

It is hard to believe that the 2016-2017 school year is almost upon us. We had a very successful year last year, and many great things took place. With each day, week, and month, our district continues to move forward in a positive way. In a similar theme towards positive progress, I cannot express enough the importance of a collaborative effort to make this school district a great place for our children. As a district and community, we must demand excellence and be a progressive, forward-thinking district and community that strives to provide our students with an education that is second to none.

With each year, new faces fill the hallways and classrooms. Five new elementary teachers, two new middle school teachers, and a new English teacher in the high school have made the commitment to being a part of the “Bison Family”. Along with the new faces in the classroom, an Athletic Trainer has been hired by the hospital to serve the needs of our student-athletes. We are excited to have these people on board and a part of our district. The district leadership is unchanged for the 2016-2017 school year, and the district will be able to move forward with consistency and stability.

Along with the new faces that will be seen in the hallways and classrooms, the district moved forward in continuing to upgrade their exceptional facilities. Custodians have been busy cleaning, painting, making repairs, and helping upgrade classrooms and facilities. Additional Promethean Panels have been installed in classrooms to continue to upgrade technology and improve teacher and student use of technology in the classroom. The district has also developed a technology rotation. This summer, the middle school computer lab has been upgraded with new computers, and the high school computer lab has been upgraded with new computers, desks, and tables to create a “classroom of the future” type of concept. The upgraded computer lab provides the opportunity for additional student collaboration and flexibility. Outside, the new artificial turf is in the process of being installed, and the concession stand, bathroom, and storage facility that was built, with the help of students, is nearing completion.

To continue to focus on school culture, we will again emphasize the core values that make up a quality education. Each month, district-wide, our schools will focus on a key value, while keeping all of the values in mind. Those core values are: Students First, Integrity, Respect, Sense of Community, No Excuses, High Expectations, Accountability, and Bison Pride. These values encompass a wide range of qualities that will continue to help improve the overall educational experience of our students.

In the fall, with the official release of NeSA results and the State of the Schools Report, we will share with the community great improvements in district test scores and classroom achievement. The district made substantial improvements in reading, math, and science with the dedicated efforts of students and teachers. ACT scores continue to be above state and national averages, and the district is continuously evolving in our use of NWEA Maps assessments to improve student learning.

I look forward to the many new successes and accomplishments that our district will experience in the 2016-2017 school year. Great things are happening and will continue to

happen in this upcoming school year. I hope that everyone enjoys his or her last few days of summer, and I hope that the school and community continue to work together to provide our children with the very best possible education. Go Bison!!!