

POINTS OF PRIDE

Ontario Local Schools

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LISA CARMICHAEL, SUPERINTENDENT

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WORKING TOGETHER FOR ALL STUDENTS

A Message from Superintendent Lisa Carmichael

Welcome Back!



IT IS WITH SINCERE ENTHUSIASM THAT I WRITE THIS YEAR'S "BACK TO SCHOOL" message to all those who play such an important role in the educational process of our District's nearly 2,100 students. Each year brings anticipation, excitement, and with many, anxiety of what the new school year may bring. As we begin this school year, I wish the greatest success for all of our students.

I absolutely love the first day of school! Our hallways will soon be filled with an atmosphere of renewal evidenced by student and staff smiles, new school clothes, haircuts, new school supplies, and an energy of excitement in the air. Expectations remain high for all members of our learning team to build a strong foundation from which a great school year will develop.

Within the next couple weeks, we will open our school doors to welcome you to the new school year. Together, we will create a year of excellence for our children as we focus on improving student and family engagement and creating and maintaining a school culture and climate of excellence. Your children receive the best education when you and our dedicated teachers work as a team. It's a parent's enthusiasm, support and involvement that inspires children to do their best; and it's a teacher's ability to teach essential skills that facilitates success. Together we can achieve wonderful things.

Our teachers are determined to deliver excellent instruction, and we promise to offer an environment where safety, respect, support and excellence are highly evident. Our teachers are committed to sharing best practices and improving their craft. I encourage you to fully embrace the moment and urge you to take the time from your busy schedule to become familiar with our school, as well as create a homework-friendly home environment that will allow your children to excel.

We will continue to focus on making our vision and mission the core of our daily work with children, teachers, and parents. We've worked very hard to create a culture of college readiness, and this is the year where we will build shared understandings about what this means and ways parents and teachers can work together to ensure that every Ontario School student is college ready. One of our most outstanding attractions is that we offer our students the opportunity to earn up to forty-one (41) FREE college semester hours! I doubt there is another school in the area that offers this opportunity.



A Message from Superintendent Lisa Carmichael (Continued)

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL AND ARRIVES ON TIME EACH DAY!

OUR EXPECTATIONS ARE HIGH THIS SCHOOL YEAR. They are high for me as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of our school district, and they are high for each boy, girl, teacher and parent in our community. Parents, it is very important that children are present and on time every day! If we want our children to be college ready, we must ensure they do not miss instruction. **Excellent attendance is the first step to helping our children become college ready.** Our curriculum offerings are very challenging for students. Therefore, children must be present and on time in order to do their very best.

Our bell schedule has not changed. While our school day begins promptly at 7:49 a.m. at Ontario Middle School and Ontario High School, students are permitted to begin arriving for breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Instruction begins at 8:50 a.m. sharp at Stingel Elementary; however, students may begin arriving at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast.



NEW WRESTLING ROOM / RENOVATED WEIGHT ROOM

I want to take a moment to recognize the hard work and efforts of our Athletic Boosters. Through their fund-raising efforts, a brand new wrestling room is becoming a reality. The construction of the 3,765 square foot addition to the back of Ontario High School will soon serve as our new wrestling room for our student athletes. The anticipated completion will be early fall. In addition, our old wrestling room was renovated throughout the summer. A new weight room has been completed in the former wrestling room and is now available for our student athletes and coaches. The new weight room has state-of-the-art equipment, new flooring, and the room received a fresh coat of Warrior Blue and Gold paint. The new weight room looks fantastic!

This project is being funded entirely by the Athletic Boosters at NO COST to our District. The project cost for the weight room and wrestling room is approximately \$450,000. Again, I would like to emphasize that **this project is being paid entirely through the fund-raising efforts of the Athletic Booster Club and NOT the SCHOOL DISTRICT.**

I sincerely thank Mr. Dave Rehfeldt, President of the Athletic Boosters, all members of the Athletic Booster Club, along with all of our students, parents and/or coaches who volunteered countless hours of their time to raise the funds for these projects. In addition, I want to acknowledge and thank our parents, coaches, and staff for their time, donations, and attendance at various Booster Club fundraisers to help make this a reality. This was a community effort, and it is very much appreciated.

