



ARDSLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Matthew J. Block
Superintendent of Schools

August 21, 2024

Dear Ardsley Families:

We are very excited to welcome all of our students and families back to the Ardsley School District for the 2024-2025 school year. I am thrilled to be joining this community as the Superintendent of Schools, and I know that by working together, we will be able to continue to do great things for the benefit of Ardsley's students.

I officially began my time as Superintendent on July 1. Since then, I have focused on getting to know "all things Ardsley." I have asked many questions and have learned so much about the great work that happens here. Everyone has been welcoming and generous with their time. I am confident that I have landed in a special place, and I am looking forward to being a part of an outstanding team here in Ardsley.

I have been so impressed with the excellent work of our administrators, maintenance, and support staff, who have been preparing our facilities and programs for the upcoming school year. All of our schools look clean and refreshed and are ready to receive our students on the first day of school.

We officially welcomed our new teachers to the district this week. They have been taking part in a week-long induction program. Over the course of their orientation, we have familiarized them with our district policies and practices, and worked to connect them to our schools, and our community. Welcoming our new staff to Ardsley is an exciting step toward getting the school year off to a strong start. Our returning staff will be reporting to the district on August 28 and will work for two days next week to be ready for all of our students to return. Our central theme for the year will be:

Providing strong and focused instruction that meets all students' needs, and creating specific and thoughtful organizational systems and communication practices that promotes excellent instruction and supports the whole child.

We are excited about focusing our work around this theme as we strive to make our district even stronger over the coming year.

I have created my first Ardsley podcast this week. The podcast is called "Around the Block." I will be creating these brief audio episodes throughout the school year and will be posting them on our website. My hope is to provide the community with some new and valuable information about our

district. Please go to the district website to access the premiere podcast on “school security.” I will also be posting on Twitter / X from time to time about the Ardsley Schools. My handle is @DocBlockAUFSD, and I encourage you to follow.

Early this summer, our administrative team took part in a reflection activity for which each of us was asked to choose one word that represents our top priority for the 2024-2025 school year. Although choosing only one word is a real challenge, ultimately, the word I selected for myself was “connect.” That summarizes my primary goal for this coming school year. I hope to be able to continue to connect with as many members of our community as possible in order to hear everyone’s dreams and aspirations for the Ardsley School District. I have enjoyed listening and learning so far, and hope to do so much more of it when our students and staff return.

I hope everyone enjoys the remaining days of summer. We are excited to see our schools come fully back to life again in just a couple of weeks! I look forward to partnering with you to make The Ardsley School district the best it can be for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Block", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew J. Block, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools