



Dr. Hillary Stanifer  
Superintendent, Blue Ridge CUSD#18  
411 N. John Street, Farmer City, IL 61842  
Phone: 309 928-9141  
Email: [hstanifer@blueridge18.org](mailto:hstanifer@blueridge18.org)

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June 8, 2020

To the Blue Ridge Community,

As I assume the role of Superintendent of Blue Ridge Schools, I want to express my gratitude for the consistent and diligent leadership of my predecessor, Mrs. Susan Wilson. Mrs. Wilson's leadership was on display for the district as she skillfully led us through the beginning stages of the pandemic. For all her efforts over the last ten years in the superintendency, we are grateful.

As COVID-19 continues to impact our school community, there are many unknowns about what the fall will hold. A committee, comprised of members across job classifications, will be convened to examine various possibilities for our return to school. Options that will be considered will include the return to in-person learning, a version of remote learning, and a hybrid model that would combine both in-person learning and remote learning. As you can imagine, there is much information that must be considered and that information continues to change rapidly. We pledge to work diligently to balance the guidance provided by Governor Pritzker, the DeWitt Piatt Bi-County Health Department, and the needs of our Blue Ridge students, families, and staff. We will seek your input during this process and keep you informed of our plans and our progress throughout the summer.

The recent events surrounding the murder of George Floyd have greatly impacted our nation. As a public school district, we are in a position in which we can make a positive impact by intentionally addressing issues of race, justice, and equity in our learning environments. May we continue to learn how to best support all underserved populations for the health and well-being of our local, national, and global society.

I welcome you to call, email, or stop by the district office to meet me and share any concerns you may have. I look forward to serving the Blue Ridge community in this new role and I am thankful for your support.

Respectfully,

Dr. Hillary Stanifer

Mr. John Lawrence, BRHS Principal

Mrs. Katie Nichols, BRIJHS Principal

Mr. Ryan Peyton, Ruth M. Schneider Elementary Principal