

Welcome Back!

August 8, 2017

Dear EOSD Staff Members,

I hope your summer has been filled with fun, relaxation and time well spent with family and friends. It is with great enthusiasm that I officially welcome you to the 2017–2018 school year. Here, in the East Orange School District, we will continue to *“Develop Leaders One Student at a Time.”* I anticipate this being an extremely exciting, challenging, innovative and productive school year.

Our primary goal this year is improving teaching, learning and student achievement as we prepare *ALL* of our students for college, careers, and life in high performing schools. We all know that effective teaching results in quality student learning. Effective strategies and practices implemented by teachers in the classrooms will play a critical role in achieving our primary goal. However, in order to get the desired results we are capable of achieving, it is going to take hard/smart work, dedication, commitment and excellence from *ALL EOSD* staff members and stakeholders. It must be a collaborative TEAM effort!

Research suggests that the quality of classroom instruction, more than any other factor, has the greatest impact on student learning. Creating positive school/class environments that are conducive to teaching and learning is our priority. Getting better results in student achievement is our goal. Albert Einstein stated, *“The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”* Old teaching practices will have to give way to more effective, innovative teaching methods that are measurable by student achievement gains. The old results we once sought are no longer good enough. Our students must now be able to compete not only with students across the state of New Jersey but also with students globally. That is why every one of us will be held accountable for the job that we do in positively transforming our schools and students.

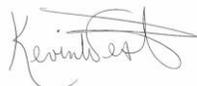
I look forward to working with you and I am excited about what the future holds for our students as we expand opportunities for them by improving teaching and learning in every classroom, in all of our safe, clean, welcoming schools. Together, we will strive to exemplify excellence in all that we do and make a positive difference in the lives of our students. We must be *Champions for Children!*

To kick off the 2017-2018 school year, the Staff Convocation for All EOSD employees is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2017 in the East Orange Campus High School gymnasium. The convocation will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Due to limited parking, I recommend staff members who work close to EOCHS walk, carpool, or park on nearby streets near the high school to avoid confusion and chaos. Shuttle buses will also be provided from certain schools (details regarding the shuttle buses will be emailed to all Principals and staff). A continental breakfast will be provided on the morning of the convocation between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m. All staff members will report to their assigned locations to meet with their Principal, Director, or Supervisor by 1:00 p.m.

As a former teacher and principal, I know how important it is for teachers to come in and prepare their classrooms prior to the first day of school. Therefore, all staff members who wish to voluntarily come in and begin preparing their classrooms prior to the first day of school may do so during the week of August 28, 2017.

The Members of the East Orange Board of Education, Central Office Administration, and I welcome you back to the East Orange School District. Best wishes for an extremely rewarding and successful school year as you partner with us in creating *"Visions of Excellence."*

Respectfully,
Your Partner in Education,



Dr. Kevin R. West
Superintendent of Schools