

Dear High School Faculty and Staff:

I hope this letter finds you well, and that your summer break has been as adventurous or as calm as you intended it to be! As I typically do in this letter, I would like to introduce some new staff who will be joining us this fall. **Daniel Taylor** joins our Biology team, replacing Craig Johnson who is heading to Kuwait on a two year leave of absence. Daniel most recently taught in Missouri. **Mary Jo Arndt** doubles our FACS department and will teach the child development and senior strategies courses. Mary Jo currently teaches in the district ECFE program. **Kathleen Casson** will be stepping into a section of German while Deborah Winkelman takes a .2 leave of absence. Kathleen also teaches German at Farmington High School. **Paul Ousley**, who many of you know (father of recently graduated Parker Ousley), returns to us from Owatonna High School to lead the high school orchestra program. Heather Olivier will continue with lessons at the HS as well as continue leading the MS orchestra program. Paul will be shared with the MS band program as well. **Esmee Hintze** joins our Wellness department (as well as the MS health department) replacing Leah Sand, who will focus her instruction on the reading and MTSS side of things. Esmee is a recent graduate of Concordia University in St. Paul. **Geoff Staab** will be replacing Ray Coudret in our math department as Ray covers assistant principal duties at the MS for the coming year. Geoff spent last year at the ALC, and was in Lakeville prior to that. **Rob McCarthy** joins our special education department and will be located in the resource area. Rob taught special education in MN and Florida prior to his 15 years as an instructor and assistant football coach at St. Olaf College. **Michelle Flannery** will join us one day weekly as a school psych, allowing Carrie Duba to spend time with MTSS initiatives. Welcome to all new staff!

A few specific items for your attention:

- Also, regarding the FIRST day of workshops, please look for information coming from Site Council about the potluck breakfast they have planned.
- Students will be receiving their iPads on August 19th from 12-4 and 21st from 2-6. Electronic schedules will go live on August 20th. If you have any interest in helping with iPad distribution on either of those days, please let me know. Your help would certainly be welcome!
- First Day – 9th graders arrive at regular time for LINK activities. All staff needs to be out of rooms from 9:30-11:00. All students run 15 minute class/5 minute passing time schedule starting at 12:30 p.m. 9th graders will have nothing with them when they come to your classes. LINK leaders will not be in 7th hour.
- We are bringing back the class meetings this fall. Class meetings will occur on Friday, September 5. 12th graders period 3; 11th graders period 2; 10th graders period 5; 9th graders period 7. I apologize for the odd order, but there are items that day that require us to be a bit creative in scheduling each grade.
- Picture day will happen simultaneously with iPad distribution. Picture makeup day is September 23rd from 7:30-12:00 in the auditorium.
- MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT this year is the evening of September 17th (please note this is a **Wednesday** evening), from 6:30-8:30. Please mark your calendars for this event.

Teachers new to the district will report to the middle school the morning of *Wednesday, August 20th*, and will continue their orientation *Thursday, August 21st*. On *Monday, August 25th* and *Tuesday, August 26th*, NHS faculty will report to the high school for breakfast, staff development (4 hours Monday/2 hours Tuesday) and work time (4 hrs Monday/6 hrs Tuesday). *Wednesday, August 27th* and *Thursday August 28th* are each slated for 2 hours of staff development time (iPads, Schoology expectations, PLCs, dept meetings), with the rest of the day given to you for work time.

I wish each of you an enjoyable remainder of the summer break, and we'll see you on the 25th.

Sincerely,
Joel