

# MOUNT ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school! I hope you were able to find some time between the summer's rain showers to relax with family and friends and are as excited as I am for the journey ahead! The beginning of the school year often sets the tone for the entire year, which is why students should begin preparing now. In just a few days, the school bell will be ringing to mark the 116<sup>th</sup> first day of a new Mount Arlington Public School year. Once again, I would like to invite students to share a photo that best represents their summer experience. Summer pictures will be displayed in the main hall of each school and returned.

The staff of Mount Arlington Public Schools has once again set high expectations for student performance but understand this is meaningless without first setting high expectations for themselves. As a district, we understand that if we are going to improve learning, we must also improve teaching. With this in mind, several teachers have attended seminars and courses this summer focused on enhancing professional practice. They have updated curriculum and continue to demonstrate that they are a professional learning community focused on establishing an environment where all students will be successful in the learning process.


Technology in our digital world shapes the way we work and live. In fact, recent research shows us that technology is impacting us far more than we have considered. Technology impacts how each of us communicates, learns and even thinks. Mount Arlington continues to look for meaningful ways to incorporate technology in the classroom. This summer we have installed new computers in the media center computer labs and redistributed the existing desktops into classrooms. We have recently been awarded two grants that have enabled us to add two additional classroom interactive whiteboard systems. Mr. DeBoer has continued to expand our website and parents and students will have continued access to Homework Hero and Study Island.

In addition to the school district's continued focus on technology, we have updated our science program this year as well. The new textbooks, lab kits and instructional materials will provide opportunities for students at all grade levels to develop the skills necessary to function productively as problem-solvers in a scientific and technological world. The textbook will be available for students to view online if they choose.

I would like to remind students to be sure to complete their summer reading assignments before the beginning of school. The details of these assignments can be found linked to our school website. Soccer players are also reminded to be sure they have had their physicals and that Mrs. Brockman has all the necessary paperwork so that we can get started on another successful season.

The new academic year will bring with it many new challenges, as well as many new rewards. There will be new teachers and friends to meet, new books to read and new skills to master. The entire professional and support staff will continue their commitment to the educational needs of their students. Their enthusiasm, loyalty, and devotion to their students will continue to produce positive educational outcomes and help Mount Arlington's children reach their maximum potential. The 2009 – 2010 school year will be a great one for Mount Arlington Public Schools. Welcome back Lakers!

Sincerely,



Stuart Mason