

Dear Durham District School Board Families,

Welcome Back to the 2018-2019 School Year. We hope you had an enjoyable, fun and relaxing summer. We are excited about the year ahead and working with you to ensure student success and well-being. This year we are launching our new Ignite Learning Strategic Priorities, which are based on feedback provided by DDSB students, staff, parents/guardians, and the community. We asked you, "What is important to you at the DDSB?" Six clear strategic priorities came from your feedback, helping to create a new, exciting and dynamic plan.

Our six strategic priorities include focusing on Success, Well-Being, Leadership, Equity, Engagement and Innovation. Our new priorities and strategic goals can be found on our website at ddsbc.ca.

This year we begin Phase 2 of our leveraging digital strategy that will now see students in grades 7, 8, 10 and 11 with Chromebooks to provide them with the tools to further develop global competencies and digital knowledge. And now iPads are being used as a digital tool and resource in our kindergarten and grade 1 classes, and students in grades 2 through 6 will have classroom Chromebooks as well. This is a major transformation in teaching and learning to prepare our students for a globally connected and interactive world.

We will continue to focus on safe, welcoming and inclusive schools that support the richly diverse population of our community. We will be launching a new anti-bullying program and providing additional training to support inclusive schools.

Our new DDSB website is under development and, when completed this year, will provide more information, resources and easy access to parents. We are expanding our parent engagement opportunities to continue to create strong partnerships to work together for our students.

We encourage you to get involved at your school. Your classroom teacher is your first contact, and is there to support your child. The school principal is another resource and would welcome your involvement on the School Community Council.

We want to wish you and your children a great 2018-2019 school year. We will continue to update you on the latest information through your child's school website, our board website, and through our social media channels.

On behalf of the Trustees and Senior Team, all the best for the 2018-2019 school year!

Sincerely,

Michael Barrett
Chair of the Board

Lisa Millar
Director of Education