

Blazer Bulletin

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MISSION - Developing productive and civic minded lifelong learners.

VISION - Kalkaska Public Schools will be a model of excellence in education and a source of community pride.

Welcome to the 2018-2019 School Year!

Greetings Kalkaska Public Schools Families and Friends! Another exciting school year is upon us. As we are now a month into 2018-19 here are some observations I have of our district, school buildings and our amazing staff as the district's new superintendent.

DEDICATION- From the time I arrived this summer until today, every single day I have witnessed from an assortment of people associated with KPS this aspect; dedication. I am seeing a brand and character of people in this district that has such a deep-deep sense of dedication to and passion for our children. Everyone who comprises the school community has shown me repeatedly what I'd hoped I would see; and that is - that they are a part of the school "fabric" because they LOVE children and desire to see lives changed every day. From every classroom, to every athletic event, to every recess/lunch time, to every meeting I have been a part of - the KPS family are some of the hardest working and dedicated people I have EVER run across in my entire career as an educator!!

RELATIONSHIPS- This aspect - again like Dedication - is something I had heard about before coming to this district that I was hoping to witness as a strength. From my observances it's been proven why this reputation exist. First hand evidence reveals this entire district puts a premium on the "relationships" it has with children. No matter which building I've been in or what interaction I've observed, I have witnessed adults building amazingly healthy and productive relationships with each child - whether they've made a mistake or made a great decision. It is clear to me now why folks told me before arriving here that I would be part of a school community that puts healthy relationships with children first!

PRIDE- The element that seems to weave the two previous points together is this one; pride. Please know the pride I have seen displayed for this district, for each other and the children has energized and encouraged me as the district's leader. Although my golf game is HUGELY subject to questioning and scrutiny, I was asked to participate in a golf outing for the Basketball program recently. I had a great time and met many new community members. While at this event, I was impressed by two things; first, the number of school folks that were either playing in it - or there to help and support. Secondly I was impressed by the number of community members who came out to support Blazer Basketball. Ladies and gentlemen, this sort of thing just does not commonly occur in other districts any longer.

So, as we head into the month of October and strive each day to be and do our best for the children of KPS I just want to say again how deeply blessed I feel to be a Blazer, and affirm to all of you we will continue to keep *"Blazing a trail to Excellence!"*

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns I may assist you with.

Respectfully,

Terry J. Starr, Superintendent

Kalkaska Public Schools