

From The Superintendent:

It seems incredible to me, but a new school year is almost upon us. The office staff has been busy with preparations to make the enrollment process and transition into 2018-2019 as smooth and painless as possible. This year, we have set aside August 7th and 8th for enrollment. This is a time for parents to work with the office staff to ensure their child's enrollment records are current and accurate.

The custodial staff has once again been doing an outstanding job preparing our buildings for the upcoming school year. They have worked very hard to ensure maintenance issues are addressed and to make the buildings as attractive as possible.

Over the past year-and-a-half, the opportunity has presented itself to grow a stronger partnership between the two districts making up Thunderhawk Country. I am very pleased and proud of the progress we have made. Our faculties are working together more than ever to develop and align curriculum in order to provide the best opportunities for all students.

Several things have taken place that illustrate the strengthening of this partnership. Last spring, the two elementary faculties worked together to identify an English Language Arts curriculum and are now in the process of preparing to implement this coming school year. Last year, the Grinnell Middle School faculty implemented a 30-minute period referred to as SECD. The faculty developed activities to use during this period that address social and emotional issues, character, and citizenship. Wheatland High School is now working on possible ways to implement a similar program. Over the past several years, Wheatland High School students participated in STEAM activities and a plan is in development to expand this into a regular class. GMS has also begun to implement STEAM activities.

Sharing of faculty was also expanded significantly last year. This increase in sharing faculty was highly beneficial to both districts and will be expanded even more this coming year. We were very fortunate to be able to hire Ms. Emily Boyd as a full-time counselor that will be a shared position. Ms. Boyd will help coordinate all of the career education efforts, help coordinate development of social-emotional activities as well as student advisor duties.

I look forward to an exciting and successful 2018-2019 as well as the opportunity to continue serving the students of Thunderhawk Country. The privilege to work for both districts continues to be very rewarding and is a true highlight in my professional career. Thank you for your continued support of all of our children.