



Ms. Gail Lanza
Acting Superintendent of Schools

STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Dear Sterling Community School District Families and School Community,

Welcome back to what I hope will be a wonderful year at Sterling Community School.

We have had a busy summer in the District. First and foremost, we completed the hiring process for new teachers and staff member(s). We are pleased to have Anders Bachmann as our new Art teacher, Travis Williams as our new 7/8 Science teacher, Mark Smolak as our new 7/8 social studies teacher, and Don Meltabarger as our new business manager. We warmly welcome our newest additions to Sterling Community School. My thanks to everyone involved this summer in the hiring process.

Teaching and learning was in full force at our summer school this year. The theme of *What's In Your Backyard?* helped to guide the planning and implementation of a variety of fun and engaging activities for our students this summer. Thank you to Jill Shamback, Summer School Coordinator, for her leadership in the management of the programs that had a positive impact on our students.

The Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) has been involved in the development of our school-wide focus on student engagement, as well as the planning and coordination of professional development for staff. Common Core Learning Standards will continue to be implemented in the 2017/18 school year with a focus on math interventions and supports. This year we will begin to blend our SRBI (scientifically researched based interventions) framework with our PBIS (positive behavior interventions and supports) framework so that we can begin to provide integrated multi-tiered systems of support for our students. We will continue to work with EASTCONN to support the PBIS framework and also to support faculty with our school-wide student engagement focus. Technology integration and project-based learning will continue to be expanded and implemented to support student achievement.

Russell Bonner, Facilities Manager, was very involved in overseeing building and grounds' maintenance this summer. He oversaw insecticide spraying on both playgrounds in June, and scheduled a follow up treatment for the Columbus Day holiday week-end in October. He singlehandedly spread new wood chips on both playgrounds, and he also purchased and

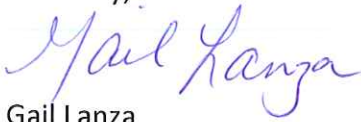
installed new led lighting throughout the school, to name just a few of his summer projects. We are grateful to our custodians who have been diligently working on summer cleaning tasks. Mr. Donahue, our Educational technology Specialist, has also been involved with purchasing and readying new chrome books for student use in the Fall, as well as updating our network system and vendor contracts.

Our students are at the core of our work at Sterling Community School. Our decisions as educators will continue to keep their learning and well-being as our primary goal. Faculty and staff will continue to work collaboratively with each other and with the community to ensure the success of our students.

The first day of school for faculty and staff is on Monday, August 28th. We are kicking off the new school year with a welcome back picnic for Sterling Community School students, families and staff. It will be in the cafeteria on the 28th from 1:00-4:00. The picnic is free to families, however tickets are required for planning purposes. Tickets can be picked up in the main office. The last day to pick up tickets will be August 16th and they can be picked up until 6:00 PM on the 16th. The first day of school for students is August 30, 2017. Please note that school is closed on September 4th in honor of Labor Day

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I wish you a wonderful school year! I look forward to seeing you all on the 28th!

Sincerely,



Gail Lanza

Acting Superintendent of Schools/Special Services Director