



CARBONDALE AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Welcome Back!

Dear Carbondale Area Community,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you back to our new school year. I am hoping that the summer of 2017 provided you the opportunity to make wonderful new memories with your loved ones.

Our student's first day back is August 29th. The elementary school day begins at 7:50am and ends at 2:35pm. Our secondary schedule begins at 8:00am and ends at 3:00pm. We kindly ask that you have your child arrive on time to school.

We have some great new programs this year that we believe will enhance your child's educational and social experiences. Our elementary will be adopting a new reading curriculum. After several months of researching and reviewing different programs, we have determined that the American Reading Company's (ARC) Core program will be the most educationally sound program for our students. EDReports has identified this program an ALL Green review. The ARC was the only ELA Curriculum out of 13 programs that were reviewed to receive such recognition. Our staff will be provided with ongoing professional development to ensure that the program is being implemented in the most efficient and effective manner.

I am proud to announce that we are enrolled with WVIA's Enhanced Scholar Program and PBS Learning Media Program. As you may be aware, WVIA has showcased and supported the academically and artistically talented students in our region through programs such as *Scholastic Scrimmage* and *Artist of the Week*, as well as the popular *WVIA's PBS Kids in the Classroom* program, among others.

In addition, our students will have access to the comprehensive PBS Learning Media. Drawing from critically acclaimed PBS programs like NOVA and American Experience, our teachers will have access to more than 30,000 videos, images and articles to enrich classroom instruction, collaborate custom lessons and activities, and review pre-made assessments.

While we realize that the PSSA's are just one way to assess the growth of our students and that the score isn't always indicative of the progress that our students are making, we do strive to have our students perform to their maximum abilities. We have added a Math Coach this year for grades K through 6 in an effort to provide more curriculum support for our staff. We are confident that our staff will continue to provide your child with the best possible educational programming and administration wants to provide our staff with as many supports and resources as possible.

The Carbondale Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504.

As I have mentioned several times in the past, the Carbondale Area School District is proud to welcome back 16 students to our campus. The newly named Carbondale Area Achievement Center, is fully staffed and looking forward to the first day of classes for our students. We understand that change can be challenging for students especially when they had previously been receiving their education outside of our campus. Our team understands that the first few weeks will be a time of transition for these students and we will have the necessary supports and resources available to assist them.

I would like to introduce you to our new staff members;

Cafeteria Employees:

Karen Muta
Shannon Hightower
Carol Buddie

Paraprofessionals:

Cody Opalka
Michael Murphy
Katrina Mrakovich

Teachers:

Jamee Ruddy
Amanda Zavislak
Rachel Wargo

Long Term Substitute Teacher:

Meaghan Stolar

Center Based Program Team:

Rene Pezak
Kelly Gansarski
Amanda Brennan
Junie Kacer

Part Time Occupational Therapist:

Lauren Farber

Part Time ESL Teacher:

Renee Helbig

Finally, I want to encourage you to participate as often as possible in your child's school activities. I have found that when families and schools work together the outcomes can be amazing.

Have a wonderful start to the school year and if you should need anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bob