

Maricopa Unified School District

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Scott Meier, Ed.D.
Superintendent

To: All Parents and Guardians
From: Scott Meier, Ed.D., Superintendent
Date: August 7, 2018
Re: Welcome to the 2018-19 School Year!

It is almost that time again to start the 2018-19 school year! I hope that your family has had time for some rest and relaxation this summer. The staff has been working hard over the summer to plan and prepare for the new school year.

I would like to introduce the new staff members to our team hired for 2018-19 school year. Please help me welcome them to our district! Also, listed below are the current changes in staffing assignments for 2018-19 school year.

New to the District:

- Leah Simmons, Kind./1st Grade Teacher
- Katie Woods, 6th Grade Teacher
- Beverly Mohrweis, High School English Teacher
- Stephanie Dean, Cust. / Driver
- Bailey Dooty, Instructional Aide
- Bethany Wise, Instructional Aide (Afterschool Homework Club)

Changes made from last year:

- Michele Johnson, 5th Teacher (moved from 6th)
- Brent Mark-Returned to High School Sp. Ed.

Many plans are being made to have a great school year start-up! Please take a few minutes to review the following information.

First Day of School-Monday, August 13

- High School from 7:45 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.
- Middle School from 7:45 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.
- Elementary from 8:05 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Back to School Night Event: September 6

Mark your calendar to save the date. More information will be coming!

Breakfast/Lunch Program

Each school day, students will be provided a breakfast and lunch (free of charge). Our Breakfast in the Classroom and School Lunch programs meet all Federal and State nutritional standards. Research suggests that students who have nutritional meals during the school day do much better in school! Please encourage your student(s) to sign-up for meals each and every day.

New Districtwide T.E.A.M.S. Moto: “Powered by T.E.A.M.S.”

As you may know, during the 2017-18 school year, the entire district staff embarked on a mission to revitalize the district by adopting a new overarching strategic plan to unify and provide common direction for the district’s elementary, middle, and high schools. After exploring future trends for the year 2030 and beyond, analyzing student, community, and staff surveys and input, the staff cooperatively arrived at a focus on future Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Science (TEAMS)! This will help our current and future students to be prepared for participation in a changing global economy that extends far beyond the boundaries of their local community experience.

New this school year is our T.E.A.M.S. Lab (Room 12) where all TK-8 students will be attending weekly lessons on robotics engineering and other science-related activities. The program will support the current Library program where our students previously attended two times per week. This year the students will attend Library one time per week and the TEAMS Lab for the other time slot.

2018-19 Schoolwide Theme:

This year’s district-wide theme is **“Powered by T.E.A.M.S.”** (*kind of a Crazy Science/Robotics/Future Science theme*) The yearlong theme will be used for our kick off of our new strategic plan of T.E.A.M.S. discussed above. The staff and

students will return to school this year by visiting Dr. Gigawatt's Secret Science/Robotics Lab (Auditorium).

Yearly Continuous Improvement Focus: AVID/Depth of Knowledge (DOK)

This year, we are focusing our improvement plans on Common Core-Depth of Knowledge (DOK) strategy implementation to raise the rigor of instruction and student understanding in Reading and Math. To support this focus, we are implementing our new Elementary **Advancement Via Individual Determination** (AVID) program and continuing implementation at the Middle and High School levels.

New Social Science Textbooks & Materials:

New TK-12 Social Science textbooks have been ordered and will be implemented this school year! Last Spring, teachers served on a selection task force to review many different Social Science textbooks and materials for all grade levels. The task force then recommended the selections to the administration and to the Board for final approval of the selected books. Make sure you check out the new book at Back to School Night.

TK-8 Grade: "myWorld" from Pearson/Scott-Foresman

High School: "Impact" from McGraw Hill Education

Classrooms Are Ready!:

Classrooms have been deep cleaned over the summer. The MOT staff and summer student helpers have worked hard to clean our campus. Thanks to them, all rooms are clean and ready for the start of the school year!

New Kitchen/Dinning Hall Project

The new Kitchen/Dinning Hall project is moving forward. The plan is for the new cafeteria building to be completed by next summer for use starting for the 2019-2020 school year. The new building will be built on the current high school parking lot. Of course, there will be some campus inconveniences during construction this year, but all efforts and planning is being conducted for our student's safety and instructional needs.

The staff and I are looking forward to the start of the 2018-19 school year! Together, we can make a real difference in helping our students discover their "inter-scientist" interests as we continue to focus on reading and math content skills to support their academic and lifelong success! If you have questions, please call the school office at 661-769-8231. Let's continue to work together to make this a great school year for our students!