

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

### Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! Together, we have so much to look forward to as we begin a new academic year. As I begin my 18th year here in Whitesboro, second as superintendent, I took some time to reflect on the many outstanding accomplishments we've experienced during those years. While too numerous to mention, suffice to say they reaffirm my long-held belief that we are both a leading district in our region and our state. Our academic program offers rigorous curricula with opportunities to pursue individual interests and pathways to graduation. Rich offerings in the arts and athletics ensure our students have a well-rounded educational experience.

This summer has focused on preparing our facilities and programs for the upcoming year. While passing by our facilities, you may have noticed our capital project continues to progress. On the front cover of the newsletter, 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 our elementary schools, we successfully implemented our reading program, Reading Street. In September, we will begin a new initiative in grades K-5, Keyboarding Without Tears, a web-based curriculum that teaches typing, general computer readiness, digital citizenship and online test prep. Our Middle School Campus continued their work aligning curriculum to the Common Core Standards, while increasing the rigor of lessons and content. The High School is offering two new courses, AP Psychology and AP Environmental Science. These courses, in addition to our current offerings, will continue to help our students become college and career ready.

Thank you for your continued support. As a community, we have so much to be proud of and thankful for in our schools. Together, we continue to provide the best educational opportunities possible to our students. Enjoy the rest of your summer. I look forward to our continued work together in pursuit of our mission.

Sincerely,

**Brian K. Bellair**

*Superintendent of Schools*

