

April 2, 2009

Dear Parents,

Our school district's unprecedented challenges require unprecedented responses. Our revenue has been reduced by \$5 million, or \$800 per pupil, compared to last year. Eighty-two teachers and support staff have received layoff notices. It took every penny of the \$2.8 million raised in the Annual Appeal to prevent drastic reductions and the loss of an additional 37 teachers and staff.

As parents and as a community, we can act now to save our children from a fate they don't deserve.

MBEF is running a Supplemental Appeal now through May 15. A donation of \$800 per student would maintain the level of education your child receives today. If you have not given to MBEF, there has never been a better time to support your child's education. If you gave but want to increase your donation, we welcome it. If you already gave the most you can, thank you for your example. The funds raised by May 15 will be used in the upcoming 2009-2010 school year.

Core academics and maintaining reasonable class sizes are MBEF's top priorities for the funds raised this spring. If we raise enough money, and the state doesn't cut the district's revenue further, other programs could be reinstated in part or in full. Your priorities for reinstating programs are important to us. Please complete the survey on the donor form, whether you are giving now or already gave.

We cannot predict the future but we are certain that this is more than a one-time problem resolved with one-time funding. In the fall we will begin our traditional Annual Appeal campaign to raise money for the 2010-11 school year. Given the current budget situation, we will increase the campaign's fundraising goal substantially. Every family may be asked to give a donation of \$1,500 per student. As we all address our own changing personal finances and re-evaluate plans for the future, we hope you will give careful thought to what you can do now, and what you can budget for next year.

To donate now [[print the Donation and Survey Form](#)] and return it to MBEF via mail, fax or email. Or give online at www.mbef.org/givetoday.htm. If you have any questions please call 310-303-3342 or go to www.mbef.org. On behalf of all the students, thank you.

Sincerely,

Ellen Rosenberg, MBEF President