

Seymour Public Schools

August 25, 2025

Convocation



Seymour Champions

Today's Students – Tomorrow's Leaders

Dear Seymour Public Schools' Faculty and Staff,

Welcome Back to the Seymour Public School District and the Start of the 2025–2026 School Year!

I hope your summer was filled with moments of joy and rest, giving you the time to reflect, re-energize, and prepare for the exciting school year ahead. Your commitment to the students and families of Seymour is what makes this district so exceptional, and I want you to know how deeply appreciated you are.

This year, our district theme is one simple yet powerful word: **Believe**.

Believe in your students.

Believe in each other.

Believe in yourself.

Believe in the *Vision of a Graduate* and the possibilities it creates for every child who walks through our doors.

Believe in what we are building—together—as we bring our **Seymour Strategic Plan** to life.

Our focus this year is rooted in Seymour's *Vision of a Graduate*, which reflects the essential capacities and attributes our students need to thrive—both now and in the future. These include being problem solvers, collaborators, effective communicators, responsible citizens, and lifelong learners. With this vision in mind, we are launching a Strategic Plan that ensures every decision we make supports student growth, achievement, and well-being.

I invite you to lean into this work with optimism, curiosity, and above all—belief. Our students are counting on us to help them see what’s possible, and to equip them with the tools they need to reach their dreams.

It’s an honor to work alongside such talented and passionate professionals—you are true Champions! And for those who are new to our district, welcome! You are now part of the Seymour family, where we strive to live the attributes of a **CHAMPION:**

- **Creative** – Innovative and imaginative in your thinking.
- **Hard-working** – Focused, dedicated, and always striving for excellence.
- **Aware** – Mindful and reflective of your impact on others and the world.
- **Motivated** – Passionate and driven to make a difference.
- **Perseverance** – Resilient in the face of challenge and determined to succeed.
- **Integrity** – Honest, trustworthy, and grounded in strong moral principles.
- **Optimistic** – Confident in a positive future and hopeful for what’s ahead.
- **Noble** – A person of character who leads by example.

To our entire staff—teachers, paras, tutors, administrators, nurses, custodians, food service workers, secretaries, and security—you are the heart of this district. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and the countless ways you serve our students and community.

A special congratulations to **Jessica DeNigris**, our 2025–2026 **Seymour Public Schools Teacher of the Year!** Jessica, your excellence in teaching and your ability to inspire those around you make you a shining example of the belief we have in our students and each other.

This summer, many dedicated teams worked behind the scenes to ensure we are ready for a smooth and successful start. Thank you to our incredible custodians for preparing clean and welcoming buildings, our technology team for ensuring a secure and functional system, and our school lunch staff for their tireless efforts to ensure every child is nourished and cared for.

To our “Dream Teams”—our administrators, nurses, secretaries, security officers, and Central Office staff—your work throughout the summer did not go unnoticed. From scheduling and registrations to communications and coordination, you make the impossible seem effortless. I am deeply grateful.

We also thank the Town of Seymour and our local departments for preparing our roadways and supporting safe travel for our students and families—especially on Route 67 and Bungay Road.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to **Ms. Stephanie Ciccone**, the new Assistant Principal of Seymour High School, to **Mr. Jake Velleco**, the new Assistant Principal of Chatfield-LoPresti School, and to all of our new staff members. We are thrilled that you have chosen Seymour—**Home of the Seymour Champions: today's students and tomorrow's leaders.**

We'll kick off our professional learning days on **Monday, August 25**, and **Tuesday, August 26**, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. both days. We will begin Monday with the Superintendent's **Convocation at Seymour Middle School**, featuring a motivational message and the recognition of our Teacher of the Year, **Jessica DeNigris**.

Let us enter this year with purpose and passion. Let us commit to the work ahead. And above all else—**let us Believe.**

Here's to a remarkable year of growth, learning, and achievement.

LET'S GO WILDCATS!

Warmly,

Dr. Susan Compton

Superintendent of Schools

Seymour Public Schools

Seymour Public Schools

Agenda for Monday, August 25, 2025: All staff should plan to attend.

7:15-7:55 - Registration, coffee

8:00-8:15 – Superintendent’s Opening Remarks

- Introduction of Board of Education
- Introduction of Special Guests

8:15-8:30 – Introduction of all new staff by school administrators:

- Seymour High School - Paul Lucke, Stephanie Ciccone
- Seymour Middle School - Keith O’Rourke, Ernie DiStasi
- Chatfield LoPresti – David Olechna, Jake Velleco
- Bungay Elementary – Lauren Reid, Dave Willadsen

8:30-8:50 – Teacher of the Year

- Introduction
- Motivational Address: Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Jessica DeNigris

8:50 – 9:00 – Meagan Krushinski, Seymour Education Association President

9:00-9:15 – Superintendent’s Closing Remarks

9:15-9:30 - Dismissal to building/designated areas. (see principal for schedule)

10:00-12:00 – Professional Learning / Building-based meetings (see principal for schedule)

- 10:00-11:15 BES and CLS Teachers – Teacher Evaluation (Kate Field, CEA) – SMS Auditorium
- 10:00-11:15 BES and CLS Paraeducators - BCBA Elementary Paraeducator Training (Michael Magnotta and Ling Guo) - SMS Library Media Center
- 10:00-12:00 SHS and SMS Special Education (Special Ed Teachers and Psychologists) – Woodcock Johnson Training with I-Pads – Library Classroom
- 11:15-12:00 BES and CLS Teachers and Paraeducators - Policies and Procedures (David Olechna, Lauren Reid, David Willadsen, Jake Velleco) – SMS Auditorium

12:00-12:15 Break (Morning)

12:15-12:45 - Lunch @ SMS (Catered by Meagan Krushinski)

12:45-1:00 Break (Afternoon)

1:00-3:00 – Professional Learning / Building-based meetings (see principal for schedule)

- 1:00-1:45 SHS and SMS Teachers and Paraeducators - Policies and Procedures (Paul Lucke, Stephanie Ciccone, Keith O'Rourke, Ernie DiStasi) – SMS Auditorium
- 1:45-3:00 SHS and SMS Teachers – Teacher Evaluation (Kate Field, CEA) – SMS Auditorium
- 1:00-3:00 BES and CLS Special Education Teachers and School Psychologists- Woodcock Johnson Training with I-Pads (Kris Boyle) — Library Classroom
- 1:45-3:00 SHS and SMS Paraeducators - BCBA Elementary Paraeducator Training (Michael Magnotta and Ling Guo) - SMS Library Media Center

Tuesday, August 26, 2024, 8:00-3:00

(All certified teachers, paraeducators, and Seymour tutors should plan to attend.)

8:00-12:15 Professional Learning/Building based meeting.

12:15-1:00 Lunch (on your own)

1:00-3:00 Professional Learning/Building based meeting.

I am excited to begin my fifth year with you and to kick off the 2025-2026 school year together. I remain humbled and honored to work alongside such an impressive group of professionals in the Seymour Public Schools.

In closing, *LET'S GO WILDCATS!*

Warm regards,

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools

“Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat!”