

**To: Dansville School Board Members**

**From: Andy Cox**

**Date: August 15, 2018**

**Re: DES update**

- Changes in the elementary for 2018-2019 include:
  - Andrea Salinas is joining the elementary team in 5<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Angie St.Amant is our STEAM teacher and leader of Aggie Steam Adventures
  - Meranda Shirley is teaching elem/MS art.
  - Andrea Loomis returns as our Speech teacher.
- Aggie Academy (summer school) wrapped up recently. Thank you to Lynn Main, Leanne Barnett, Emily Dowd, Stephanie Heraux and Sydney Malthaner for all of their hard work in making this a quality educational experience. We couldn't service so many students (nearly 40) without willing teachers and staff!
- Several trainings are scheduled to take place in the days leading up to the new school year including Chrome Book training as each elementary classroom will receive 6 new Chrome Books.
- The Arts Integration program is in full swing for its 7<sup>th</sup> year. Karen Henderson attended training at the Wharton Center Aug. 7-9 to prepare for continued implementation of new ideas into the core curriculum this year. Additional artists will be visiting the schools this year as a crucial part of this partnership with the Wharton and Kennedy Center for the Arts.
- We are incredibly excited to introduce to our students the new Aggie Steam Adventures program which highlights a simulator experience for students in grades 3-8. This program will also incorporate computer instruction in proper ways to research information, coding and typing.
- Back-To-School Bash is scheduled for Thursday, the 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:30. Teachers will be greeting their new students during this annual community event.
- I attended a conference on August 8<sup>th</sup> to hear author John O'Connor on what makes up "Great Instruction". This is a county wide study to improve Tier I instruction in all content areas.
- All students K-5 will be encouraged to establish Khan Academy accounts to work on skills at home that reinforce their classroom Tier I instruction. Working on Khan during independent work time in classrooms provides another practice opportunity on basic skills once other class work is completed.
- Elementary specials teachers will be reporting out on report cards for the first time this year.