

HAWTHORN SCHOOL DISTRICT 73

District Office Education Services Center

841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061

(847) 990-4200 Fax (847) 367-3290

Nicholas G. Brown

Superintendent

Brad Goldstein

*Associate Superintendent
of Finance and Business Operations*

Lynn Barkley

Director of Human Resources

Lisa Cerauli, Ed.D.

*Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum and Instruction*

Renee Ullberg

Director of Special Services

August 3, 2016

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the start of the 2016-2017 school year as much as I am. This fall the district continues with implementation of the new strategic plan and our district values and core commitments will be placed front and center. Our curriculum is based on the 21st century concepts of encouraging our students to become thinkers and learners.

The new school year is just around the corner . . . our first day of school is Wednesday, August 24th. Remember that this is a full day for our students. Although the summer can be a great time for relaxing and having fun with family and friends, many teachers and staff have been working hard to prepare for an exciting school year. The start of a new school year is a special time for all of us that work in schools – it is a renewal of the exciting, meaningful work all our teachers love. As you will read in the letter from your principal, we are now preparing to meet and greet the children.

It's a fact: Parents who play an active role in their children's education make a huge difference in their success. Here are 6 tips for helping your child prepare for the upcoming school year:

- 1. Ease into a routine:** Switching from a summer schedule to a school schedule can be stressful to everyone in the household. It is not too early to begin setting up a regular bedtime and wake-up routine. Set the alarm clock, go through your morning and evening rituals – routines help children feel more comfortable and will cut down on first-day stress.
- 2. Stay positive about learning:** If your child is feeling a bit anxious about going back to school, keep a positive attitude. Talk with him or her about new and exciting opportunities to learn this coming school year. It may also be helpful to remind him or her of how fun last year was.
- 3. Read together:** Reading with your child is an invaluable way to spend quality time together on a daily basis. Take the pledge to read with your child 20 minutes every day. Your example reinforces the importance of literacy, and reading lets you and your child explore new worlds of fun and adventure together.
- 4. Tool up:** Obtain the supply list and take a special shopping trip with your child. Having the right tools will help him or her feel prepared. While keeping basic needs in mind, allow for a couple of splurges like a cool notebook or a favorite colored pen. These simple pleasures make going back to school a lot more fun.
- 5. Communicate early and often.** Communicating with your child's teacher on a regular basis is an essential part of caring for his or her education. Teachers can alert you to how well your child is performing at school. It is also helpful to the teacher to hear from you if there is an issue that you feel may impact your child's day at school.
- 6. Be involved:** Getting involved in school events is a great way of showing support and enthusiasm for your child's learning and school experiences. There are many ways parents can get involved in their child's education; ask your teacher or principal how you may be able to help out. The Hawthorn PTO is a wonderful organization that is always looking for support. Encourage your student to participate in school activities as well. This will create new connections for your child while strengthening self-confidence.

Every day, our staff works to provide a rigorous, creative, supportive learning environment. The social-emotional and physical well being of our students is considered every day to provide the setting for academic achievement. We also know that the work world of the 21st century requires our students to be creative, critical thinkers who communicate effectively and can collaborate well with others. For the past four years, we have been focused on creating a culture of collaboration that supports innovative thinking and creativity and that work continues this year as we know that true collaboration between staff, students, parents and community is necessary if we are to fulfill our vision and mission as a learning community.

Our mission statement is: *Inspire all students to embrace learning in an ever-changing world.*

One of our goals is to create **PARTNERSHIPS:**

Hawthorn District 73 will have a District-wide community volunteer program to support student learning.

Please consider volunteering in your school or the district. There are many ways you can help students in our community. Last year we had the opportunity to create a new partnership with Toshiba Corporation located in Vernon Hills. Many employees from Toshiba volunteered time to come and support science during the elementary Science Olympiad. This year employees from Toshiba are working with the district to come in and support STEM within our schools. We thank the employees at Toshiba for finding ways to support our schools. Many of you may work for a company that supports volunteer hours. Please contact me and let me know if your company would like to be a volunteer partner at Hawthorn District 73.

Our Curriculum and Instruction department has been working for two years on refining and improving our curriculum in all content areas. Please look for these new units of study to be posted on our curriculum website on or before September 1st. Our Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Lisa Cerauli, will also be looking for parent volunteers to be part of a Curriculum Oversight Committee which will meet a few times each year to discuss what we want our students to know, understand and be able to do. Any parents who feel they would like to support our school district this way are invited to contact Dr. Cerauli at ceraulil@hawthorn73.org or call 847-990-4251. More information on this committee will be coming home at the start of the school year.

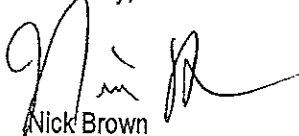
A big "Thank You" to the Hawthorn PTO for donating over \$100,000 dollars in books, cash and programming to Hawthorn District 73. These dollars are distributed to each building based upon student enrollment providing funding to meet student needs within that building.

Hawthorn District 73 and our community continue to experience growth as many new families are moving to our wonderful village. This growth is creating some space issues within our schools. The Board of Education has retained DLR Group as architects to evaluate our current and future space needs. You can find important information on our web page about the evaluation and potential solutions to our space needs. This work has been ongoing over the summer.

Parent involvement and partnerships are important components to assure individual student success. Stay connected to what is going on in our schools. Visit the district website at www.hawthorn73.org for important information. Review messages, notes, newsletters and ongoing communications from both your child's school and the district office. Our goal is to keep parents informed and to offer a platform to showcase our talented students. When you have a minute, "like" us on Facebook at Hawthorn School District 73 and enjoy the many photos and stories of our active students and staff. Please don't hesitate to contact me. I love hearing from parents!

I pledge to you that I will work hard every day to make our schools exemplary in every way. I look forward to working with you to that end.

Sincerely,



Nick Brown
Superintendent