



## Superintendent's Message

Dear Whitesboro School Community,

With great enthusiasm, I would like to welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year! Together, we have so much to look forward to as we begin a new academic year. As your new Superintendent, I am excited and proud to continue my career in such an outstanding district. August marked the beginning of my 17th year in the Whitesboro District. As you may know, I previously served in district as both Elementary Principal and Director of Special Programs and Services.

This summer has been filled with many preparations for the upcoming year. While passing by our facilities, you may have noticed our capital project is well underway. In the article below, you will see a detailed list of what has been and what will be done regarding upgrades to our district.

Our instructional program continues to evolve to best meet the needs of our students. In pursuit of this goal, we have implemented some very positive changes. At the elementary level, the Reading Street program for ELA will be fully implemented this year in grades K-5 across the district. In addition, elementary teachers have been working with BOCES to update science kits with a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. Health education will be taught at grade 6, providing students with more timely exposure to and discussion of various topics that impact their personal health and safety. Our high school continues to explore and offer opportunities for students to earn college credit through Advance Placement (AP) and dual credit courses. Students taking advantage of these opportunities leave our high school even better prepared to begin their college education. Our high school science department continues to investigate ways to expand the use of our recently acquired scanning electron microscope. This state-of-the-art technology is another example of the forward-thinking nature of our school community. These are just a few of the innovative changes our district has made to provide the best educational opportunities to our students.

This past spring, we engaged a group of stakeholders to renew our mission statement. Based on the core purpose and aims of our organization, participants developed the following mission statement:

***"To inspire, cultivate, and empower all learners to maximize their potential."***

This will serve as our district's guiding principle when making educational decisions.

I look forward to working with you in my new role as we strive to accomplish our district's mission. Together, we will focus our efforts on providing our students the best education possible both in and outside of the classroom. Best wishes to everyone as we embark on the 2016-2017 school year.

Sincerely,

**Brian K. Bellair**

*Superintendent of Schools*

