

January 9, 2021

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and positive holiday season. Although 2020 was a year like no other and required all of us to adjust our personal and professional lives, those of us that care so much about the Kiel Area and it's School District actually learned a great deal about ourselves during this time. We learned that we are resilient. We learned that we are flexible. We learned that we have a "do whatever it takes" attitude. We learned that we can be GREAT when it counts!

In regards to being flexible and resilient, the year 2020 required our teachers, support staff and administrative team to make adjustments almost daily to our protocols and procedures that are in place so that we can continue to educate our students at a high level and offer families three options for learning. Whether students are in person, online in our classrooms, or in our Between the Lakes Academy, no matter what your preference or need, we were able to accommodate; for that, I will always be exceptionally proud of our staff.

In regards to our "attitude," it was apparent very early in 2020 that our entire staff was going to do whatever needed to be done to make sure that our children were as safe as possible and receiving the best education possible. Our entire staff looked at 2020 with a "can do" attitude; for that, I will always be exceptionally proud of our staff.

2020 also forced so many of us to look at our own practices in terms of how we manage, lead, educate and provide for our students, families, employees and community. The areas of personalized learning, addressing mental health concerns, upgrading technology, providing for those in need and working as a team all were enhanced in 2020; for that, I will always be exceptionally proud of our staff (you can probably see a theme here - proud!).

We also have so much to look forward to in 2021. In mid-March, our brand new Performing Arts Center will be completed. Please go to the "Kiel Broadcast Network" (which is our YouTube channel) for a recent virtual tour of the complex. Also, a hard working group of community

members are putting together a couple of unique fundraisers to upgrade our piano and other items for our new complex; more information will be available soon.

In 2021 we will continue to carry out our strategic plan by enhancing our business partnerships, increasing our college level course offerings and career pathways for our children (go to [www.kiel.k12.wi.us](http://www.kiel.k12.wi.us) to see the offerings and pathways - great job counseling and career planning departments!), enhancing our mental health services, expanding our personalized learning platform, upgrading our tech. ed. offerings and maintaining financial stability (these are the areas our community agreed should be upgraded as part of our plan).

In 2021 we will continue to be creative with our technology and make sure that our students have top notch access and equipment; we will also continue to showcase our students through our live stream events (if you would like to receive all of the links to our events, please email me at [bebert@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:bebert@kiel.k12.wi.us)). We will also continue to discuss diversity, equity and inclusion across our school district and community to ensure that all students and community members feel safe and supported.

In 2021 we will continue to help the Kiel Food Pantry provide food for those in need (our families recently donated over 500 pieces of non-perishable food items during our food drive). We will continue to live stream our school board meetings in hopes of the community joining us and sharing thoughts related to improving in all areas; our goal is to be as transparent as possible in all that we do.

In 2021 we will continue to try our best to let our staff know that we appreciate them; please send a message to a staff member in our school district and say “thank you” for working so hard for our children. A simple note goes a long way! We will also continue to plan for spring sports and extracurricular activities so our students can continue to have a well rounded education.

In short, the children in this community are our prized resource and the enhancements that we have made and will continue to make could not be done without YOUR SUPPORT! Let's continue to do whatever it takes to make sure that our children are excelling academically,

emotionally and socially. It will take all of us to continue to move this community and school district forward in 2021 and beyond.

Whether big or small, we can all play a role in continuing to WIN FOR OUR KIDS; each of us should consider what it is we can do to make the Kiel Schools and Community a premier place to live and work. Best of luck in 2021 and I hope to see you soon!