



Brookfield Public Schools
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



Create Your Tomorrow

August 15, 2017

Dear Faculty and Staff,

I hope you have had a restful summer and are excited for the upcoming year.

Reflecting upon my recent meetings with individual faculty this past spring; three themes emerged: first, meeting with two thirds of the staff affirmed my belief that we have a tremendously caring, dedicated and talented team in Brookfield; next, the majority expressed a commitment to support the Strategic Coherence Plan, and; finally, I heard a clear message regarding universal concern for our students emotional health and a need to support the development of their regulation and coping skills from Pre-K –12.

In response to the concern regarding students' emotional health, a team consisting of Whisconier's Principal, Mr. Renda, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Ruby, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Dr. Sipala, and I attended a three-day training at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. Participants included districts from across the country, including our neighboring superintendents and their leadership teams from New Canaan, Westport and Ridgefield. The theme of the training was *Emotions Matter*. To support students, it is critical that adults are able to recognize, understand, label and then proactively respond to their personal feelings. Educators must first develop their own emotional intelligence before they can support students to do the same. Our plan will begin with priming all administrators this summer with the foundational cornerstones of Yale's approach to developing emotional intelligence. Furthermore, Yale will collaborate with the faculty and staff at Whisconier this year as part of Brookfield's launch.

What we have to look forward to:

Technology & Communications:

- New Laptops (HHES & CES) & Desktops (BHS) for teachers and students/ Updated Desk Tops at WMS
- All of the schools are receiving new Chromebooks
- New Presentation Stations at BHS and Upgraded Projectors K-8
- Security: New Visitor Management System for guest sign in
- Power School: Expansion of modules to include Assessments and Analytics
- Digital Platform for Curriculum Development (Rubicon Atlas)

Curriculum & Instruction (3 - 5 year roll out & implementation):

- STAR Math - expansion to grades 1 - 4
- Professional Learning for curriculum development and curriculum writing
- Professional Learning for development of assessments and alignment with curriculum & standards
- BHS NEASC Accreditation work continues
- BHS School Improvement Grant work continues

Continued on page 2

What we have to look forward to (Continued):

Staffing:

- Leadership Restructuring
 - K-4 Literacy Curriculum Specialist
 - K-4 Math Curriculum Specialist
 - 5-8 Literacy Curriculum Specialist
 - K-12 Director of Instruction
 - K-12 World Language/English Language Learner Department Chair
 - 9-12 Humanities Department Chair (Social Studies & English)
 - Special Education Department Chairs
 - Grades Pre-K – 2
 - Grades 3 – 7
 - Grades 8 – 12
 - 5-8 Social Studies Teacher Leader
 - 5-8 Science Teacher Leader

Facilities:

- The buildings look great! The BHS Roof replacement project is nearly complete. All of our facilities have been cleaned from top to bottom and many summer projects have been completed. *A very special thanks must go out to the custodians and maintenance team who have worked extremely hard this summer to make these projects successful!*

I look forward to welcoming all of our veteran faculty and staff back, and together we will embrace our new teachers, administrators and staff members **when we meet on August 28th at 7:45am, at Brookfield High School for our annual convocation.** Dr. Marc Brackett of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence will be joining us to deliver the keynote convocation address.

- 10:45-12:00- School-based faculty meeting
- 12:00-12:30- Lunch
- 12:30-1:45- School-based faculty meeting
- 1:45-2:00- Transition time
- 2:00-3:00- Department meetings (i.e. World Language/ELL, PPS/Special Education/Nurses, Fine Arts, PE and Health). Specific locations of meetings will be provided by August 28th. All other teachers will remain at their schools.

Tuesday, August 19th

- Grades 1-4 (regular and special education) STAR Math training from 8:00 am -2:30 pm. (2:30-3:00 classroom time.)
- Special Services personnel will receive a schedule from Dr. Sipala.
- All other faculty and staff are under the direction of their building principal.

Renewed, let's approach the 17-18 academic year with bold energy and smiles fueled by *212 Degree* enthusiasm. Seize each day as a new opportunity to bring the children of Brookfield closer to ***Creating Their Tomorrow*** through pursuit of academic, artistic, social and athletic excellence.

Continued on page 3

I am grateful to be leading the Brookfield Public Schools and gratified to collaborate with the dedicated faculty and staff in our district. Our collective message to our students must be, ***“Set challenging goals and stop at nothing to achieve them. We are here to help you.”***

Educators, you are the magic, the difference makers! Together we can make 2017-2018 school year Brookfield’s best yet.

Students begin school on August 30th . Your principals will provide further details regarding school specific updates and schedules of events in their communications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Barile', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Barile
Superintendent of Schools