Darien Public Schools

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Dear Darien Community,

I hope you have all your Blue Wave swag ready to go for homecoming weekend. School is definitely into the swing of things and I truly appreciate the time I get to spend in classrooms. This week, I met with Mrs. Murphy's second grade class at Tokeneke as part of their community study. The students asked me excellent questions about my job and how a superintendent is a community helper. We wrapped up the visit with one of my all time favorite second grade read alouds, *Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook* by Michael Garland. Today I visited with Ms. Coudert's second grade class at Tokeneke as well, sharing the book. I also enjoyed visiting the fifth grade classes at Hindley this week and talking with students about their multiplication work.

Hindley Elementary School Ribbon Cutting
Next week we will have the first of our three ribbon cutting ceremonies to celebrate the completion of the renovation projects at Hindley, Holmes and Royle Elementary Schools. We invite our entire DPS community to join us next Thursday, October 1 at 4:00 PM at Hindley Elementary School for the ribbon cutting and student-led tours of the newly renovated spaces. Make sure to mark your calendars for the other ribbon cuttings as well, with Holmes on Thursday, October 8 and Royle on Thursday, October 15, both at 4:00 PM.

Board of Education Meeting Recap - September 22 & Curriculum Committee Recap - September 24
At Tuesday's BOE meeting, Dr. Fedigan presented the 2025–2026 Standardized Assessment Data Report, highlighting student achievement, growth trends, and academic performance across state and national measures. You can find the video of the presentation here. Yesterday, the BOE Curriculum Committee reviewed PK-12 curriculum updates for the 2026-2027 school year, focusing on systemic coherence, accessible academic standards, and transparent learning goals. Included in the presentation was a demonstration on how to easily navigate and find curriculum resources on our district website. You can find the video of the presentation here.

Byrne's Book Club
Byrne's Book Club is back! To help us prepare, I am inviting all members of our community to fill out this poll to choose the books we will be discussing at the book clubs. Please vote for your top choice from the list in the poll, and the top three will be the selections for the year. Our first meeting will take place on October 29 at 7:00 PM at The Depot. Mark your calendars for our remaining two sessions on February 11 at 7:00 PM and April 21 at 7:00 PM (locations will be announced closer to each date).

Fireside Chats
As we look ahead into the school year, please save the dates for our upcoming Fireside Chats, which offer a wonderful opportunity for open dialogue and connection across our community. The Fall Fireside Chat will be held on November 18 at

7:00 PM at Hindley Elementary School, and the Spring Fireside Chat will take place on March 3 at 7:00 PM at Royle Elementary School.

Parent University

We are also excited to announce our schedule for this year's Parent University programming. Please save the dates for our upcoming sessions on October 15 at 6:30 PM, January 21 at 9:30 AM, March 23 at 6:30 PM, and May 4 at 9:30 AM. Specific topic details and registration information for each event will be shared soon.

DHS Ensembles Autumn Showcase Concert

The DHS Ensembles Autumn Showcase Concert will be held on Thursday, October 1st at 7:00pm in the DHS auditorium. This is your chance to hear selections from each of the DHS Band, Chorus, and Orchestra all in the same concert! We hope to see you there! The concert will be livestreamed on DPS Live Events if you can't make it in person.

Around Town - The Mather Homestead

Last night I attended the premier of the film *The Mather Legacy: An American Story*. If you are not familiar with the Mather Homestead, it is Darien's only Registered National Historic Landmark. A wonderful historical space in the community, it offers a wide range of programs for all ages. Students in the Darien Public Schools visit on field trips and I encourage you to explore the website and check out the terrific offerings here. Many thanks to Samanth Gault, Executive Director, for a tour this summer and the invitation to last night's event.

Athletic Schedule

Happy Homecoming! I hope to see you all in attendance at the football game tonight at DHS to cheer on the Blue Wave as they take on Fairfield Ludlowe. Best of luck to all of our varsity teams in their games throughout the weekend:

Friday, September 25

Boys Soccer vs. Greenwich High School: 5:00 PM, Greenwich High School
Football vs. Fairfield Ludlowe: 7:00 PM, DHS Stadium Field

Saturday, September 26

Girls Soccer vs. Greenwich High School: 10:00 AM, DHS Center Oval
Girls Swimming vs. Fairfield Warde: 1:00 PM, Fairfield University Pool

Roll Wave! Have a terrific weekend.

Sincerely,



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