



District News

Fall 2018

Superintendent's Note

It truly has been a wonderful start to the new school year (in spite of some transportation challenges)! Staff and students are settling into their daily routines and fall sports, clubs and activities are well underway. This year over 50 qualified educational professionals joined our district and they too are getting acclimated to SPS. We believe that the budget passing in June has enabled us to recruit and obtain high quality staff who will be sure to add to our high-quality learning environment.

In addition to the various messages that come directly to families from our school leaders and teachers, we have created this District News. We hope this update serves to better engage and inform all members of our community of the good work that is happening across the district. If there are specific topics you would like to see featured, please feel free to contact me directly at jkukenberger@scarboroughschools.org.

Board Message

We are excited for the start of a new school year and we are happy to have students and staff back! The board continues to work on policy, communications and negotiations as well as starting the finance work for the FY '20 budget. Members will be attending the two-day MSBA conference in Augusta on October 24th and 25th which will be a great learning event and a unique opportunity to connect with different board members across the state. In addition, we are preparing to welcome five new board members in November!

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Grading and Reporting

On Thursday, September 20, 2018, Monique Culbertson, our director of curriculum and assessment communicated the good work of our teachers grading and reporting processes for the upcoming school year.

Several changes have been at the Middle School for the 2018-19 school year based on feedback from students, families, and staff. Middle School staff analyzed the feedback last spring and worked throughout the summer to develop revised grading and reporting guidelines. In the next few months, high school staff, students, and families will engage in a similar process. K-5 is also working to digitize their report card in order increase access and efficiency of record keeping.

Ms. Culbertson's full presentation can be viewed on-demand at:
<https://tinyurl.com/gradingandreporting>



K-12 Professional Development Redesign

In the month of August, 36 staff members including teachers, support staff, special educators, educational technicians, and district and school level leaders all came together to form a **K-12 Professional Development Redesign Team**. As we work to respond to the vote of no confidence from the spring and the Scarborough Education Association's (SEA) proposal for improvement, it was essential that we create a diverse and inclusive team that could assess ways to streamline the work of our staff by maximizing guaranteed and protected professional development time.

The result was a refinement of our Professional Learning Teams (PLT). These improvements were rolled out by members of the K-12 Professional Development Redesign Team at each phase level on September 12th during our first late start Wednesday. Our plan is to collect feedback on the Professional Learning Plan three times this year as we assess the impact of these adjustments. The first opportunity will be after our next late start on Wednesday, October 17th. We will also collect staff feedback in December 2018, and again prior to the end of the year.

"The fundamental purpose of the Scarborough Public Schools is to provide a safe and inclusive learning environment where each and every student is empowered to be a resilient, lifelong learner who is prepared to engage as a contributing member of society"

Mission, Vision, Values


As we begin a new school year, we are focused on our mission and committed to keeping our students' best interests at the center of our decision making.

Our staff strive every day to ensure that SPS is a high quality, forward-looking public school district that supports the academic, social, physical and emotional needs of all students. Our **Long-Range Vision for Continuous Improvement includes** a whole child approach which allows us to emphasize not only the academic needs of our students, but also their social-emotional and wellness needs in order for them to be college, career and civic ready. Our strategic improvement targets are organized into four themes:

- **Strategic Theme 1: Effective Teaching and Learning**
- **Strategic Theme 2: Safe and Inclusive Schools**
- **Strategic Theme 3: Global Citizenship**
- **Strategic Theme 4: Community Engagement**

For more detailed information on how our vision informs our work every day please visit our website at:

<https://tinyurl.com/spsvision>



We believe that it truly takes a village to educate, support, and prepare our students for their future. Therefore, Our Values and Collective Commitments articulate the roles each of our partners - students, educators, parents, the community, our schools' essential operations staff, and school and district leaders - plays in realizing our vision. We must collaborate and come together in support of one another so that our students may realize their full potential.

We look forward to meeting and working with our community partners as we enhance and develop relationships that will generate successful student learners. Together, as a committed team, we must work collectively to ensure that our students are equipped with all the skills they will need for a lifetime of success.

Check
out these
cool kicks!



Transportation Vacancies

Thank you to our bus drivers and support staff for filling the gaps and stepping up as we continue to navigate a driver shortage. We would also like to thank our Scarborough families for your patience and support as we work to fill 7 school bus driver vacancies.

We continue to work to recruit bus drivers, educational technicians, and substitutes for all positions including teachers, educational technicians, food service, transportation, nurses and more. On Saturday, October 20, 2018 Scarborough Public Schools along with four other school districts will host two job fair sessions at Westbrook Middle School at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

If you know anyone who may be interested in working with the school department, please encourage them to attend the job fair or contact Assistant Superintendent, Jo Anne Sizemore, at 730-4100.



Contact Us:

Questions? Give us a call.
207-730-4300
Or check out our webpage at:
www.scarboroughschools.org