



BELLEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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September 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back! Our Literacy Team, which falls under the Curriculum and Instruction Department, has been hard at work ensuring our students receive the best education. Last year, we met a significant goal by becoming a technologically competitive 1:1 school district. This year, in conjunction with our 1:1 initiative, we are continuing to focus on the following goal: improving literacy skills through reading and writing across all grade levels and disciplines. We are confident that our students will be well-prepared for the future as we utilize research-based practices and district data to address state standards and students' individual needs.

Belleville is a balanced-literacy district. We provide various modes of instruction in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to ensure students are well-rounded individuals. At the preschool level, our students receive quality instruction through The Creative Curriculum®. The purpose of the program is to help prepare students to think critically and creatively in a developmentally appropriate way.

In our elementary schools, students in grades K-6 utilize the programs Wonders and WonderWorks for English Language Arts instruction. Within the programs, students are exposed to multiple genres through read-alouds, shared reading, guided reading, and more. To support our programs and to promote independent reading, the district recently purchased additional books for each classroom. The books consist of fiction and nonfiction, are diverse in nature, and address multiple content areas. The texts are leveled to meet the needs of each individual learner as they develop and master foundational and comprehension skills and strategies they are learning in class.

Writing independently is an equally important skill for students to master. Teachers are using the workshop model to increase both reading and writing skills. In conjunction with teacher mini-lessons and student conferences, the Readers and Writers Workshop models focus on the importance of independent student reading and writing. The best way to improve literacy skills is through practice!

In grades 7-12, students are introduced to myPerspectives™ to continue developing their growing literacy skills across all subjects. Students work independently and in small groups, as teachers provide guidance and support, to address individual reading and writing needs. Teachers use the myPerspectives™ literacy program to foster opportunities for self-paced inquiry into the topics presented through the text. Instructional resources are aligned to trade books and cross-curricular themes, and multiple skills are addressed in each unit. Students are exposed to a variety of diverse texts and genres to ensure they are culturally competent.

We are looking forward to a year full of learning and discovery. Please feel free to reach out to the Curriculum Department if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nicole Shanklin

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Director of Elementary Education

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