



June 2, 2009

Dear Ben Lippen Families:

I pray that you and your children have already enjoyed the changed pace that summer brings. I am aware that some of our families have taken advantage of our relatively early last day of school, and have taken in uncrowded beaches. Some high school students have also enjoyed getting a jump on summer job openings. Hopefully no parent has heard the ubiquitous statement of summer, "I'm bored." just yet.

This letter is sent to update you on a few key facets of our school. Please feel free to contact me directly about any of the information in this communication. I can be reached at brian.modarelli@benlippen.com.

While many Christian schools around the country are anticipating downturns in enrollment for next school year, we are blessed that re-registration has been very strong. Additionally, new student applications for next school year are up by approximately 30% over the same time last year. We recognize that *word of mouth* is any school's primary recruitment arm – and I would like to thank our families for your faithfulness and assistance in this area.

We are so proud of the graduating Class of 2009. The eighty-seven graduates have worked hard and have earned acceptance into great colleges and universities across the country. BLS will continue to partner with parents to ultimately see our students enrolling in postsecondary institutions that best match the God-given calling of each individual student. Our guidance program, under the direction of Mrs. Linda Dixon, and our school parents have helped the Class of 2009 secure \$3,700,000.00 in renewable college scholarships to date. When the outstanding awards are finally added to this amount, we expect total scholarship offers to surpass \$4 million. Congratulations BLS Class of 2009!

Part of the success in college acceptances and scholarships can be attributed to students taking rigorous courses, including Advanced Placement classes. Total enrollment in Ben Lippen's AP classes continues to climb dramatically. We have added AP Statistics, AP Government, AP Physics, and AP World History to our offerings for next year. Enrollment in Ben Lippen AP classes is currently at 341 for the fall of 2009. New Bible classes for high school students will also be added to our current offerings. The new Bible classes will include studies of Genesis, Acts, and Ephesians.

Beginning in August, all fourth and fifth grade students will take Latin. Latin instruction will continue through middle school. Mrs. Mary Gates will continue leading the foreign language instruction for all elementary grades – including Spanish for kindergarten through third grade. Mr. Chip Yoder will teach the middle school Latin offerings.

Each April, all BLS students in second grade through ninth grade take the Stanford Achievement Test. Our results are in, and Ben Lippen students performed wonderfully. Our typical student scored above the 80th percentile – which means they outperformed more than 80 percent of students at their grade level across the nation. The average national score is at the 50th percentile. The current BLS results are approximately two percentile points higher than last year's scores. While two percentile points might not seem significant, keep in mind that we are already scoring around the 80th percentile. Hence, a two percentile point jump represents about one-tenth of the difference between where we are and the highest scores possible.

May the Lord of Peace fill your home with love and joy this summer.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Modarelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".