



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

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! Together, we have so much to look forward to as we begin a new academic year. As I reflect on what will be my 19th opening of school here in Whitesboro, 3rd as superintendent, my thoughts immediately went to what we aspire to be as a District. Driven by our mission, we are focused on providing the best educational opportunities for our students in an environment that is suited to today's learners. While we have state-of-the-art programs and technology available to our students and staff, if the most basic needs aren't met, the potential they bring will never be realized. One of the most basic needs, safety and security, has underscored much of our planning and work for the upcoming year. To that end, we have done extensive work to ensure our facilities create a safe environment in which teaching and learning can be maximized. Some improvements we have made include:

- Reconfiguring and "hardening" main office reception areas
- Installing a new IP phone system that will allow us to create an integrated safety and security system
- Installing shatter-resistant security film or security screens on all classroom door windows
- Upgrading and expanding our access control system
- Expanding our camera system to better monitor our facilities

As you can see, the safety and security of our schools is, and will continue to be, a focal point of our District. We will continue to provide you with updates as our work is planned and completed.

Of course, our instructional program also underwent considerable review, including the completion of 51 curriculum projects this summer. While too numerous to list here, suffice to say, we are well-positioned to continue providing high-quality educational experiences to our students with the aim of college, career, and citizenship ready graduates - an aim that necessitates a relevant and rigorous K-12 curriculum.

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 outstanding educational opportunities to our students. Enjoy the rest of your summer. I look forward to our continued work together in pursuit of our mission.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Brian K. Bellair**

*Superintendent of Schools*