



ATTLEBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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DAVID A. SAWYER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 14, 2017

Dear Families,

On behalf of everyone here at the Attleboro Public Schools (APS), it is my pleasure to welcome you back for the 2017-2018 Academic Year. The district administration, Central Office personnel, your building administrators, and their staffs, are all busy preparing for another successful start.

The first day of school for students in grades 1-12+ is Wednesday, August 30. The first day for our kindergarteners is Wednesday September 6, and for preschool students it is Thursday, September 7. This and other useful information can be found on our website, which you can find at www.attleboroschools.com. Communication is the cornerstone of our partnership with families. Please be sure to explore our multiple platforms, which also includes social media (Facebook and Twitter), APS-TV (Channel 9), and the Aspen Family Portal with its companion App (Follett Notifications).

Our theme this year is "Engage Attleboro," which is intended to express our commitment to collaborating with the community we serve for the enrichment of the educational opportunities we provide for your students. Through not only the individual efforts of so many that make a significant impact, but also both the strengthening of existing partnerships and the further pursuit of new ones, APS is confident that we can improve student learning by delivering educational experiences that are subsequently more relevant and engaging. To assist us in these efforts, we are fortunate to be forging a new relationship with the Great Schools Partnership, who will be administering the competitive grant we were awarded through the Nellie Mae Education Foundation's Engagement Initiative.

Vital improvements to our facilities have been completed this summer through support from both the city and state. A grant program has allowed us to double the access points on the Wi-Fi networks in all our buildings K-8. This facilitates the proliferation of devices in our schools as we build toward the 1:1 (computer to student) digital environment we need to achieve to support 21st century instructional practices. We have also upgraded environmental systems in over half of our buildings through a capital improvements appropriation from the city. Not only will these projects allow us to maintain safe environments that support learning, but reduced maintenance costs and savings from fuel efficiency (of at least 15%) help to reserve more dollars for direct educational benefits.

A critical issue facing the district this year is the completion of a feasibility study for a new Attleboro High School. You can learn more about the project by reviewing the resources available on the dedicated page at the City's website <http://www.cityofattleboro.us/530/Attleboro-High-School-Project>. I hope everyone will seek to stay informed about this important process.

Finally, I would like to introduce the personnel in our revamped Transportation Office. Crystal Enos, our Transportation Scheduler, is new to the district, and her Assistant, Doreen DeRose, will be familiar to many of you. We are excited about this dynamic team and are confident that they will help us to improve our transportation services for the district.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Sawyer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David A. Sawyer
Superintendent

Engage • Challenge • Inspire