Summer greetings, La Porte ISD stakeholders.

"Great things happen here!" is La Porte ISD's theme for the 2021-22 school year, and the reasons are plenty. We have had a productive summer and our team has worked tirelessly to hire some of the best and brightest teachers and staff in the state to work with our students. We have a lot to celebrate in our district and community. Most importantly, we have all worked together for the past 15 months to ensure that the health and safety of our students, staff and community have remained strong during the Covid-19 pandemic. While I wish I could report to you that the pandemic is over, it is not. We must continue to be vigilant. We must continue to take care of each other. And we must continue to do the things that will help to mitigate the spread of this atrocious virus.

As we welcome back students to campus on August 18, we all realize there are many things we must first do to prepare for the coming school year. Our custodial and maintenance staff are working to clean, disinfect and prepare each campus, classroom and playground for a safe return. Parents, you can help us by continuing to encourage your child to wash their hands, practice safe social distancing, and, although it is not a state or district mandate, you are most welcome to continue wearing your mask as you so choose.

Believe it or not, we can now count the days until the sound of game whistles will be heard in the Bulldog Centre and at Bulldog Stadium. In addition to our football and volleyball teams, the marching band, choir, Chatos and cheerleaders are hard at work in preparation. Our teachers also return in days to prepare for a new school year. As with all of us, the teachers are eager to get back to work educating students.

District data and research shows that many of our students suffered serious learning loss due to the challenges we have faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal this year is simple: we want to do everything in our power to help accelerate the learning, close the learning gaps of our students, and get all students back on track to the life-long successes that they are destined for. You can help us by ensuring that your child is registered for school and that each child attends school on August 18 with as few absences this year as humanly possible.

Registration for enrollment is well underway for students who are new or returning to La Porte ISD. Go to lpisd.org to begin the process. As always, if you have any questions, we're here for you. Feel free to call us at 281-604-7000.

We value you as stakeholders, and we want to partner with you to make La Porte ISD the shining star in the Greater Houston area, and that our students are prepared to lead our city, state and nation to greatness both present and future.

Walter Jackson, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools