

Dear Washoe County School District Family,

For many of you, welcome back! I hope you are excited to begin the 2019-20 school year, which is now only one week away!

For some of you, it's your first day on the job and I had the pleasure of meeting with you and speaking with you at our New Hire Breakfast this morning. Thanks for attending and thank you for making the decision to join our wonderful and dedicated team in the WCSD.

I had a super time on Friday greeting our principals, assistant principals, administrators, department leads, leadership team members, and more as we joined together in our official kickoff of the school year at our "Lead, Teach, Learn" event. It was so great to connect with you all and to start the school year in such a unifying way as we begin our work around Professional Learning Communities (PLC's). It was important for me as well to reiterate my core beliefs of serving with honesty, integrity, kindness, and being present. There was a lot of positive energy in the room.

I also had the honor of welcoming and speaking to our Transportation Department employees during their meeting at Mendive MS. There were so many heartfelt stories about how Transportation employees do their very best to make our students (and sometimes even complete strangers) feel safe, secure, and cared for. I had a lot of fun seeing employees I have not seen since my days as a principal at Lois Allen and Marvin Moss. I would be remiss if I didn't mention my meeting this morning with elementary school managers from Nutrition Services, where we discussed the critical role they play in keeping our students healthy and ready to learn. From there, I met with WEA building representatives, and I was happy to welcome them back to the new school year. I remember my time as a teacher and principal, and how the new year brought so many challenges and responsibilities. What an exciting time this is!

I'd like to start this week off by reminding folks that I am working to develop my 60/90/120 day plan. In fact, I will be discussing this at a workshop tomorrow at 2 p.m. with the Board of Trustees. I know that's a difficult time for many of you to attend, but please know that the discussion will be livestreamed [here](#). A video recording will be publicly available in the near future.

Also, there are plenty of opportunities to share your feedback with me. You can email me directly, or provide feedback via Survey Monkey, which is anonymous and can only be accessed by me. Please provide your responses [here](#).

As part of my ongoing efforts to gain feedback from our fellow District employees, I have implemented a new schedule of regular meetings with the leaders of all employee bargaining units. I want to increase transparency and community in my communications with our employees, and this is an important part of that effort. For a look at a recent meeting, please click [here](#).

As I've been examining data and trends from the Listen to Learn sessions held at 55 schools last year, one topic that came up was a misunderstanding about how our allocations process works. If you've wanted to learn more about that issue, I hope you will take the time to watch this [informative video](#) on the subject.

Additionally, there were many excellent outcomes for our District that came out of the recent legislative session. One of those which will impact every school is a change to our volunteer policy that should maintain safety and security at schools while simultaneously helping to lessen some of the burdens that the more stringent law had placed on schools.

We are still in the process of adapting our policies and administrative regulations to the new state legislation, but I am optimistic that these changes should increase the number of volunteers available to assist schools and District programs, while providing valuable opportunities for family members to volunteer their time in our schools. If you have any questions regarding the new processes, please contact our Volunteer Office at (775) 348-0346.

Please don't forget that our Back to School Expo is this Saturday, Aug 10 from noon to 3 p.m. at Meadowood Mall. This is an excellent opportunity for our families to get their questions answered and interact with District departments and community partners. There also will be several 40-minute workshops devoted to special education. I hope you will have a chance to drop by and check it out!

One more quick note: Our IT Department is seeing a significant increase in an email scam that appears to come from your supervisor's email—not from a washoeschools.net address, but possibly a gmail.com, yahoo.com, or cox.net address. If you respond, the scammer will engage with you and eventually ask you to purchase gift cards, scratch off the stickers, and email a photo of the card to him or her before they disappear with your gift card information. Please—if you see any suspicious emails, forward them to spamscam@washoeschools.net so our IT staff can work to protect all of us.

Take care,

Kristen

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