

September 5, 2018

The long anticipated wait is over as we welcome back our students and staff to the Kiel Area School District! The arrival of our most precious community resource, our children, creates a sense of renewal and hope for an exceptionally exciting school year. I hope that everyone had the chance this summer to spend some well-deserved time with family and friends.

The Kiel Area School District has so much to be proud of. Our academics and extracurricular activities continue to be strong and our attitude will continue to remain positive. As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, we are excited to welcome six new teachers and six other staff members to our team, as well as the rest of the staff, students and community that help make our school district great! At our first full staff in-service, we were entertained by the Kiel High School Pep Band, the Kiel High School Show Choir and the Kiel Area Youth Theater as we energized our learning community.

A significant amount of our staff never left this summer and continued to do what is necessary to make sure our schools are clean, safe and ready for our students to learn. A huge shout out to our custodial and maintenance staff, technology department, secretarial staff and central office and administrative staff members; I have the privilege of seeing these people go above and beyond on a daily basis and I am proud to be able to call them my colleagues.

Our co-curricular activities have been underway since the beginning of August. Please join me in cheering on and supporting our students as they showcase their talents in the arts and athletics. Volleyball, soccer, cross country, football and tennis are a few of the athletic teams that have been already competing. The band and choirs have also been getting together to practice in anticipation of the upcoming year, as well as other clubs and activities.

On August 27th, the Board of Education voted to go back to referendum on November 6th and ask the community to approve the construction of a new performing arts center, which includes expanded space for our tech. ed. classes (connected to the east side of Kiel High School) and renovation of our athletic complex (track/field upgrades, multi-purpose athletic field, bleachers, concession stand, bathrooms, etc.). I will continue to communicate as we move closer to the November 6th vote.

On October 17th, the Board of Education will be taking all of the information that was recently gathered to set the vision for the future of our district. If you remember, we held about a dozen meetings back in May and sent a survey to our community, asking questions that related to the future of our district and specifically, what areas we should continue to enhance. I am excited to continue to work with our entire learning community to take our school district to new levels of improvement.

Thank you to all that attended the meetings back in May and thank you to the nearly 500 community members that took the survey. The information that was collected is invaluable and will be used to guide our vision work and set our strategic plan!

As you may be aware, the 121st Field Artillery Regiment was deployed this summer for Operation Spartan Shield. In efforts to make our men and women overseas feel closer to home we have taken on the task of providing support from the Kiel Area School District! Throughout the school year we will be collecting a variety of items to send overseas, such as newspapers, crossword puzzles and other games, travel size hygiene items, non-perishable food items,

etc. If you or your family would like to learn more about this great effort or provide items for our troops, please stop in any of our buildings.

I look forward to seeing you in our community and at our school district events. Please join me in continuing to celebrate the great students and staff of the Kiel Area School District!