



# WEST PLATTE SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"Preserving the Past, Building the Future"*

Date: 7-25-2012

Dear Faculty and Staff:

I hope this letter finds you well and you have enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating summer. It has been a busy and eventful summer around school, and I feel much progress has been made as we gear up for the new school year! I am writing to share some important updates with you, including information in regard to the back to school events.

## **New Teammates**

I am pleased to announce the following new West Platte teammates for the upcoming year. As you embrace your new partners in learning, I am anxious to see how positive leadership emerges among the staff. As a new member of the team personally, I am anxious to learn from you and discover the leadership qualities within each of you!

Junior High Math – Emilia Sheffer

Junior High English – Brigitte Chaurand

High School Business – Hannah Kasner

Director of Technology – Shane Farmer

Technology Integration Specialist – Angie Brill

Director of Community Engagement – Ashley Ellis

## **Back to School**

Our pre-student days will certainly be busy this year, as we have much to cover. A large portion of your training will focus on our new technology and communications tools. We also will talk briefly about Common Core, MSIP 5, and district goals as we prepare for the years to come. Some meals and gifts have been planned for you as well! If you have any specific requests in regard to PD or training, please let your building principal or me know. Included is a tentative agenda for the Professional Development Days and Work Days. Some planning is still in progress.

## **Technology**

Much work is in progress and is scheduled to be completed by the time you return, or shortly thereafter. Mr. Farmer, Ms. Brill, Mrs. Shipman, and Mrs. Ellis have worked hard through the summer to upgrade our IT and communications. Below are a few things you can expect:

1. Facebook (July)
2. New Website [wpsd.net](http://wpsd.net) (July)
3. New email - your last name and first initial @wpsd.net (July)
4. Online maintenance and technology request form (July)
5. Google Apps for Education (August)

6. SMART Boards in all classrooms (August)
7. Document cameras in all classrooms (August)
8. Upgraded Bandwidth from 3meg to 50meg to assist in internet functionality (August)
9. Upgraded switching and wireless access throughout the building (September)
10. New Acceptable Usage Policy and BYOD Policies (September)

As they say, Rome wasn't built in a day. So, please embrace this new technology in stride and let us know how we can help. Above all, keep our focus on that which matters most... enhancing and continuously improving student learning while preparing students for THEIR future. Ongoing training will occur throughout the year. I challenge you to "learn something new and share something new" each day to help in this transition.

### **Character Education**

One of the most important and wise directives I have received from the Board of Education to date is to establish a school-wide and community-wide character education program to establish clear expectations, unified efforts, and a common language in regard to the qualities and characteristics we seek to instill in our students (and adults). The building principals, counselors, and I will be working to establish the program and will be looking for your partnership in molding our school climate and culture around this program. The environment we provide impacts attendance, morale, attitude, and above all, student learning. United, we can ensure we provide a learning environment which is highly conducive to learning. Attached are words of the month around which discussion may be held in classrooms, hallways, homes, and community. More details will follow in regard to our enhanced focus on building character at West Platte!

### **Facilities**

The maintenance and custodial staff and students have worked hard over the summer to prepare our facilities for learning. I've enjoyed seeing the buildings and classrooms take shape for the new year and I commend the team on a job well done. As we settle into our rooms and embrace some of the new technology, please let Mr. Hendrix and his team know of your needs. One important concept of technology is standardization. As such, placement of cable drops and SMART Boards have been standardized in most instances and may require teacher desks to be rearranged. Please let us know if you require assistance with furniture as you prepare your classrooms.

### **2012-2013 Theme: West Platte -An All American School**

To help kick off the new school year, we have chosen "West Platte – An All American School" as our theme. We are working to organize some activities for the first day of school revolving around this theme, and I invite you to incorporate it into your back to school planning and activities. As we look to the future of our country, instilling patriotism and citizenship within our youth is extremely important to this great nation. We hope this theme will help provide an opportunity to do so while also allowing for some fun and excitement on the first day of school. We are still planning, so if you have ideas, please call or email.

I look very forward to working together with you to provide a world-class educational program for our students, and I hope you enjoy the last few weeks of your summer break. If I may be of assistance, please let me know. Thanks for your time in reading this preview and see you soon!

Sincerely,



Jerrod Wheeler, Ed. D.