

Mount Arlington Public Schools
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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

This summer has flown by. It seems as if the end of the school year was just the other day. Our staff has been busy preparing for the early September start date. Throughout the course of this summer we have been most fortunate to have received assistance from numerous sources in order to make our schools welcoming and exciting for the return of teachers, students and families. Federal ARRA funds have provided us with the necessary finances to institute a new transitional program for students with special needs. This program will assist us in implementing a plan to educate students in district versus sending the students to schools out of district at a considerable cost to the taxpayer. Please be assured that our staff is exemplary and that this new program will again be another program that other districts across Morris County will seek to emulate. Additionally, Twins Construction and Bace Demolition have donated time and equipment in order for us to complete the removal of the old water tank at the Decker School and the old oil tank at the Mount Arlington School. Their assistance has saved our district considerable funds and has enabled us to move forward with projects that we otherwise would not have been able to accomplish. Therefore, I wish to extend our most sincere thanks to them for their efforts on behalf of our community. On another "note", the Gruber family has recently donated a baby grand piano, to our schools. I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to them for such a generous donation and for their consistent support of music in our schools. Generosity such as theirs continues to enhance the learning opportunities for our students.

As we look forward to September, we have planned for the replacement of instructional materials, new initiatives in the area of curriculum and instruction, and the hiring of highly qualified staff to work with our students. Throughout the summer curriculum revisions have been completed and the teachers have redirected the curriculum objectives to reflect changes in District and State level requirements. Our custodial staff has been readying our schools both inside and out making them fresh for your return. Our office staff has been working to prepare calendars, registration information, student databases and have completed the varied and numerous State requirements put forth for us to best coordinate our efforts with the objectives set forth by the State of New Jersey. Mr. Mason, Mrs. Cummings, and Mrs. Pickens have worked throughout the summer completing schedules and preparing to meet the changing needs of our students in all grade levels. We are ready to begin and hope that you are as well.

New instructional initiatives include the purchase of Science materials and peripherals for grades Kindergarten through eighth grade. This is an important undertaking as we look to continuously offer our students the most up to date programs preparing them for Standardized testing and exceeding the basic guidelines for learning set forth through the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. Further initiatives include: the purchase of new computers, 2 new pneumatic interactive white boards enhancing our middle school mathematics and science programs, and updating software enabling teachers to continue to revise curriculum and student data files. All of which are outlined in our district long range Technology plan that has been approved by the Board of Education and the State of New Jersey. We will continue to offer at home availability to "Homework Hero" and "Study Island" software programs that enable both parents and students to access homework assignments and Curriculum enhancements via the Internet. Parents should be pleased with the additional support provided through the implementation of the "Honeywell Alert System". Your cooperation throughout the process of initial implementation will enable us to better communicate with you in a convenient and non-invasive manner. Our efforts in this area will help us to continue our efforts in "Going Green" by limiting costly copy, postage and paper usage. Additionally, our school website is again being updated and revised to include greater access to information about our schools, instructional programs, and Board of Education policies. Please look forward to the updates as the school year unfolds.

In the area of Buildings and Grounds all of the typical summer work such as classroom and carpet cleaning, painting, floor waxing, etc. is just about complete and will be ready for the start of school. The Decker School parking lot has been patched and restripped, eliminating trip and fall hazards and clearly defining the "No Parking" zones and "Handicapped" spaces. The boiler room

and custodial closets, at the Decker School, have been reworked in order to make the best and most efficient use of limited space. Additionally, the Decker School Library/Media Center has received a face-lift, including fresh paint and carpeting, to better welcome our students to the wondrous world of reading. I wish to extend my most sincere thanks to our custodial staff for their efforts in completing all projects as scheduled and to the Department of Public Works for their assistance with the removal of numerous stumps and large rocks behind the Decker School. This project has made our school grounds safer, greener and more aesthetically pleasing. The continuous cooperative efforts between the Mount Arlington Schools and the Mount Arlington Department of Public Works enhance our community in ways too numerous to mention in this forum.

Traditionally, a good portion of this letter is dedicated to introducing new staff members. On an annual basis, teachers and staff members retire or move on to other endeavors in their lives. This being said, new staff members join our schools. For the 2009-2010 school year we would like to congratulate our retirees and welcome the new staff members:

I would like to begin by congratulating Mr. Joseph Luongo on his retirement from the Mount Arlington Schools. Mr. Luongo as been a member of our Faculty since 1986 during which time he has served as teacher of the handicapped, coached athletics, held the offices of union president and contract negotiator. Mr. Luongo's efforts on behalf of the students and staff of the Mount Arlington Schools are to be acknowledged and commended. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to him for his support and wish him well in his retirement.

Now please extend a warm welcome to Miss Lindsay Pappadopoulos, our new Special Education teacher. Miss Pappadopoulos joins our staff as a graduate of LaSalle University, holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in Special Education, Elementary Education and American Studies. She comes to us with a very high level of recommendation and experience implementing plans for students with specialized learning and social skills needs. I am certain that you will join us in welcoming her to our schools.

Next to introduce is Mr. Christopher Merker. Mr. Merker, our new Physical Education teacher, replacing Mrs. Andrea Danysh while on maternity leave, is a graduate of Monmouth University and Montclair State University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Arts Communication and a Master of Arts degree in Physical Education. Mr. Merker has served as a Graduate Assistant teaching basketball, football, hockey, lacrosse, softball, team handball and volleyball to undergraduate students. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our schools and we are most anxious to have him join our staff.

Last, but certainly not least, joining us in the middle school is Mrs. Bonnie Leigh Sterling. Mrs. Sterling holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and Spanish from Cabrini College. Mrs. Sterling will be replacing Mrs. Seise while she is on maternity leave. Her experiences as an educator and in the business world will enable her to work most effectively with our students. Welcome, Mrs. Sterling!

Please join me in embracing the 2009-2010 school year. We look forward to another technologically inspiring and academically successful school year. As always, I would also like to extend my most sincere thanks to the P.T.A. for their efforts in assisting us with all aspects of our preparation in bringing forth a comprehensive plan for our students and teachers for the upcoming school year.

Additionally, I would like to thank all of you for the efforts you have put forth in supporting our students and our schools. Mount Arlington schools are truly wonderful places to grow and learn in. If you are in need of any further information regarding the upcoming school year, please do not hesitate to call us or visit our website at www.mtarlingtonschools.org.

Sincerely,

Jane Mullins Jameson