



Rye City School District

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Frank R. Alvarez, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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September 2014

Dear Parents:

It has been an interesting summer. In the past two months, administrators, faculty and other school personnel have worked diligently to prepare for the opening of the 2014-2015 school year. We are poised for a strong start and hope that this will be a great year for you and your family.

Curriculum Update

Our work in the year ahead is focused on District priorities to improve student performance, while ensuring a commitment to best practices. We will continue our work regarding balanced literacy in K-5; introduce new electives at the Middle School; promote several STEM offerings at Rye High School, including *Project Lead the Way*; and support changes to intervention and remediation strategies for middle and high school students with special needs. In addition, we will continue to focus on emergency management procedures, character education to strengthen our *Culture of Caring* goal and instructional technology to support the use of new programs and resources.

School Construction

Work on the addition of a new science wing at Rye High School continued this summer. I expect that the new facility (12 science classrooms/labs) will be available for student use within the next week. In the meantime, seven newly-renovated classrooms in the existing building are ready for instructional use on opening day. The new construction accommodates increased enrollment at the High School, including 144 new students in the past two years, and provides for a state-of-the-art science facility for Rye students. Please be on the lookout for an invitation to tour the new science wing in the near future.

Personnel Matters

Several administrative staff changes are in order as we begin the new school year. This year we welcome Mr. James Boylan, Midland Principal, and Mr. Joseph DiGiovanni,

Middle School Assistant Principal. We also extend our best wishes to Ms. Suzanne Short, who assumes the position of Assistant Principal at Rye High School, and Ms. Kaitlyn Sassone, who was appointed as Instructional Technology Coordinator. Additionally, we take great pride in welcoming approximately 28 new faculty and staff members to the Rye school community. I am proud of our efforts to recruit talented administrators, faculty and staff who will continue to strengthen the work of our schools for years to come.

Enrollment Information

Our enrollment continues to reflect a steady upward trend. This year we welcome 241 kindergarten students, bringing our total student population to approximately 3,346 students.

There is always a great sense of excitement and opportunity as we embark on a new school year. Please continue to visit our website, www.ryeschools.org, for school news and events. I also encourage you to follow me on Twitter *@DrFrankAlvarez*. I look forward to another successful year and to seeing you at the various school events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Alvarez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "z".

Frank Alvarez
Superintendent