²(a) Initiative. I²(a) stands for Instruction & Intervention informed by assessment and focuses on responsive teaching and learning based on data-driven decision making. Two years ago, Jeffco instituted the I²(a) Initiative to monitor all of our district reform initiatives. It is the umbrella that connects all of our research-based practices together at the school and classroom level to help educators

- effectively implement a guaranteed and viable curriculum,
- plan effective instruction,
- provide responsive strategies for instruction and intervention using ongoing assessment information and other data sources, and
- enhance teacher skillfulness, boost efficacy, and increase student achievement.

One aspect of the I²(a) Initiative is the administration of three benchmark assessments to students in grades 3-10 throughout the year, using a computer-based information system called *Acuity*. *Acuity* is the product name of the online benchmark that measures student performance and growth relative to Colorado State Content Standards in reading and mathematics. *Acuity* will provide your student's teacher(s) with immediate data to help them set goals for the continued achievement of your child. It is one assessment that should be used with other data sources to inform classroom instruction and focus on the instructional strategies that most effectively impact student achievement.

The I²(a) Initiative will begin in our school in September when your student will be taking the first of three benchmark assessments throughout the year. This first *Acuity* benchmark assessment will provide a beginning of year snapshot for teachers to effectively design the next steps for their classroom instruction. Throughout the year, teachers will participate in a number of I²(a) Initiative activities designed to tailor their instruction to our students' needs.

As our school begins participation in the I²(a) Initiative in September, please feel free to ask your child's teacher for further information about the *Acuity* benchmark assessments and the I²(a) Initiative. Along with our teachers' ongoing efforts to meet your student's needs, it is our hope that the I²(a) Initiative will further enrich your child's educational experience.

Sincerely,

Bernard Hohman II
Principal