

## On Moving Forward, Future Focused

The end of the school year is a time of moving forward. For our 192 graduates, May 24 was a day to celebrate stepping forward into a new phase in their lives. We celebrate their accomplishments in academics, music, art, theater, and athletics and wish them the very best as they pursue their dreams. The students, along with their teachers and families, are focused on their futures.

Our district values the many programs that we offer to develop our students into well-rounded adults. Their preparation for college or a career is much more than the academic skills they learn in the classroom. The lessons learned on the stage or the competition field will stay with them as they face challenges in their future endeavors. An investment in our children's education pays great dividends.

As the district moves forward with the reconfiguration of our three elementary buildings, it provides an opportunity to move forward as a community. Change is an opportunity to grow.

On June 7, staff members, Board of Education members, and student volunteers worked together to physically move classroom materials and furniture to their new locations. Moving this many classrooms was only possible because of the planning, packing, and organizing by all staff members ahead of this day and the 300 workers who made it happen. Elementary teachers are moved into their new buildings or classrooms and are working together to create environments in each building designed to meet the needs of all students.

The work to educate our students does not stop over the summer. Our custodial staff is working to clean and prepare our buildings for students who will return in the fall. Secretaries are working to collect and organize records and materials in each building to best serve our staff, students, and families. Teachers are unpacking, collaborating on curriculum, setting goals, and being trained on the latest educational updates.

All that we do for our students requires the support of our community and we are very grateful to the Dover taxpayers. Support comes in a variety of forms. Many parents assist students over the summer by driving their student athlete or band member to countless practices. Parents also provide snacks, water, and even meals for our students as they spend hours working to refine their talents. Taxpayers provide financial support to maintain the many programs for our students. Without this support, a Dover education would not include all the extra programs that teach our students life lessons that will enable them to move forward with confidence and the skills needed to be successful adults.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I want to thank our community, staff, parents, and students for making Dover a future-focused community. By working together, we ensure a strong, productive future for our students.