

A Message from Superintendent Hoernemann



August 2015

Welcome to the 2015-16 school year, one that is off to a positive and different start. “Avon is not for the faint of heart.” Ten years ago, we used to utter that phrase every time we interviewed prospective employees.

We wanted to let them know that life moves fast in this district. We were growing a lot and as a result building schools, redistricting and moving staff. Most importantly we always aimed to be progressive in our practice. If the candidates wanted a traditional, unchanging organization we encouraged them to look elsewhere.

While enrollment growth has slowed down considerably, change is still the watchword. We begin this year with two highly valued principals moving to other districts. Mrs. Annette Patchett (White Oak) accepted a position with Westfield, where she resides. With a young family, this represents a great personal move for her. Mr. Scott Collins (Hickory) will be assistant superintendent in Fayette County Schools where his Mom and Dad currently live. By accepting this promotion, Mr. Collins will be able to provide significant support for his parents and grow in a challenging new leadership role. We are grateful to both and will miss them.

Staff and parents from both schools assisted us during the recent interview process to replace these leaders and the Board just named two new administrators. Mr. Keary Rininger will be the Hickory principal effective August 31. Mr. Rininger most recently served as principal of Glens Valley in Perry Township and has a record as a strong and caring leader. Mr. and Mrs. Rininger and their children live in Avon and his children attend Hickory!

Welcome to Mr. Jarrod Gatlin as the new assistant principal for White Oak/Maple effective September 3. Mr. Gatlin is currently assistant principal of Allisonville Elementary in Washington Township. Mr. Gatlin has extensive experience as a teacher, coach, and administrator in Brownsburg, Lebanon and Washington Township.

Other new hires? Thanks to the efficiency work we have done for the last several years and stronger funding from the state of Indiana, we were able to add almost 31 new teaching positions! Our class sizes—particularly at the K-4 level—are much improved although not yet where we want them to be. Nonetheless, the progress is exciting.

Charles Darwin is often credited with coining the phrase “the survival of the fittest”- however such attribution is not really complete. Rather, Darwin said: “In the struggle for survival, the fittest win out at the expense of their rivals because they succeed in adapting themselves best to their environment.” Our continued ability to adapt to the changes in the educational field is what will help our district stay strong.

Thank you for your support.

As always, I welcome your feedback. Feel free to email me at mehoernemann@avon-schools.org.

Sincerely,

Margaret Hoernemann
Superintendent

 @AvonSupt

Educate. Excite. Excel.

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