

Pirates,

First off, welcome back to Palatine for the 2019-2020 school year! I hope you have all had a restful summer with time to unwind, relax, and refresh your minds for the upcoming school year. It has been a great summer here at PHS filled with planning and preparation (with a bit of rest and relaxation thrown in there) in anticipation for the upcoming school year. Using data and research, we have examined our strengths, weaknesses, and defined our areas to focus on for growth. We have evaluated many of our practices as a school and are ready to begin the 2019-2020 school year. I could not be more excited for the start of the year and to see what the future holds for our school. I am confident that we will continue to challenge ourselves in our professional development to ensure we put our students in the best position to succeed.

We will be starting the year with two institute days on August 8th and 9th. On August 8th we will meet for a full breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. At this time I will be presenting you with our vision and goals as a school and staff, as well as introducing our professional development focus for the 19-20 school year. Our team has been hard at work this summer to prepare for the coming school year and to ensure that our 2019-2020 school year is structured, efficient, and of course, productive. The rest of the day will be filled with all-staff professional development in various areas of the building. We will also be hosting a BBQ on the back fields for those of you that would like to eat lunch and catch up with colleagues. Please fill out the Google form below to RSVP for the BBQ. On day two we will be meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria for a short introduction for the day and we will be working throughout the morning on district and school trainings. You will have the afternoon for departmental/PLT time to prepare for our first day of school on August 12th.

As many of you know, we began on a journey four years ago to look at our school-wide systems and instructional practices to better reach every student. Through our journey we developed a partnership with Dr. Gary Howard and his Deep Equity team. Last year was spent training and learning with some of our staff to make sure we began this process in our school in the best possible way. I am confident that the work that was begun last year, and the work that has been planned for the coming year, will be worthwhile for our students and staff. Opening day will include multiple discussions led by Dr. Howard and will highlight the work that we have made our own and "Piratized" for our school. It will be an energy filled day, full of thoughtful activities and sometimes difficult conversations. I thank you ahead of time for your open minds and commitment to being engaged in the process of trying to reach all students.

Lastly, please enjoy your final days of summer vacation. I am excited to see all of you on August 8th with a renewed energy to continue to try and reach every student at Palatine High School.

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Palatine High School  
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