



OLYMPIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #16

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July 17, 2017

Dear Certified Staff Member -

On behalf of the board of education, administration, staff, and students, I would like to welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year! Below is a schedule of events:

On **Friday, August 11, 2017**, you are invited to attend development on Google Classroom. The development session is highly encouraged for teachers in grades 5-9, however, if your teaching assignment does not fall within those grades, you are still welcome to attend. Contact your building principal if you plan to attend. The training is not mandatory, however, if you choose to attend, you will receive the stipend outlined in the contract. See agenda.

On **Monday, August 14, 2017** you are invited to attend development on a myriad of Olympia programs and initiatives. The development session is highly encouraged for all teachers, but is not mandatory. You will receive your contracted hourly stipend for attending. See agenda.

On **Tuesday, August 15, 2017**, you will join all faculty and staff at 8:15 am in the Olympia High School Cafeteria for our District Opening Day Institute. An optional breakfast will be sponsored by Morton Community Bank and served at 7:30 am. The attached agenda highlights several exciting activities, including a session by our guest speaker, Arlene Pellicane, co-author of *Growing Up Social*. Before 10:00 am, you will be released for your Building Institute and lunch. Also, we will have our Open Houses for parents and students that evening. The purpose of the Open House is to meet families, have families familiarize themselves with the school/class, and build positive relationships with our students and parents. You may also provide materials for them to take home on classroom expectations, curriculum, and other pertinent information.

On **Wednesday, August 16, 2017**, students report for the first full day of school.

I feel blessed and honored to be a part of this outstanding team. Our hearts and minds have been focused on our mission of empowering students to recognize learning, growth, and success so they can be at their very best in school, college, career, and life. Helping students with empowerment and responsibility means that we need to teach and model for students how to "Think" with their heads (IQ), "Feel" with their hearts (EQ), and then "Act" with their words and bodies (SQ). Educational research and survey data reminds us that we have a huge impact on the lives of our students. In order to accomplish our mission, we must do everything in our power to engage the hearts, minds, and hands of our students in the learning process.

Thank you for all that you do for the students of our District, and I hope each of you has a fantastic school year.

Educationally Yours -

Andrew S. Wise, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools