

August 20, 2025

Dear Cheltenham School District Community,

As we open the doors to the 2025-2026 school year, we pause to honor our journey, celebrate our progress, and look forward to the ambitious goals ahead. This year is more than a fresh start—it is another chapter in our shared story of growth, collaboration, and commitment to excellence.

Our work is anchored in the **Cheltenham School District [Vision and Mission](#)**, which guide every decision we make:

- **Vision — Belong, Engage, Seek Justice:** We strive to create a community where every student feels a true sense of belonging, engages deeply in their learning, and leaves prepared to champion social justice.
- **Mission:** We are here to inspire and equip every student to achieve academic excellence, nurture their social-emotional well-being, and spark a lifelong passion for learning—all within an equitable and inclusive community. This is our shared “why”—a commitment to building a place where everyone belongs and can become their best selves.

Our Journey Together

- **2022-2023:** We focused on the power of **TEAM**—Teamwork, Empathy, Accountability, and Mindset—introducing impactful practices like Visible Learning, Collective Teacher Efficacy, and the essential role of feedback.
- **2023-2024:** We asked ourselves the important questions: *Why did you become an educator? Why do you stay?* Our answers reaffirmed our calling—to make a lasting difference in the lives of students. Over 1,000 voices joined in shaping our eight-month strategic plan process.
- **2024-2025:** We brought that plan to life—making progress across all seven pillars, from developing K–12 curriculum and expanding MTSS supports, to launching a new district website and advancing major facilities projects.

Looking Ahead: 2025-2026

This year brings exciting growth and meaningful change:

- **Reconfigured Schools:** Elementary schools will now operate as K–5 buildings.
- **Middle School Transition:** Rising sixth graders will learn in modular spaces for two years before moving into the expanded Cedarbrook Middle School.
- **EPIC Relocation:** The EPIC program will have a dedicated home in the new Elkins Park School wing.

We will also take bold steps in advancing our **strategic plan**:

- Finalizing **Portrait of a Graduate** competencies.
- Implementing **High-Quality Instructional Materials** in math and science.
- Strengthening our **Integrated MTSS** model and expanding **DEBI** initiatives.
- Enhancing **communications and safety systems**.
- Continuing major **facilities upgrades**—including stadium construction and high school air conditioning.
- Norming our Instructional best practices across the district.

Our Collective Strength

None of this work happens in isolation. Whether you are a student, family member, educator, support staff, alum, or community partner, your role matters. When we align our efforts—when all arrows point in the same direction—we create the conditions for every student to thrive.

Together, let's make 2025–2026 a year defined by **belonging, engagement, justice, and excellence** for every student in Cheltenham.

Welcome back—and let's make it a great year!

With gratitude and commitment,

Dr. Brian W. Scriven
Superintendent of Schools