



Brookfield Public Schools

“Create Your Tomorrow”



Dear Families and Faculty,

May 2024

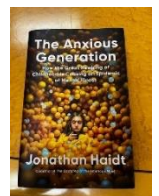
Congratulations on nearing completion of another productive school year. The transition to the new state-of-the-art Candlewood Lake Elementary School was a long awaited community accomplishment. We thank the faculty, staff, students, parents, elected officials and residents for their support and patience during this inaugural year as we transitioned approximately 1,100 students and 200 staff members to the new facility. We look forward to celebrating the new school and scheduling a ribbon cutting in mid-August along with scheduling tours for community members.

While it is important to celebrate such accomplishments, it is also critical that we *keep our eye on the ball* and maintain forward progress in alignment with our Board of Education adopted [Strategic Plan](#).

To that end, please read on for a preview of initiatives for the 2024-2025 school year.

Technology & Engagement:

- We have begun the rollout of our new communication and engagement platform, **ParentSquare**. Beginning in the first week of July all communications from and with the schools and District will be through the ParentSquare app. Introductory video: <https://vimeo.com/392768203/fa21a5c85d?share=copy>
Training for parents will occur over the summer as we plan for in-person and virtual training sessions. We will announce the times and locations of the training.
Training for staff will occur upon return from summer break during the professional learning days.
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15ycPsTX6_6T6C4HIj1KfShNWDAUuA1GNNaxKCXw0Giw/edit?usp=sharing
- In our continuous effort to engage with families and support our students' mental health, the administration and Board of Education have begun reading the recently published book by Joanthan Haidt, *The Anxious Generation, How the rewiring of childhood is causing an epidemic of mental illness*. Dr. Mahon and I have discussed this topic with the Brookfield Education Foundation (BEF) and SPEACS (Student, Parent Educator, Advisory Council to the Superintendent). We are excited to share that the District plans to engage faculty in exploring concepts presented in this book next year, and promote community conversations with parents around establishing school and community norms to further support student wellness.



Teaching & Learning:

- We will implement a new **K-3 Science of Reading curricular tool, Amplify CKLA**, which was unanimously approved by the Board of Education on May 1, 2024. [Amplify CKLA https://amplify.com/programs/amplify-core-knowledge-language-arts/](https://amplify.com/programs/amplify-core-knowledge-language-arts/) is coming this fall, with a plan to phase-in implementation for grades 4 and 5 in the near future. [Please click here for the presentation given to the Board of Education on May 1, 2024.](#)
- Currently we are implementing our new math program, **Illustrative Math**, in grades 4-8. We will implement Illustrative Math K-3 in the near future.
- At Brookfield High School we will be implementing two new courses in the 2024-2025 school year: **College Algebra and Creative Writing II**.
- We look forward to implementing goals from the new **Special Education Strategic Plan**. The goals are born from collaboration with faculty, staff and parents as well as the CREC Program Reviews.
- We are planning for a new **Portuguese bilingual program** at Candlewood Lake to accommodate the growing number of enrolled students who speak Portuguese as their first language.

Operations and Facilities:

- The Board's adopted budget for next year includes additional funds in maintenance. Now that Candlewood Lake School is completed, we are **focusing our maintenance efforts at Whisconier and Brookfield High School**.
- The new state law regarding the Kindergarten age requirement begins with the start of the new 2024-2025 fiscal year. Now, **students must be 5 years old by September 1st**. [Please see the letter from Dr. Pepsoski and Dr. Barile regarding kindergarten registration and the process for submitting an age waiver.](#)
- The **first day of school** for students for the 2024-2025 school year will be after Labor Day, **September 3, 2024**. It will be a full day. [Please click here for the 2024-2025 district calendar.](#)

In closing I have linked for your reference the [State of District](#) which was published this past March.

Thank you for your continued engagement and we look forward to seeing you at many of the *end of school year celebratory events*.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Barile
Superintendent