**Letter to Parents and Students:**

Welcome to our first Project Based Learning (PBL) Unit: River Valley Civilizations Museum Exhibit. The following unit is categorized under Ancient Civilizations for the Standard Based Grading Reporting Topic. This unit will encompass one of our largest standards, which is shown here:

*7.1.1 Identify and explain the conditions that led to the rise of early river valley civilizations and evaluate how the achievements in art, architecture, written language, and religion of those civilizations influenced their respective forms of government and social hierarchies.*

And part of:

*7.1.8 Describe the rise, contributions, and decline of the Chinese dynasties.*

To show knowledge of these standards and reporting topic, we will use the following driving questions to help us in our research:

 *Driving Questions:*

1. *What conditions led to the first civilizations?*
2. *How did cultural developments of these civilizations influence the people in and around them?*

Throughout the beginning of this project we will spend time researching about the first civilizations: Mesopotamia, Indus Valley, Chinese, and Egyptian. You will be given research sheets/charts and other tasks that will help you find the information needed to answer the driving questions. Once your research is complete, you will end the project in a group. Your group will select one of the river valley civilizations and create a museum exhibit that shows how art, architecture, written language, and religion influenced the people in and around them.