

September 2, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, and Residents:

September always brings a combination of excitement and anticipation (and maybe some uncertainty) that makes the start of school a very special time for everyone. As we look toward the start of a new school year on Tuesday, September 6th, I have some exciting news about the school district that I would like to share.

Academically, the school district is coming off a year when a number of new initiatives drove innovation and progress in our classrooms. This year, we will build on those initiatives, while taking further steps to enhance our academic programs. For our youngest learners, we are very excited to introduce the *Foundations* Reading Program. *Foundations* is a comprehensive, research-based, multi-sensory program that will provide our students with a solid foundation in reading, spelling, and writing.

One of our core initiatives from the prior year, the implementation of *enVision Math*, will continue and expand to the seventh grade level. At the high school level, we added a number of new electives such as Sports Medicine, College Composition, War in Literature and Film. College Composition is noteworthy because, in addition to earning high school credit, students can also earn three college credits. We also added a new AP computer science class and developed other work-study and career education options for our high school students.

Another important academic initiative includes our transition to *the Next Generation Science Standards* (NGSS) at the secondary level. This is a required change that will lead to some differences in how science is taught across all New Jersey public schools. With an emphasis on connecting the different fields of science and learning directly through active participation in the scientific process, the new standards will serve as a great foundation for learning about all of the sciences.

This year, we will take another big step forward as technology continues to shape the teaching and learning process in Wayne. As the district continues to build our technology infrastructure and purchase devices for student and teacher use, we are working toward making the best use of technology in the classroom. At the middle school level, we purchased 3-D printers that will serve as the basis for new computer based design and engineering classes. We look forward to seeing all of the exciting and innovative ways that our teachers will be using these important learning tools.

I hope you will agree that there is much to be excited about with the coming school year. We look forward to working with the community to continue to build upon a great tradition of academic excellence in the Wayne Township Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Mark Toback
Superintendent of Schools