

## A Teacher's Investment

Earlier this month, we celebrated our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers impact the lives of our students every day. They play a pivotal role by inspiring a lifelong love of learning and make a difference in the well-being and long-term success of our students.

A great example of our teachers' positive impact is seeing former students choose to come back to work in our school district. We are fortunate to have many Dover alumni who have returned to work at the very schools they attended. In my experience, they are drawn back, in part, by the bond of community and the relationships they've forged with teachers, coaches, advisors, and trusted staff members over the years.

Most recently, we hired another one of our own as our newest district treasurer. Andrew Bache, a 2010 Dover City Schools graduate, earned his Bachelors of Business Administration from Kent State University and an MBA from Malone University. Andrew then worked in the private business sector, where he gained valuable knowledge and experience as a financial analyst. I am confident his background will add value and perspective as he leads our finance department.

While we had several strong candidates express interest in this position, in the end, Andrew's experience, education, and passion for Dover made him the right fit for us. In our conversations, he shares that Dover excels in academics, and he discovered and developed his interest in accounting at Dover High School. He was inspired by teachers to pursue a career in finance, and ultimately to make the choice to return home to Dover Schools.

Beyond academics, Andrew often references how countless coaches and teachers taught him the importance of leadership, perseverance, and family. Andrew shared, "My coaches and teachers here demanded one's best, but they were always the first ones to lift me up after I made a mistake. They taught me the importance of both discipline and grace."

It's wonderful to see first-hand how our students benefit from a Dover education -- both academically and in their desire to serve their school community. As a superintendent and former kindergarten teacher, I look fondly on my time in Dover and every day I'm thankful for the investment our teachers make in the lives of our kids. Thank you to our teachers and staff for all that you do for our children and our community.