

June 8, 2015

As I sat and thought of the contents of the last message to our faculty for the 2014/2015 school year I could only think of reminding you about the wonderful school year you orchestrated for our students and our District community. Our kids had a year filled with academic and extra-curricular success while our teaching community came together from the beginning of the school year until the end. As teachers you participated in quality staff development, implemented high yield instructional methods, and encouraged our students to succeed. I am looking forward to a summer that sets the stage for continued District growth. Thanks a million!

Before I continue with the blog I want to extend a word of thanks to [everyone](#) who participated in the preparations for our 2015 DRHS Commencement Exercises. Because of your hard work, our community enjoyed a graduation that was streamed for the first time worldwide, some pretty fancy restrooms, a wonderful [keynote](#) speaker, a [heartwarming video](#), and of course a wonderful and memorable experience for our [students](#) and the many that came to participate in their [success](#). Thank you to the entire District team!

I am excited about the coming school year for a variety of reasons. First, we can already see [signs](#) of the [improved facilities](#) to come. Although some are concerned about the trees in front of the old 8th grade middle school being uprooted, I can guarantee you that these trees were hollow and filled with bees. In the coming school year we will see the completion of the [Student Activity Center/Administration building](#), the completion of the [CTE magnet school](#), the renovated [restrooms](#) and [concession stand](#) at Walter Levermann Stadium, and a [much needed](#) concession stand and restroom area between the tennis courts and baseball field. We are absolutely building foundations for future success.

Although we nearly arrived at 600 graduates this past Friday, we know that the 2015 cohort that began their freshman year four years ago was not entirely complete. However, the inauguration of our Blended Academy is designed to specifically address our graduation rate. For the first time ever we will provide sound interventions for middle school students who are not ready to tackle on high school academics. This will be hard work, but highly rewarding.

I am just as excited about the District's potential to continue the upward trend in student achievement. Having a TEA Recognized District is inevitable if we build on this year's success. The key to building on this year's success is simple. We must continue our practices of providing quality staff development, continue to improve upon our Planning Protocol, and refine our curriculum documents. Next, we must continue to improve the implementation of the guided practices at the elementary level (already had a great start); and finally we must find a way to implement guided practices at the secondary level.

Over the next couple of months I hope everyone finds the time to sleep late, exercise, read a good book, and reconnect with loved ones. Of course, taking on those small personal projects and "honey do's" is also a must. However, rather than rush to complete projects, take your time and enjoy the process. Thanks a million for everything you have done. Summer vacation is now in session!!!!

"Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy." – Guillaume Apollinaire