



August 21, 2019

Dear Members of the Oxford Public Schools Community,

I hope everyone is enjoying the remaining days of summer. We are excited and eager to welcome all of our students on **Tuesday, August 27th**, for the first day of the 2019-2020 school year.

Summer is always a busy time for OXPS! We have had significant building improvements facilitated by the incredible team from the Town's Facilities Maintenance Department. You will note the restructuring of the High School's overhangs. Another major project was adding security upgrades at both the High School and Middle School. As a District, we take the safety and welfare of our students seriously, and we will continue to work on security infrastructure upgrades throughout the year.

Our custodial staff members have been busy readying the classrooms and halls for our returning students. Keeping our buildings in proper shape is a challenge, since most of our buildings are used throughout the summer as well as the school year. Our custodians performed a deep cleaning of each of our schools to ensure that our buildings are looking their best when students walk in on the first day. When you see our school custodians, please take a moment to thank them for their tremendous efforts.

We have completed the District's Strategic Plan with the help and input from many of you. I would like to congratulate all of you who took the time out of your busy schedules to respond to our survey and/or took part in a focus group. A summation of this work will be presented at our School Committee Meeting scheduled for August 26th. Hearing from so many parents was extremely helpful in the strategic planning process. To keep this momentum going, I will be hosting parent discussions at different buildings throughout this school year.

During the 2019-2020 school year, we will continue to focus on meeting the diverse needs of all of our students. These needs include students' social and emotional learning (SEL), which aims to develop resiliency, responsible decision-making, healthy relationships, and empathy. Research shows that social and emotional learning not only creates a healthy context for learning to take place, but that these skills actually improve academic achievement.

I want to also thank you for your patience as we continue to work with our bus provider, Durham School Services. We appreciate the information received about issues with the posted bus routes and we are actively working to correct the routes. I encourage you to visit our website for updates/changes on the bus schedules: www.oxps.org.

I also invite you to follow me on Twitter **@DrLiz_Oxford** for updates throughout the year. Finally, if you have not done so already, please update your contact information through our PowerSchool parent link.

On behalf of the incredible team of educators and support staff who serve the children of the Oxford Public Schools, thank you for entrusting us with your children. We look forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure the success of all of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Liz

Elizabeth Zielinski, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools