



★ Committed to Excellence ★

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Philip Salemi, Superintendent

Superintendent's Corner - October

Dear District 92½ Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

September is probably one of our busiest months of the year. Each day (and most nights) there was something planned. It was very encouraging to see such great turnouts by our families at the different events that took place. Studies have shown that parents who are involved in their children's education lead to higher test scores, fewer behavior issues, and better attendance. We hope to continue to develop the home-school partnership. To that extent, I want to make you aware of our first Parent University for the 2018-2019 school year. It will be on November 1st from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at WPS. The focus of the Parent University will be on Social Emotional Learning with an emphasis on Responsive Classroom.

This past summer, the Principals, Social Workers, Special Needs Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent and myself attended a weeklong training on Responsive Classroom. At the beginning of the year, all staff members were trained on components of Responsive Classroom. Responsive Classroom is a way of teaching that creates a safe, challenging, and positive classroom and schoolwide climate for all students. Students learn academics most efficiently when they have strong social skills that let them take a decisive role in classroom life. Some of the skills they will work on this year are cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, self-control, and empathy. Teachers weave these social skills into everything the students do; academics, recess, lunch, and even entering and leaving the school building and classroom. In grades K-5, teachers will be leading the students through a morning meeting. These meetings set a positive tone and build a sense of community and belonging while giving students practice in critical academic and social skills. In grades 6-8, teachers adapt the strategies to match the needs of the students. Implementation of Responsive Classroom this year has had a positive impact on school climate. Please try to make every effort to join us on November 1st. A separate email with registration information will be sent soon.

Finally, I think it is essential to always keep you up to date about relevant information about our District. Please make sure to visit our website (www.sd925.org) throughout the month as we update information frequently. In addition, our Principals send weekly emails and have school-specific sites that provide you with pertinent information. Finally, if for any reason you would like to contact me, please email me at psalemi@sd925.org or call me on my cell phone at 708-670-1927. Thank you and have a great month!

Sincerely,

Philip Salemi
Superintendent