SUBSTITUTE TAX LEVY ON THE HORIZON

On November 8, 2016, the Ontario Schools will have a Substitute Tax Levy on the ballot for our taxpayers consideration. This will be a 4.8 mill substitute of an emergency levy that originated in 1992 and continues to generate \$1,320,000 annually for our district. The levy was first approved in 1992 and has been successfully renewed every five years thereafter. This Substitute Tax Levy will be **NO INCREASE IN TAXES TO OUR RESIDENTS.** The only difference is that instead of going to the voters every five years, this substitute levy will be for a continuing period of time. I'm not sure if residents know this or not, but each time our school goes on the ballot, it costs the taxpayers anywhere from \$2,000 - \$6,000 for election expenses! The Substitute Tax Levy will be ongoing, thus avoiding the need for us to go back to the ballot every five years. In summary, this will change our renewable emergency levy into a continuing substitute levy for the exact same \$1,320,000 dollars and will **not increase taxes.** More information will be shared this fall.

New Certified And Classified Staff Additions

Each summer brings changes to our staff due to resignations and/or retirements. We have not created any new positions with the exception of one part-time cook position. Those listed below will be new to the district.

TONY GOAD - Bus Driver

VALERIE SHELTON - Part-Time Cook at Stingel Elementary

SAMANTHA MCCOY - Part-Time Cook at Ontario Middle School

PATRICK DAUGHERTY - Biology/Science Teacher at Ontario High School

SEAN DELONG - Band Director/Music Instructor at Ontario High School

HEATH SAGER - Industrial Technology Teacher at Ontario High School

MARISA SHAFFER - Intervention Specialist at Stingel Elementary

TAYLOR KILIANY - Kindergarten Teacher at Stingel Elementary

SCOTT BLOOM - Algebra/Math Teacher at Ontario High School

TARA HALL - Board of Education Office Manager

TO BE HIRED - 7th Grade Math Teacher at Ontario Middle School

TO BE HIRED - 5th Grade Teacher at Stingel Elementary

The continued building of our partnerships with our District's families and our community stakeholders is vital to a successful school setting. We are here to serve our students and look forward to **"WORKING TOGETHER FOR ALL STUDENTS"** during the 2016 - 2017 school year. With extraordinary enthusiasm and excitement, I look forward to another great school year! I thank each of you in advance for your commitment to your child's education, and I look forward to seeing you in our schools in the very near future.

Lisa Carmichael
SUPERINTENDENT



OUR COMMON GOAL:

BUILDING SUCCESS FOR EVERY LEARNER

Intervention and Enrichment Initiatives

By Kathy Stone, *Director of Education*

AS WE BEGIN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR, I WANT TO TAKE THIS opportunity to describe the intervention and enrichment initiatives that will be taking place in our schools. Our teachers provide opportunities and activities for all students during their daily classroom instruction, but additionally, each building is offering unique opportunities for our students.

INTERVENTIONS

During the 2015-2016 school year, Stingel Elementary increased its Title I Reading intervention program by servicing 250 students in kindergarten through the fifth grade, and we anticipate serving the same amount of students during the upcoming school year. Stingel will continue to offer reading interventions during the new school year to students who are below grade level in reading. This reading instruction is in addition to the instruction received in the classroom. A new initiative this upcoming school year will include providing interventions to students who are below grade level in mathematics.

Ontario Middle School will continue to provide academic interventions during one class period of the day. Classroom teachers will monitor students' grades and progress during this class period and direct them to the appropriate resources.

Ontario High School offers peer tutoring to students who need assistance on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:20-7:45 a.m. The high school librarian directs a Writing Center where students can receive support with their written assignments.

ENRICHMENT

Students in grades two, three, four and five who are identified as "gifted" will be clustered in one homeroom. The reason for clustering the students in one classroom is to help the teacher facilitate differentiated instruction and enrichment to a group of gifted students. Our gifted coordinator will also be collaborating with the kindergarten and first grade teachers as they provide enrichment to our gifted students in the primary grades.

Ontario Middle School will continue to offer honor courses to our students. During the upcoming year, honors classes will be offered in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades in science, social studies, mathematics, and literature. Physical science, algebra, and Spanish will be offered to eighth graders, and students in these classes will earn one high school credit.

Enrichment opportunities at the high school have increased significantly. Honors courses are offered in Geometry, Biology, Algebra 2 and English 10. Advanced Placement (AP) courses will be offered in Calculus AB, US Government, English Language and English Composition. In addition, eleven College Credit Plus courses are available at the High School to earn college credit.

As one can see from the intervention and enrichment initiatives described, Ontario Schools is working diligently toward our common goal of **"Building Success for Every Learner"**.