

**Gallatin County
Community Unit School District No. 7**

Dr. Judy Kaegi, Superintendent
5175 Highway 13
Junction, Illinois 62954

Welcome Back!

With great pleasure, I write this welcome letter to you and your children for a new school year. I am hopeful that despite the challenges we have faced, your family has had some moments of togetherness, rest and relaxation over the past few months.

All signs point to an incredible and productive school year. Our dedicated staff have prepared for student arrival and Open House tomorrow night. Our enthusiastic office team has registered new families, ordered needed materials, and updated returning students' files. Our hard-working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly painting and cleaning the facility. And our much-appreciated building principals have been gearing up to offer exciting events and programs this coming year. I hope everyone is relaxed, recharged, and ready to start the 2022-2023 school year. I welcome and value your passion, perspective, and positivity.

New Staff

Each year brings positive change. This year includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome the new principal Mrs. Lisa Fetcho to the District. Mrs. Fetcho is assigned to the Elementary School. Mrs. Maggie Price and Mrs. Meghan Russell special education department, Nick James and Bridgett Boulds agriculture department, Mrs. Kylie Patton kindergarten classroom, two paraprofessionals, Mr. Hunter Walters and Ms. Melanie Sisk, and Ms. Jackie Sharp will be part of our custodial team this year.

Facilities Update

The elementary playground has been updated with the sponge pour and play surface under the equipment. Our custodial paint team and maintenance director gave the equipment fresh orange and blue paint.

Last year's safety and security review recommended additional surveillance cameras be added to our school. Verkada completed interior and exterior cameras installation last week, enhancing our ability to record who is in and on our campus at all times.

An outdoor construction project will begin soon to create much-needed storage space for the District. Outdoor flushable restrooms, new scoreboards, and backstops for the boys' and girls' ballfields are also on the future projects lists.

Finally, the small offices and the band room received updating with fresh paint and new carpeting. We appreciate the updates to the facilities and those to come in the future.

Student Placement

A great deal of time, effort, and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2022-2023 school year. Careful consideration was given to staff input and student learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our class lists were structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities. It is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or

teacher. Thank you for being positive with your child to help them understand. As you know, it can take a few weeks for your child(ren) to acclimate to their new grade level, peer group, and teachers.

First Day of School

The first day of school is an exciting one for both parents and students. To ensure that our opening day drop off is smooth and safe, we are asking that families follow our regular arrival procedures. That being said, we will have special support in place for our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students and our new families to ensure a fabulous first day.

It remains an honor and privilege to serve as your Superintendent. Together, we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all students,

Best Regards,
Dr. Judy Kaegi, Superintendent
Gallatin County CUSD #7