

SUPERINTENDENT WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL

As Superintendent, I welcome students and parents back to school. The system is ready to serve students in the new school year. Our schools are prepared to meet the needs of our students at every level. We are beginning our school year in a strong position, with many accomplishments to celebrate and exciting new initiatives to look forward to. We are prepared to meet our mission to provide the highest quality education to our students in the year ahead.

We have been very busy over the summer getting ready for the students' return. Our Professional Development Institute has provided workshops and seminars in June and August for our teachers and staff members. The custodial and maintenance personnel have also worked diligently to prepare the buildings for the arrival of our staff and students. We have restructured our high school alternative education program, Pre-K program, and elementary program. As students arrive, these programs will be fine tuned to meet their needs.

Over the past year, there have been several positive developments in the Johnston Public Schools.

- **Student achievement is on the rise.** Johnston Public Schools are working to ensure that all students meet high standards and reach their full potential. We currently have high performing Early Childhood Center, elementary schools, and middle school. Our high school is moderately performing and a Regents Commended School for two consecutive years.
- **More students are prepared for college.** More of our students are enrolling in our challenging curriculum and receiving college credit. Many graduating students have reported back that they are very well prepared for the challenges of the post-secondary institutions.
- **Johnston Schools are setting a healthy example.** Johnston's amended Wellness Policy establishes nutrition and physical activity guidelines designed to maintain and improve student health.
- **Johnston is collaborating with the community to meet students' needs.** Johnston Schools have partnered with the local community to create exciting new learning opportunities for our students. Our students have completed internships in area businesses as part of our Finance Academy and some have secured jobs as part of our Alternative Learning Program. Other students are working on community service projects.

It is evident that the Johnston Public Schools are moving forward. This year, it is my intention to work with my administrative team to collect and analyze various assessment data in order to move the district forward to improve teaching and learning.