



School District of Altoona

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Dr. Connie M. Biedron, Superintendent

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August 10, 2017

Dear Fellow Staff Members,

I hope you have enjoyed your summer and have been able to rest, relax, rejuvenate, spend quality time with family, and most importantly have some ME time! As usual, our custodial crew has been busy cleaning, painting, repairing and doing some remodeling to get the buildings ready for the start of a new school year! Most of our remodeling work has happened in the high school and I hope you will notice many positive changes upon your return! Again we need to thank all of our custodians and student workers for all the work they have done this summer!

Also this summer, Mark, Andrew and their student crew have been busy updating devices throughout the district. That task grows every year with the addition of more and more Chromebooks and other devices. We have been able to replace some of our oldest Chromebooks for this year and outfit our second and third graders with 1:1 Chromebooks for use during the day! So, a BIG thanks also goes out to Mark, Andrew and their crew!

We are offering three days of technology training this summer in response to your requests. I hope you will be able to take advantage of some or all of the training sessions. Mark Scheppe, Liz Kaetterhenry, Jessica Richards (our new Instructional Technology Coordinator) and several others have worked hard to bring together talented and knowledgeable individuals to offer sessions in the areas you requested. Bobbie Kuchta is offering an animation session on Chromebooks and I have seen students creating great animations to show their learning/mastery of objectives! What a great opportunity for you and our students to expand their knowledge base in technology skills! We are offering premiums for your participation in the technology days as well. All the schedules and premium information have been emailed to staff by Mark and I hope you will have the opportunity to take advantage of the two remaining days next week!

We are so fortunate in education to be able to have a fresh start every year! New students, new opportunities, new staff and a Brand New Year! We have the opportunity to revisit those lessons, ideas, and strategies that went well last year and improve on those that weren't as successful! This is a great opportunity and a great time of the year for all of us as we come together again to provide the best learning opportunities available for our students, our peers, and our district families and community members!

The schedule for the first three days of the year is attached. We begin on Tuesday, August 29 at 7:45 am in the high school commons with breakfast that is being provided by our new food service company, Taher! I am looking forward to their culinary introduction to us with their meal planning, preparation and service! **As in the past, all staff are required to attend this opening day breakfast and the all staff session that follows on August 29.**

We have three days of learning and curriculum work to prepare for the New Year and I look forward to seeing you all again to gear up for the start of what I know will be another great year for one and all!

Most Sincerely,

Connie Biedron
Your Superintendent

"Proud to Be a Railroader"

**Back to School Inservice Schedule
August 29-31, 2017**
(may be subject to change)

Tuesday, August 29:

7:45-8:30

All Staff Breakfast
@ HS Commons

8:30-10:30

All Staff Meeting
Welcome, Introductions,
What's New, Strategic Plan,
Bloodborne Pathogens, Staff Photo
@ HS Auditorium

11-2

Building Level Meetings
(Time for lunch on your own may vary from
building to building)

2:15-3:30

Special Education Teachers &
Para's Meeting,
@ MS LMC



Wednesday, August 30:

7:45

Work in your rooms

9-3

Myron Dueck, Educational Consultant,
Author of Grading Smarter, Not Harder
@ HS Commons

Thursday, August 31:

Professional Learning Day:
Curriculum and
Mindfulness with Ann Brand,
Assoc Lecturer, UW-Stout
7:45-3:30

Curriculum

(Details to follow)

Mindfulness as follows:

11-12,

K-3 @ ES LMC

1:00-2:00,

4-8 @ HS LMC

2:15-3:15,

9-12 @ HS LMC

Please use unscheduled time to work in your rooms.