

Welcome Back, Dover Tornados

It is always fun to welcome our students and staff back for a new school year. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer filled with making memories and some relaxing down time.

When a new school year begins, it often feels like a whirlwind as morning routines, classes, homework, and after-school activities get off and running. Students adjust to new challenges as they advance in grade level and our teachers and staff are ready to make the experience positive. We do our best to ensure the transition is smooth.

This new school year is especially important to our schools and community. As you know, there will be an operating levy on the ballot in November. From now until Election Day on November 6, we plan to provide voters with information about the importance of this levy and what's at stake with our schools. The levy is needed to preserve all the programs and opportunities that make Dover a great place to learn. We want to make sure our residents are informed on the facts of this issue.

As safety is always a top priority at Dover, we will hold a district-wide School Safety Night at Dover High School on Weds, September 12, at 7 p.m. I encourage all families to attend this informational night about safety measures for our students both at home and school. The evening will include speakers and demonstrations to provide information on what happens at school in the event of an emergency, as well as what parents need to know to keep their children safe in a variety of situations.

Also, we will be implementing Raptor technology in all our buildings in October. This will strengthen our safety procedures by scanning the driver's license or other ID of all school visitors. Part of keeping our students safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times. Visitor identification will be checked against a database to identify individuals who might be a danger to our students.

Other updated technology in our buildings includes new computers in our elementary buildings, as well as eight Chromebook carts for the high school and middle school. We must keep up with technology advancements, as this is an integral part of teaching and learning. These carts hold 30 Chromebooks and cost a total of \$64,000, which was funded by a federal 21st Century grant.

Finally, I want to remind all who may be parking around the high school that the number of spaces available will be limited over the next 18 months. Students and visitors will need to park on the street to access the school. The main entrance off Walnut Street will still be accessible. We will work each day to meet the challenges of building the new DHS on our current site and appreciate your patience.

We have a wonderful community that supports our students. I look forward to this being another enjoyable, meaningful, and productive year at Dover City Schools.