

August 28, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

WELCOME TO THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR!

As the Interim Superintendent of Saddle Brook Schools, I welcome you to the start of the 2017-2018 school year. It is an honor for me to continue in this leadership role in the Saddle Brook School District and I look forward to working with our community in bringing about additional programs for student growth and performance. I welcome your input and concerns and can assure you that I will make myself available to you to listen and address those areas of concerns or to consider any suggestions that you would like to share. My objective is to work in collaboration with the entire school community to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all of our students.

Students will begin school on Wednesday, September 6th which will be the start of an exciting and rewarding school year for all. This is an instructional day and students will begin working with their teachers in creating a positive educational experience for the school year. As we approach the first day of school, it is important for you to know that the Saddle Brook School District and the Board of Education have been very busy preparing and updating many of the school facilities for our students and staff. New this year are programs which include the full day pre-school program which is available at Washington School for the Saddle Brook community, the new Special Education program available at the high school level and the STEM Academy program at the middle school/high school. Please note that there will be ongoing professional development for teachers and administrators in the areas of Mathematics (***Go Math***) and (***Readers and Writers Workshop***) as well as the implementation of new materials and textbooks in Science and Social Studies, which will support our students in meeting the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSL) across the district. In addition, our administrators will begin to share information on the new elementary level report cards.

As always, there have been a number of personnel changes that have taken place before the beginning of the year as we replace those staff members who have retired or moved on. New appointments for the district will include 8 teachers at various levels and subject areas and schools. We extend a warm welcome to our new staff members who will be joining us this year and we welcome our new Principal of Helen I. Smith School, ***Mrs. Deborah Wunder***, to the administrative team.

Our custodians and maintenance workers have worked extremely hard in making the necessary repairs in each school and in cleaning and upgrading classrooms and school grounds. Ongoing improvements have taken place in each school including new classroom upgrades to security cameras and additional wireless support. Additional work will continue throughout the school year to enhance the overall learning environment whenever necessary.

REMINDER: All information needed for your child this year, can be found on our website. You can log onto www.saddlebrookschoools.org or your student's school or by stopping by the Board of Education Office. All students will report to their assigned schools on **Wednesday, September 6, 2017**, at their scheduled time. On behalf of the staff of the Saddle Brook School District and our Board of Education, I wish you and your children a healthy, happy, productive and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Anthony Riscica

Interim Superintendent of Schools