

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Community Members:

Our new school year is off to a great start. As I've visited our classrooms during these first few weeks of school, I have loved watching our children taking ownership of their learning. From the first day of school, teachers have been helping students to be academically, emotionally, and socially prepared for learning. I've seen incredible lessons on math and reading projects, compelling technology lessons, and much more. Our classrooms are exciting places filled with discovery. I'd like to thank all our families for helping make the start of the school year so positive.

As you know, we have made some changes to our schedule, and to the locations of two grade levels. We've also been working to increase the number of available small group instructional spaces by renovating our basement area to accommodate our gifted and talented program, an office, professional development space, and a Faculty Room. That will allow us to open more small group spaces on our second floor. Even amid all these transitions, the hallways are filled with the sounds of new and old friends learning together. I am a strong believer in the power of "collective efficacy". The best definition of efficacy as it relates to education is: the more you believe you can impact students, the greater the impact you will have on students. There's now decades worth of research showing that a teacher's belief in their own abilities significantly increases their ability to reach every student, no matter the child's background. Our staff believes in your students and is prepared to take every possible step to help each child reach their full potential.

Under the exemplary leadership of our Board of Education and our entire team of administrators, OPS has strengthened its commitment to academic excellence by building a network of programs and services to meet each students' unique academic, social and emotional needs. Our focused instructional programs and robust learning environment have raised the bar for middle school readiness, and have accelerated our students' continued academic success.

Thank you for all you do to support our students!

Sincerely,
John C. Anzul, Ed.D
Superintendent

