



Eric A. Byrne, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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August 29, 2025

Dear Darien Community,

I hope you've had a great start to the school year. The weather has been picture perfect and the children are so excited to be back. I have enjoyed meeting so many students, families and new colleagues during my visits to the schools this week. As I mentioned in my community letter several weeks ago, I will be sending a Friday update to all families and staff with helpful information. My personal style is to be generous with information. You can expect frequent and transparent communication from me as we celebrate our schools' achievements and openly navigate challenges together.

Safety

With school back in session, school buses are on the road and children are walking, cycling and riding scooters more frequently through town. Please be mindful of the extra bus and pedestrian traffic as you travel. We ask that parents/guardians review the safe rules of the road for those riding bikes or scooters. We also request that you remind your children to be aware of their surroundings while walking and not to look down at their cell phones while crossing streets.

On the Radio

On Tuesday I joined Melissa in the Morning on WICC radio to talk about the latest changes at DPS. If you are interested in hearing what we discussed, you can listen to the interview [here](#).

In The News

Darien's Director of Dining Services, Meghan Bendish, was recently featured on a Fox 61 segment highlighting the importance of healthy school lunches. The feature showcased Darien's lunch program and its new **Dip into Flavor** options for students. You can view the full [segment](#) and find all of our school menus on our [website](#).

BOE Meeting

At the Board of Education meeting that was held on Tuesday, August 26, district administrators presented a summer recap highlighting many of the happenings from the school district this summer. If you are interested in learning more about curriculum, professional learning, special education, facilities and human resources, please click on this [link](#). The presentation begins at 6:49. I am very proud of all that has been accomplished this summer and I hope you have a chance to watch the presentation.

2025-2026 Calendar

I am sharing the [2025-2026 school calendar](#) again as it highlights key dates. New this year, and for this year only, are specific early releases and late starts for Hindley, Holmes, and Royle elementary schools to facilitate important construction-related transitions. Additionally and, also for this year only, there is early release time for our K-5 students to allow dedicated time for professional learning around our new elementary literacy resource. As in previous years, the calendar also accounts for high school professional learning communities, elementary parent conferences and districtwide professional learning.

Darien Public Schools

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Have a wonderful weekend and Happy Labor Day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric A. Byrne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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