

Dear Community Members:

I hope this email finds you well and enjoying some time with family this summer. It has been an extremely busy month for us as we have been looking to fill a number of positions.

I have a couple of items for you.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2015-16

Not to throw a wet blanket on everyone's summer by talking about the first day of school, but this one is important. All students in grades 1-12 will all start on Wednesday August 19th. There will not be any orientation days etc. as we have done in the last couple of years at the middle and high school. Kindergarten students will follow the schedule sent out by their classroom teachers for the first week.

This should make things easier for everyone.

EASTWOOD WELCOMES DAVID RILEY

Last night the Board hired David Riley to be our next HS Principal. Dave worked as a middle school principal in Strongsville and will begin at Eastwood officially on August 1st.

We had several outstanding finalists for the position, but we felt Dave's experience and expertise particularly in the area of curriculum were hard to pass up. We also liked Dave's diverse experiences coming from a music background while possessing the ability link with students with various backgrounds and abilities.

BUILDING PROJECT

We continue to move forward with plans and designs for the new K-5. We have what we think is a sound design based on significant input from staff that will meet the needs of the students and teachers. When we return to school in August, I expect that we will have some information to share with you in greater detail. Right now we are looking mainly at floor plans to make sure that everything has its proper space etc. This is still a fluid process and adjustments are being made all of the time. We also need to make sure that the plan makes sense not only for today but for the future.

While designing the building, we have kept an eye on the future. In 2025, the bonds from this building and the HS addition will be paid and the district will be debt free. In that year the HS will turn roughly 65. It makes sense that 2025 would be a year when phase 2 of a facilities project would begin. Our current design includes strong ideas for the addition of academic space to convert the building into anything up to a K-8. This would allow future school leaders to consider plans for the HS and MS while providing swing space that would not interfere with current district operations. No one will be bound to any design ideas, but there we are seeking to provide the district with flexibility for the future.

Once we finalize the schematic design, we will share those plans with everyone.

SUMMER SCHOOL COMING TO A CLOSE

We have served over 75 elementary students in this year's Summer School program which wraps up tomorrow. The students have been exposed to an excellent summer literacy program which is geared towards helping them narrow the gap as they prepare for next school year. We have used a combination of direct instruction, small group practice, and our Fast ForWord program.

Thanks to all of the parents and teachers who worked to make this a successful program for students.

WATER DAMAGE AT WEBSTER

I am sure that some of you have seen some trucks at Webster doing some clean up. We did have some flooding on the bottom floor of the building. At this time, it appears like most of the damage will be minor. We have some files that were in storage that we will need to have dried out and there will be carpeting and some other property loss. This is minor as compared to the fire in January of 2014, but nonetheless there will be some work to do. We do not anticipate any issues with having things up and running for the start of school in August.

Hopefully, summer weather will be emerging at some point here for everyone. I know some of you also had some water damage from last week's rain. I hope your clean-up efforts go as well as they possibly can. Having had a basement flood a couple of years ago, I feel your pain.

Best wishes everyone!