



Dear Members of the Oxford Public Schools Community,

I hope everyone is enjoying the fantastic weather and last few weeks of summer vacation. We are eager to welcome all of our new and returning students on August 28th for the 2018-2019 school year.

Summer is a very busy time for the Oxford Public Schools, especially in the area of facilities. Our custodial staff has been busy ensuring our buildings are clean and safe for our students' return. The Oxford DPW has been working on our grounds and larger maintenance upkeep over the summer. When you see our school custodians or the DPW please say thank you to them for all of their hard work.

Although on summer break, OXPS teachers are preparing for our upcoming school year. Many members of our teaching staff and instructional support team are partaking in professional development opportunities, working on revisions to curriculum and lesson plans, as well as preparing your children's classroom for their arrival.

There are a few new faces here in Oxford. I, myself, started on July 2nd and am looking forward to getting to know our students and their families. Mr. John Quinn is the new Principal of Clara Barton Elementary School. He is excited about leading the school, and he comes to us with over 15 years of educational leadership experience. Mr. Michael Lavelle is the new Assistant Principal at the Middle School, and we will welcome a new Assistant Principal at the High school within the next few weeks once we have completed the search process.

During the 2018-2019 school year we will be focusing on curriculum and teaching and learning outcomes with the goal to improving our students' academic achievement. In English Language Arts we will look to develop a system of tiered supports for students; this system will allow for differentiation of teacher practice while providing interventions for our students to help improve their reading in all five focus areas: phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, comprehension, and vocabulary as well as writing. A tiered system will help us to recognize students who either need extra support or who excel at an early age.

We will continue to work to ensure a safe and supportive school environment for all students. We will align PK-12 and improve the work already started in the District's social-emotional learning. Social-emotional learning develops resilience, responsible decision making, healthy relationships, and empathy in students.

As you know, we cannot do our work without the support from our Oxford families. Your connection to the schools is vital to our success. As we move forward this year we will be working to create a District Strategic Plan. We will be asking you for your opinions and ideas throughout the year through surveys and focus groups. If you are interested in sitting on the Superintendent's Strategic Plan Advisory Group, please contact my office.

The Oxford Public School District remains committed to providing an education for our students as they grow and develop into self-directed critical thinkers who will make a significant contribution to our global society.

Sincerely,

Dr. Liz

Elizabeth Zielinski, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools