

Dear Brooke County Families,

On behalf of the Board of Education, our staff, and myself, I want to welcome everyone to our Brooke County Schools for the 2018-19 school year. August is a wonderful time for those of us involved in education because it allows us to develop new goals, build new relationships and embark upon new challenges. Our system-wide goals this year highlight both academic and social and emotional learning. While improving student achievement is an important part of our mission, we know it is essential to focus on the social and emotional needs of our students as well.

Change is never easy. Most of us in Brooke County have such fond memories of our time in Wellsburg Middle School and Follansbee Middle School, but time has taken its toll on the buildings, and the state would no longer fund the upkeep. Fortunately, the citizens of Brooke County saw fit to pass a bond that would allow us to build the beautiful state-of-the-art Brooke Middle School which provides our students with all the benefits that come with new construction. Through the meticulous planning by the members of the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Planning team (CEFP), this dream became a reality.

We launch the school year with the opening of the new Brooke Middle School, the Brooke County School Based Health Center (located within Brooke High School), Brooke Primary North and South, and Brooke Intermediate North and South. Complementing the launch of these facilities, we have developed new instructional strategies and services. Specifically:

- 1-to-1 Chromebook initiative at all grade levels
- Computer Technology Courses at Brooke Middle School
- Brooke Middle School amazing Art, Music, and Gyms with
- access to all the High School facilities
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at Brooke Middle School
- Course 1: Flight and Space and Course 2: Magic of Electrons at Brooke Middle School
- *Pearson Math* adoption (K-12)
- *McGraw Hill: Wonders* core basal ELA program for K-5 (new to Kindergarten)
- Increased counseling/emotional support for all students
- Well-check exams, sick visits, dental care, chronic health care, and more...

As a school district, we have taken many bold and important steps to enhance your child's academic and social/emotional experience. We are grateful for your support as we embark on these improvement efforts and look forward to your continued advocacy in the coming year. We pledge to maintain constant communication with you throughout the year regarding this work on our district website (brooke.schoolwires.net), my twitter (@ToniPShute), Facebook (www.facebook.com/brookecountyschools), and regular email and phone correspondence via school messenger.

We have been hard at work over the summer preparing for a new school year. At the start of the summer, we had students from various grade levels opt to spend time at the high school participating in Energy Express, K-2 Summer School intervention, and 9-12 Credit Recovery Summer School. We also completed updates to our existing elementary schools as well as renovated student bathrooms in two of the buildings to ensure that we continue to have outstanding facilities for our students. Many teachers spent time over the summer taking advantage of various professional learning opportunities in the county, while others attended graduate courses or worked collaboratively with their team.

As the school year starts, we will continue to focus on improving the academic performance of our students as well as our never-ending commitment to a safe learning environment. This year we will implement a parent component to every school culture committee. Therefore, please contact the principal at your child's school if you are interested in working with our staff to share a parent's perspective in ensuring that we keep all of our students safe.

One of the most important parts of my job is to be in schools on a regular basis connecting with teachers and students. I also look forward to engaging with parents in the coming year. This year school committee members will join me to hold meetings in each of our 7 school buildings over the course of the year. We welcome the chance to both share our opportunities and challenges and to address any questions or concerns that you may have.

It is an honor to serve Brooke County as superintendent. The support and enthusiasm I witness each day is overwhelming. We appreciate our Brooke County students, staff and community for creating this positive environment. The county continues to strive for academic excellence and fiscal responsibility. LET'S GO BROOKE!!!!

Respectfully,

Toni A. Paesano Shute