

The 2018-2019 School Year Is Here

In a few days, the 2018-2019 school bells will ring for the first time. Each new school year brings excitement, new opportunities, and new beginnings. As students and staff return to school, we hope that this new school year brings with it many successes and accomplishments by all that are involved.

As students arrive to school, they will notice several improvements to the buildings and classrooms. The middle school playground received a much-needed facelift with the collaborative effort of the PTO. In addition, the Greenhouse area and grounds around the Greenhouse were completed. Our high school students will also receive their very own Chromebook, as the district moves to a more cost-efficient technology investment and a one-to-one initiative. Students in all buildings will continue to be provided with leadership opportunities. What has been done with the high school and middle school leadership programs will continue to expand and the District will continue to ask that students take ownership in their school and community. Because of the success of the leadership program, the District is expanding opportunities to the elementary school with an after-school opportunity for third and fourth graders. People often complain that society doesn't have quality leaders today. As a school district, we are actively working to build tomorrow's leaders by building leadership capacity.

A few new staff members will meet students as the year begins. Central City Public Schools replaced four staff members from the previous year with the addition of four experienced teachers. Joni Huebert will be our new Title I teacher and she comes to Central City with a wealth of experience from other school districts. Jacob Zeiss will be teaching second grade after teaching at Ft. Calhoun. Gabrielle Saltzgeber and Whitney Springer will be special education teachers in the middle school after teaching at Grand Island Northwest and Grand Island, respectively. This district was previously plagued by the lack of consistency, constant change in leadership, and the multiple initiatives that comes with constant change. The leadership team remains unchanged for the fourth consecutive year and it was exciting to see the number of quality, experienced applications that were received for the District's four teaching openings. Central City has compiled a great staff of dedicated professionals that have helped make this community stronger and more attractive to call home.

This school year will bring with it continued discussions regarding the proposed building addition. For several years, the District has discussed the expansion of career education and career exploration that includes the expansion of dual credit opportunities for our students. As those discussions took place, a facility needs assessment was completed to identify district facility weaknesses, needs, efficiencies, and safety. After much discussion, the District has moved forward with a building addition proposal that addresses career education classrooms, classroom enhancements and modernizations, early childhood community needs, safety,

efficiencies, and long-term planning. The proposal includes focusing resources on updated and modern science, agriculture, and industrial technology classrooms while improving district efficiencies with new offices to address early childhood needs in the community to help support community growth. In addition, by re-allocating the current high school gym into science classrooms, the district would construct a multi-purpose storm shelter/gymnasium that would be eligible for a FEMA grant that could protect nearly the entire community in the event of severe weather. This proposal is unique and innovative to access as many resources as possible while addressing school and community needs. Other districts in Nebraska have not used this method, but others will replicate the originality of this process in the future. A considerable amount of meetings will continue to take place in the coming months, regarding this proposal, as the District focuses on being completely transparent throughout the process as we look to update and modernize an aging high school facility.

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. Education is a people business and our staff has the opportunity to shape, motivate, and inspire young people every day, and there is nothing more rewarding than that. I truly believe we are doing the right thing here in Central City and I believe “Great Happens Here!” Go Bison!!!