



Lake Washington
School District No. 414

Dr. Chip Kimball -Superintendent

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Dear parent:

The beginning of each school year is a great time for all of us to reflect on what we expect from the next year of education. For parents, your child's academic success is most important but, if you are like me, you want your child to be successful as a friend and classmate as well. You want your child to explore interests, discovering new ones that keep them engaged in learning. You want your child to feel that school is a safe place to be and a place they feel valued.

As a district, we want to make sure that each student is connected to an adult in school, believes in the value of their learning and faces appropriate levels of challenge in their work. We revised our student profile and guiding principles with these values in mind. Each school, through their continuous improvement process, looks at their programs and practices to see what they can do better to ensure that students are connected, valued and challenged.

Last year, we asked schools to focus on challenge, and we will spend another year looking at that value. Students learn best when they are challenged at an appropriate level. When the work is too hard, a student may get discouraged. When it is too easy, a student can become bored. Neither of these conditions is conducive to good learning. As a teacher, it is difficult to make sure that students are doing work that individually challenges them. Schools are working on ways to make this happen. For example, elementary schools may group and regroup students so that work in reading or math can take place with small groups of students with similar challenges. As a district, we are working to make sure that teachers have curricula that provide different levels of challenge in each lesson and to supplement where that isn't available. All these efforts are important to optimize student learning.

As a parent, you can better support your student's learning when you know how they are doing in each subject and what is expected of them. We are working to provide access to new tools for parents to see grades, assignments and more. Elementary parents will have online access to their student's grades beginning in October. We are developing a new secure communications site that will enable students and parents alike to have online access to class information, including assignments, which will also facilitate communication between teachers, students and parents. That project will be completed in phases, starting with junior high schools and high schools this spring, then elementary schools next year. We will provide plenty of information as this project rolls out so that you can take advantage of these new information sources to support your student(s).

I am very excited what lies ahead for our students. I am confident that your student will find connection, value and challenge in our school system so that we can reach our vision of "Every Student Future Ready: Prepared for College, Prepared for the Global Workplace, Prepared for Personal Success."

Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Chip Kimball
Superintendent