

Once again, another summer has come and nearly gone. The 2017-2018 school year is just about upon us and the first school bells are scheduled to ring soon. With every summer, a considerable amount of planning and preparation takes place for the upcoming school year. I would like to applaud our district for continuously looking for ways to improve, motivate, and provide the very best education and opportunities for our students. As a district and community, we must demand excellence and be a progressive, forward-thinking district and community that strives to provide our students with an education that is second to none.

With each year, new faces fill the hallways and classrooms. Five new elementary teachers, three new middle school teachers, and a new Math teacher in the high school have made the commitment to being a part of the “Bison Family”. We are very excited about the diversity that our new staff members will bring to the district. These individuals are highly qualified and bring a variety of experiences to our district. Along with the new faces in the classroom, the district has hired our own School Psychologist to take more ownership in our programs and to continuously improve the services that are provided to our students. We have also hired a new School Counselor that will be shared between the middle school and elementary. The district leadership is unchanged for the 2017-2018 school year for the third straight year, and the district will continue to be able to move forward with consistency and stability.

As students left the building for the summer, custodians and other personnel were busy upgrading our exceptional facilities. A considerable amount of painting has been done throughout our buildings to create a cleaner more polished look. The entire elementary has had the latest Promethean Panels installed in classrooms to continue to upgrade technology and improve teacher and student use of technology in the classroom. Additional laptop carts were purchased to continue to meet the student-use demands. A bus barn has been constructed on campus to protect the expensive investment of school transportation. Upgrades were also made to doors, the intercom system, and additional cameras were added.

To continue to focus on school culture, we will again emphasize the core values that make up a quality education. Each month, district-wide, our schools will focus on a key value, while keeping all of the values in mind. Those core values are: Students First, Integrity, Respect, Sense of Community, No Excuses, High Expectations, Accountability, and Bison Pride. These values encompass a wide range of qualities that will continue to help improve the overall educational experience of our students.

In the fall, with the official release of NeSA results and the State of the Schools Report, we will share with the community great improvements in district test scores and classroom achievement. The district has continued to make improvements in reading, math, and science with the dedicated efforts of students and teachers. During the 2017-2018 school year, the ACT test will once again be a Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) requirement for all juniors and NDE will be utilizing a new vendor for state testing requirements of our third through eighth grade students.

I hope that everyone is looking to this new school year with great excitement and energy. As a district, we have a lot to do and with each day we must put students first with the decisions that we make today and into the future. Please take the time to enjoy your last few days of summer, and I hope that the school and community continue to work together to provide our children with the very best possible education. Go Bison!!!