



OTTAWA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 290

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USD 290 Parents,

As we approach the first day of the 2023/24 school year for all students I wanted to reach out, welcome you back, and let you know of a few things that you should be seeing this year at your student's school. You may remember toward the middle of last year, we sent out a survey asking some questions to you all about you and your child's experiences in school with regard to their learning, outcomes, communication, assessment, etc. We utilized that data in part to develop a new strategic plan for USD 290 schools. The information that you provided to us is invaluable and ultimately will help us continue to improve student outcomes across the district.

We spent much of the time before students return working with teachers on the 4 pillars that guide our professional learning communities. The first - What do we want students to know? The second, How will we know if they have learned it? Third - What will we do for those students that didn't learn it yet? And lastly - How do we extend learning for those students that already know it? We have done extensive work the past 5 years in ensuring that our curriculum is documented, aligned to the state standards, is driven by research based materials, and that our staff are well trained in how to drive their instruction. Last year we saw substantial improvements in student achievement across the board. Focusing on these 4 questions should continue to show that substantial improvement as well as help to inform you regarding your student's skills, how you can help, how we can celebrate, and what learning we can look forward to together.

This creates a great segway into another item in which we are intending to improve upon - communication. The Board of Education has identified this as one of our goals within our new strategic plan. We are working to form better partnerships with the parents of our students as we work together to formulate their success. We want to be more transparent with what students are learning and invite parents to help us help their students find their success. We want the grades our students earn to have value and understanding, indicating what they know, what they don't know, and how to clearly understand what they need to address to improve their learning and their grade overall.

Both of these items were identified as areas in which parents felt that we could improve upon in our schools through the survey I spoke about earlier. We certainly appreciate the feedback and input as we continue to work to ensure that we impact these areas positively and as we foster a deeper partnership with our parents and students. Thank you all again for entrusting us with your kiddos! We look forward to sharing their successes throughout the year!

Sincerely,

Ryan Cobbs

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out at cobbsr@usd290.org or by phone at (785) 229-8010.