

The end of the school year is a time for celebration. At Dover City Schools, we have a lot to celebrate! Celebrating accomplishments is important to our school culture and community. It's a way to recognize that we have addressed challenges along the way and were successful in reaching our goals. It motivates us when we face a new challenge or opportunity.

On May 17, the citizens of Dover gathered for our official groundbreaking for the new Dover High School. Hundreds of residents came together to celebrate an exciting future for our schools and community. Just like past generations did for us in the last century, this is our generation's turn to pay it forward for the children who will follow us. Building a new high school for the modern world will provide our young people with the environment they need to succeed today and in the future.

It was rewarding to see generations gather to pay tribute to our past and look to the future with hope and anticipation. This project has united city and township officials, safety forces, school staff, community members and students to pursue a common goal. The work that has already been accomplished is impressive, with everyone doing his or her part to ensure success. Thank you to our community for making this great day possible.

We are also celebrating the 213 Dover seniors who will graduate this month. Many of them are going on to college and careers, and others will bravely serve our country in the military. I am confident that our dedicated staff have prepared them to live our mission by "Educating all students to their fullest potential to become productive and responsible citizens through the coordination of parents, teachers, and community."

Our younger students also have reason to celebrate, and we applaud and recognize their achievement through the various banquets, awards ceremonies, and special activities. It is important to reflect each year on our students' growth and accomplishments before we step into the challenges of a new year.

For a celebration to be meaningful, it must be based on goals and achieving progress. That's why Dover staff members have been working hard on a strategic plan for our schools. In order to continue providing an excellent education, we cannot rest on our current successes. We must be willing to address weaknesses and build upon current achievements. We will begin the process of implementing our new strategic plan soon, and it will provide us with a road map of our priorities and the steps it will take to continue ensuring student success.

I hope you will join me in celebrating our Dover City Schools. Without our supportive families, residents, and staff, it would not be possible. Thank you!