



Dr. Susan Compton
Superintendent

Seymour-One District. One Journey.
Continuous Growth – The Pathway of a Wildcat

August 19, 2026

Dear Seymour Public Schools Faculty and Staff,

Welcome back to Seymour Public Schools and to the beginning of the **2026–2027 school year!**

I hope your summer provided you with time to relax, recharge, and spend time with the people and things that bring you joy. As we begin another school year together, I am reminded of what makes our profession so special. Every day, we have the opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child—to inspire curiosity, build confidence, encourage perseverance, and help shape the future of our community.

Teaching and working in a school district is more than a profession; it is a calling. The work you do each day matters, and the impact you have on our students extends far beyond the walls of our schools. You should be proud of the important role you play in helping our students grow, learn, and discover their potential.

I am truly delighted that **you are part of our Seymour school community and one of our Seymour Champions**. I value the positive energy, commitment, and dedication that each of you brings to our district. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence as we educate and inspire our **Seymour Champions—Today's Students and Tomorrow's Leaders**.

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, we have much to be excited about. One of our continued priorities is the **Pathway of a Wildcat**, our K–12 journey focused on developing the skills and competencies every Seymour student needs to thrive. Through this pathway, we are working to ensure that our students grow into **critical thinkers, effective communicators, problem solvers, self-directors, and strong emotion navigators**.

We will also continue our journey toward **K–12 NEASC accreditation**, with the goal of completing this important work by 2029. At the same time, we look forward to the opening of a new **Bungay Elementary School** in 2029. These milestones represent more than projects or initiatives—they represent our commitment to continuous growth and to creating the very best educational experiences and opportunities for every Seymour student.

Our District. Our Community. Our Commitment.

We have an outstanding school system, and I truly believe that together we can continue to make Seymour Public Schools one of the premier school districts in the nation. That goal begins with each of us and the commitment we make every day to our students, our families, and one another.

I look forward to continuing our partnership with our administrators, faculty and staff, students, families, and the entire Seymour community as we work together to fulfill our district mission: **to fully know our students as learners, to educate and inspire them through a range of experiences that reflect high expectations for learning, to prepare them to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world, and to always put students first**.

Although summer is a time to rest and recharge, it is also a very busy time throughout our district. Many of our staff members have spent countless hours preparing our schools, classrooms, offices, programs, and systems for the arrival of our students.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our **custodial staff** for their tremendous work throughout the summer. Their commitment to maintaining our schools and preparing our facilities for the start of the year does not go unnoticed. Our buildings are ready because of their hard work and dedication. If you see one of our custodians as you move through the buildings, please take a moment to thank them for everything they do.

I would also like to recognize and thank our **school nurses, IT department, school security officers, town employees, bus drivers, and food service staff** for the important work they have done throughout the summer to ensure that our schools, facilities, and students are safe, supported, and ready for the year ahead.

Finally, a special thank you goes to our **administrators, secretaries, administrative assistants, and Central Office team**, many of whom have worked throughout the summer to prepare for the new school year. From registering new students and responding to families, to preparing communications, schedules, staffing, supplies, and countless other details, their work has helped ensure that we are ready to welcome our students back on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026**.

The start of a school year requires the efforts of an entire community, and I am grateful for every person who has contributed to making Seymour Public Schools ready for another successful year.

Welcoming New Members of Our Seymour Family

I am excited to welcome several new members to our Seymour Public Schools family. Please join me in welcoming **Mr. David Willadsen, Principal of Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary**, and **Mrs. Katie Furino, Assistant Principal of Bungay Elementary**, along with the many new faculty and staff members who will be joining us this year. We are thrilled to have you as part of our team and look forward to the experience, energy, and ideas you will bring to our schools.

Two Days of Learning, Collaboration, and Connection

As we prepare to welcome our students, I look forward to being together for two meaningful days of professional learning, collaboration, and connection on **Monday, August 24, and Tuesday, August 25, 2026**. These days provide us with an opportunity to reconnect as a district, reflect on our shared purpose, and prepare for the important work ahead.

Please note that **all district staff should plan to attend the full day on Monday, August 24**. We will begin promptly at **8:00 A.M. in the Seymour Middle School Auditorium** for our district convocation. Following convocation, staff will transition to building-based meetings and professional learning.

We are especially excited to hear from our **2026–2027 Seymour Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Nicole Hiscock**, who will share a motivational message with us. Her dedication to our students and our profession is an inspiring example of the commitment and passion that make Seymour Public Schools such a special place to learn and work.

Monday, August 24, 2026

District Convocation & Building-Based Professional Learning

7:15–7:55 A.M. — Registration, Coffee & Treats

8:00 A.M. — Welcome

8:05 A.M. — Introduction of Board of Education Members & Special Guests

8:10 A.M. — Introduction of Administration

8:15 A.M. — Introduction of New Staff by Building Administrators

- Seymour High School
- Seymour Middle School
- Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary
- Bungay Elementary

8:30 A.M. — Recognition of Paraeducator of the Year, **Dana Satkowski**, presented by Dr. Kris Boyle

8:35 A.M. — Introduction of Teacher of the Year, **Mrs. Nicole Hiscock**, by Mrs. Reid and Dr. Compton

8:40 A.M. — Motivational Address: **Mrs. Nicole Hiscock, Teacher of the Year**

9:00 A.M. — Seymour Educator Association: **Meagan Krushinski** **9:10 A.M.** — Professional Development Schedule: **Mr. David Olechna**

9:15 A.M. — Convocation Message: **Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools**

9:25–9:45 A.M. — *Seymour-One District. One Journey.* — **K-12 NEASC Accreditation: Mr. Paul Lucke**

9:45 A.M. — Closing Remarks

9:48 A.M. — Dismissal to Buildings; Break & Lunch Provided at Each Building

10:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. — Building-Based Meetings

12:00–12:45 P.M. — Lunch, Provided by Buildings

12:45–3:00 P.M. — Professional Learning/Building-Based

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Certified Staff Only – Professional Learning at Individual Buildings

8:00 A.M.–12:15 P.M. — Professional Learning/Building-Based

12:15–1:00 P.M. — Lunch, On Your Own

1:00–3:00 P.M. — Professional Learning/Building-Based

Looking Ahead Together

As we begin my **sixth year** with Seymour Public Schools, I remain humbled and truly honored to work alongside such an outstanding group of professionals. Each of you brings something unique to our district, and together, we make a difference in the lives of our students every single day.

As we begin this new school year, let us continue to support one another, celebrate our successes, embrace opportunities for growth, and keep our students at the center of all that we do. Our journey is one we take together, and I am excited about what we will accomplish as **one Seymour Public Schools community**. Thank you for your continued dedication, your passion for our students, and your commitment to making Seymour Public Schools a place where every student can learn, grow, and thrive.

I look forward to an incredible year ahead and to continuing our journey together.

Seymour-One District. One Journey.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Susan Compton

Superintendent of Schools

**Once a Wildcat,
Always a Wildcat**