



OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

January 4, 2019

Happy New Year Oxford Community!

As we enter 2019, I thought I would provide you with a few quick updates about what is going on in our schools.

At our Elementary level (Barton and Chaffee) the teachers have been hard at work not only with your children but on their own professional growth and development. The staff in both buildings have joined together and are working on improving their instructional methods in reading instruction. The techniques learned are being implemented now in your child's classroom. The staff at each building are working not only on grade level instructional practice and expectations, but across grades so that your student's instructional program from grade to grade is consistent, cohesive, and challenging.

The Middle School has been very busy! Students are engaged in the classroom and are active participants in creating a culture of care and inclusion. Students have taken the Rachel's Challenge pledge - to look for the best in others, to dream big, to choose positive influences, to speak with kindness, and to start their chain reaction. Please mark your calendars for a special event taking place on January 17th in the evening at the Middle School. The school will be showing Screenagers, a documentary about students and screen time. The entire Oxford Community is invited to this screening and interactive discussion. Parents/Guardians, Grandparents, and other caregivers and their school-age children are encouraged to attend.

After a challenging start to the school year, the High School leadership team has stabilized. I wanted to make sure that you are aware that Mr. David Nugent is no longer only acting Principal, but has been officially named as the Interim Principal and is overseeing both Oxford High School and the COFFEE Program. The High School has begun the process of New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Accreditation. The NEASC process has been revamped, and all members of the High School staff are involved in multiple committees and study groups as the High School focuses on defining its strengths and areas for growth. A great deal of activity is taking place at the High School while the front office is under construction due to a burst pipe which damaged the area. The administrative team has been resilient and creative in their "relocated" office space.

The District as a whole is currently in the beginning phases of working on the FY20 school budget. As the budget process moves forward, we will provide you with information on our website. We also have formed a District-wide Strategic Planning Committee. The Committee will be reaching out to the entire Oxford Community, through a survey and focus groups, seeking your perspective of the Oxford School District's strengths and weaknesses. We currently anticipate the survey will be sent out around March, and encourage your participation.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Liz

Elizabeth Zielinski, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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