

From the Desk of the Superintendent



I hope you are doing well and that you and your child are enjoying the school year. It is difficult to believe that we are getting very close to the mid-way point in our school year. With that, comes winter, the cold and flu season, and eventually the frustration with wanting the sun to stay out past 5:30 p.m. I don't mean to be such a dreamer, I actually like winter, but it does impact school and school attendance. I encourage you to stay involved in both.

The research is clear relative to achievement and positive school attendance. As Lauren Bauer pointed out in her April 25, 2018 article, you can look at "school attendance as a building block for student achievement." When kids are present and engaged in instruction, the likelihood of school success increases. We have wonderful instructors at Watervliet Public Schools and I want all of our kids to take full advantage of this opportunity. I'm also a dad and I get it, kids get sick and for everyone's health, they need to stay home; that is your call. I'm just pointing out, over the course of a school year, the importance of being present.

Another important topic we discuss, especially at the beginning of a school year, is parent involvement. I do want you to be involved, engaged, and to have open lines of communication with your child's teacher. Parents are busy, so sometimes involvement can be as simple as asking your child, "What did you do in school today?" and don't let them off the hook when he/she says, "Nothing." I encourage those dinner table conversations about what is going well, what could be going better, and what is coming up that is important. Take it from a dad who has two kids out of the house now, you will miss those opportunities to talk with them after they move on. In addition, the research is strong on this topic. According to Henderson and Borla, highlighted in the Michigan Department of Education's "Collaborating for Success - Parent Engagement Toolkit," "students with involved parents achieve more, have higher test scores, graduate more frequently, make greater gains, antisocial behavior decreases, and kids make a smoother transition from school to post graduate life."

In closing, I do want to thank you for allowing us the privilege of working with you and your child. Let's continue to work together for the welfare of your child.

Kindergarten/Preschool Round-Up

South Elementary School will be hosting Kindergarten / Preschool Round-Up on Thursday March 21 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the South School Gym. Please share this information with anyone you know with a child who will be:

- 5 by September 1, 2019 (for kindergarten)
- 4 by September 1, 2019 (for preschool)

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) need to bring the following items to Round Up:

- Lease/deed and 1 other item with proof of residency (utility bill, license, etc.)
- Child's Birth Certificate (original copy)
- Child's Immunization Record
- Child's Proof of Vision & Hearing Testing

**The Berrien County
Health Department
will provide
Vision / Hearing testing
from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on
this date.**