



Brookfield Public Schools
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



Create Your Tomorrow

August 15, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you have had a restful summer and are excited for the upcoming year.

Last spring I had the privilege of meeting individually with the majority of teachers in our district. Reflecting upon these meetings with faculty; three themes emerged: first, meeting with the faculty affirmed my belief that we have a tremendously caring, dedicated and talented team in Brookfield; next, the majority expressed a commitment to support the Strategic Coherence Plan, and; finally, I heard a clear message regarding universal concern for our students emotional health and a need to support the development of their regulation and coping skills from Pre-K – 12.

In response to the concern regarding students' emotional health, a team consisting of Whisconier's Principal, Mr. Renda, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Ruby, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Dr. Sipala, and I attended a three-day training at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. Participants included districts from across the country, including our neighboring superintendents and their leadership teams from New Canaan, Westport and Ridgefield. The theme of the training was *Emotions Matter*. To support students, it is critical that adults are able to recognize, understand, label and then proactively respond to their personal feelings. Educators must first develop their own emotional intelligence before they can support students to do the same. Our plan will begin with priming all administrators this summer with the foundational cornerstones of Yale's approach to developing emotional intelligence. Furthermore, Yale will collaborate with the faculty and staff at Whisconier this year as part of Brookfield's launch. In fact, Dr. Marc Brackett of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, will be joining the faculty and staff to deliver the keynote convocation address when teachers return from summer recess.

What we have to look forward to:

Technology & Communications:

- New Laptops (HHES & CES) & Desktops (BHS) for teachers and students/ Updated Desk Tops at WMS
- All of the schools are receiving new Chromebooks
- New Presentation Stations at BHS and Upgraded Projectors K-8
- Security: New Visitor Management System for guest sign in
- Power School: Expansion of modules to include Assessments and Analytics
- Digital Platform for Curriculum Development (Rubicon Atlas)

Curriculum & Instruction (3 - 5 year roll out & implementation):

- STAR Math - expansion to grades 1 – 4
- WMS Grade 5 new instructional model to simplify the transition and increase Social Studies time.
- Professional Learning for curriculum development and curriculum writing
- Professional Learning for development of assessments and alignment with curriculum & standards
- BHS NEASC Accreditation work continues
- BHS School Improvement Grant work continues

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What we have to look forward to (Continued):

Staffing:

- Leadership Restructuring
 - K-4 Literacy Curriculum Specialist
 - K-4 Math Curriculum Specialist
 - 5-8 Literacy Curriculum Specialist
 - K-12 Director of Instruction
 - K-12 World Language/English Language Learner Department Chair
 - 9-12 Humanities Department Chair (Social Studies & English)
 - Special Education Department Chairs
 - Grades Pre-K – 2
 - Grades 3 – 7
 - Grades 8 – 12
 - 5-8 Social Studies Teacher Leader
 - 5-8 Science Teacher Leader

Facilities:

- The buildings look great! The BHS Roof replacement project is nearly complete. All of our facilities have been cleaned from top to bottom and many summer projects have been completed. *A very special thanks must go out to the custodians and maintenance team who have worked extremely hard this summer to make these projects successful.*

I look forward to welcoming all of our students back to school, and together we will embrace our new friends who have moved into Brookfield **when we convene for the first day of school on August 30th (a full day).**

The teachers and staff are ready to approach the school year with smiles, bold energy and enthusiasm; seizing each day as an opportunity to bring the children of Brookfield closer to ***Creating Their Tomorrow*** through pursuit of academic, artistic, social and athletic excellence.

I am grateful to be leading the Brookfield Public Schools and gratified to collaborate with the supportive families, and dedicated staff of our district. *Together, our collective message to the children must be, “Set challenging goals and stop at nothing to achieve them. We are here to help you.”*

School principals will provide further details regarding school specific updates and schedules of events in their communications.

Sincerely,



John Barile
Superintendent of Schools