

## The 2019-2020 School Year Is Here

This summer has been an exceptionally fast one, and the first bells to the 2019-2020 school year are almost upon our students and staff. School personnel are arriving back to work this week to put the final touches on their preparation for the new school year. Each new school year brings excitement, new opportunities, and new beginnings.

With the completion of each summer break, students return to school with several changes, updates, and improvements. In the previous school year, high school students received their own Chromebook as the district moved towards a more cost-efficient technology investment and a one-to-one initiative. That initiative will also include junior high students this school year. This will greatly expand our students' ability to access technology while providing that technology in a cost-effective manner. Additional iPad carts have also been added in the elementary school, expanding the number of available iPad carts for K-4 students to nine carts of twenty-five devices. Two Chromebook carts have also been added to the elementary school, as the old stationary computer lab was renovated into a flexible education space.

Along with several technology upgrades within our buildings, a considerable amount of work was completed throughout the District. Each year, various rooms receive upgrades of new carpet, furniture, and accessories through a cycle of improvements. In addition to that cycle, this summer kicked off a series of building improvements that will be made to the District. Phase I of those improvements included the creation of an additional preschool classroom, the renovation of the old central office into the elementary office, and a special education renovation at the high school. Phase I is nearly complete, and work will go right up to and past the start of school. Construction in the new elementary offices will be completed during the first weeks of school. Many aspects of Phase I addressed District needs in regards to reducing contractual commitments to other communities, keeping dollars here in Central City, and expanding greatly needed early childhood care and education to the youth of this community. Phase II construction will begin shortly after school starts. That construction will include additions and improvements to our Industrial Technology and Science facilities, safety measures, commons, and additional upgrades and improvements that provide long-term planning and flexibility for the District and Community for years to come.

A few new staff members will meet students as the year begins. The elementary will have five new faces. Emily Christensen and Bailee Griffith will be a first-year teachers in the fourth grade and first grade, respectively. Heather Doggett has worked with the District for several years and will take over in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Pam McDiffett brings tremendous experience and enthusiasm to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Kristen Burbach will be teaching the expanded all-day preschool offering. In the High School, Kelli Mack will be teaching special education foundations, as the District no longer contracts services in Columbus. Breann Zimmer also brings a

great background to the community and school in Agriculture Education, Careers, and Community outreach. The leadership team remains unchanged for the fifth consecutive year, and it was exciting to see the number of quality, experienced applications that were received for the District's 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.

Each school year brings with it great excitement and enthusiasm. Our student leadership chose, "Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts," as our school theme for this school year. As a District and Community, we must dedicate ourselves to providing each and every student with the opportunities and experiences that they need to have a successful educational experience and understand that their time in school provides them the foundation to be successful and prosperous after high school. On behalf of Central City Public Schools, we look forward to the 2019-2020 school year. Go Bison!!!