

Our Transformation....Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

Faculty Welcome

Welcome Back Everyone

As we reflect on this summer, I hope that we are reminded that great schools are the very foundation of great neighborhoods and great communities.

In Brown Deer, we are “Soaring to New Heights” as we transform our practice, implement national standards and further develop our capacity to lead.

This is what teaching and learning is all about - continually challenging ourselves and our students, dealing with change and discovering all of the possibilities.

Our schools in Wisconsin need to be among the best in the world to provide students a better education than in the past with more accountability from teachers, staff, and schools districts.

This all begins with our staff.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new teaching staff, student teachers and para-professionals.

I would also like to thank all of you who spent additional time and support to our students in summer school – teachers and principals. We will be celebrating 15 more students graduating at the Tuesday Board Meeting.

The Keys to Our Success

Great schools, great teachers are the economic security for all of us in the 21st century.

Investing in our schools - meeting the challenges to fulfill our potential are the keys to our success.

We are putting our limited resources in just the right places...we need to learn from each other and learn from our success.

We have a new mission, vision, values, and achievement goals – (see bookmark)

We have developed shared values, beliefs, and achievement goals to give us a roadmap to our future. We are making improvements and progress on our goals – and we will continue to support you , our students, and families in reaching these goals.

Today's students not only need more education, they need a different and better education.

Today's students need to think critically, perform non-routine tasks and problem solve.

They need to know not only the right answers but how to discover the right questions.

We need to provide our students with more opportunities for deeper learning of fewer concepts with higher levels of comprehension - this is the new benchmark for our state standards.

As a state, our future goal is to be among the best in the world this state and national reform effort is both ambitious and comprehensive.

What will it take for us to be successful in this new age of accountability and empowerment?

It will take transformation –disruptive innovation – a different way of thinking about our practice – we will need to focus on different ways of teaching, learning, and leading.

We can't do what we have always done in the past and expect a different or better outcome

Great organizations are always trying to get better with an eye on the future.

We need to be in touch with big picture needs of society.

The world is undergoing an incredible amount of unpredictable change

Transformational Education is a key strategy for strengthening our economy.

Education is not a social program to be cut when budgets get tight, but an economic investment in our future.

Today Education is not just a special interest, but has become a national priority.

Countries and communities that can raise their educational achievement will be the biggest winners and those that don't will be the biggest losers.

In our past each generation has surpassed previous generations in terms of educational achievement.

We need to make certain that is true for future generations as well and it all starts with us.

Teaching

No one could have predicted the changes seen in the past 12 months, and there is more change coming in next few years following that will affect each and every school.

In creating our future and defining our destiny- we must transform our practice.

With the most decisive factor in the quality of education being a child's teacher, the "quality of a school district can never exceed the quality of its teachers.

Quality teaching is the single most important achievement gap strategy a district could ever implement.

A New Wisconsin Agenda 2017

Proficiency standards are being increased for state testing, raising the bar to national and world class standards in what it takes to be proficient and even advanced.

We have new benchmarks at higher levels of rigor. From here on out, the Common Core State Standards in Reading, Language Arts, and Math will drive the decisions we make about our teaching.

This is the first time in many years that we set target goals in our state...no longer will we strive for grade-level proficiencies but for college and career readiness goals.

Agenda 2017 targets

- State graduation rate from 86% to 92% (BD grad rate – 94%)
- Increase career/college readiness

- Increase the percentage of students scoring proficiency in 3rd grade reading and 8th grade math -
- Fair Funding plan to make school finance more equitable and transparent

Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind is gone and now replaced with School Report cards which will be out this October.

School Report Cards will include new state testing cut scores aligned with National Assessment Educational Progress (NAEP) NAEP is a national assessment given to students across the country which compares students' abilities in reading, math, science, and writing. With these higher expectations there will be greater rigor required of all students and higher expectations for success.

WKCE was never designed to meet these types of goals.

The new state test will be a better instrument that better serves kids - especially higher end kids with a new generation of assessments.

These tools will better measure our proficiency overall however, compared to higher expectations which means where BSD had more than 90 percent scoring proficient and advanced, the new standards will probably drop that figure to about 50 percent.

How do we make change, well we are already doing it with new curriculum alignment, RTI and PBIS implementation across the district, and using our valuable time together on professional development that best influences our practices – whether that is using the nine strategies for increasing student achievement, integrating culturally responsive practices or reading out to our parents – it's now all about student growth and gains

It's about addition and multiplication not division and subtraction

We must be tight on standards and expectations but loose on how people get there - We will raise expectations by pulling together...

Learning

Our influence will happen at the classroom level as we reimagine learning.

Student engagement, personalized learning, rigorous and relevant curriculum, and developing relationships with our students will be the keys to our success

We have not cut programs – but continue to offer learning opportunities for all of our students that create multiple pathways for learning.

Leadership

We have influenced our practice by developing our leadership capacity –

We practice the Professional Learning Community (PLC) model where student achievement is our focus and priority.

District collaborative work teams have created meaningful work products that are evident of our leadership and we will learn more from the RTI team later this morning...

Our Board team has worked diligently over the summer on governance and reviewing our achievement goals with a commitment to provide the resources and support to do our jobs effectively.

Transformation is happening all around us and we must use this synergy to influence our practice.

Now more than ever, we need to promote our district....

BD schools can become the #1 choice for our students, for their parents, for this community and for this staff...I am looking forward to our work together.

Construction Update

No other type of building in our community will have as much influence over so many lives than our newly renovated schools and campus

Our new classrooms, fitness center and renovated schools will become the centerpiece of our community. We are in the midst of an educational transformation that will change our landscape forever.

This educational building project creates a learning environment where students will learn to be passionate learners, creative thinkers, and innovative leaders in two beautiful schools.

Final Words

The challenge - transformation

While these are challenging times for schools, the state and the nation, quality education is more critical now than ever.

The stakes have never been greater, the bar never set higher and it is our responsibility to ensure that this generation ... surpass the educational achievements of the past and achieve, perhaps for the first time, not just a good education, not just an adequate education, but a world-class education.

Wishing you a wonderful beginning to the school year and much success as we aspire to provide a world-class education to all of our students and families.