

GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear GMRSD Families,

During the 2021-22 school year, I encountered many adults who commented that, of the three school terms affected by Covid-19, this last one was the most difficult. While this may have been reality for those who had to handle the responsibilities that come with being a “grown-up,” it most certainly was not the case for our students. September 2021 ended an 18-month period that changed education in a multitude of ways, many of which negatively impacted our students. The ability to return to a traditional classroom setting and schedule was a welcome change for so many of the children in our school community, and while the year itself had its trials and tribulations, the growth shown by our student population – academically and emotionally – was astounding.

We now begin the 2022-23 school year with more hope and certainty than we have had since 2019. Teachers can teach, students can learn and socialize, and our school community can become whole again. To that end, we have a number of district goals and initiatives that we will work toward over the next 12 months, and we invite everyone to participate and support whenever possible.

While working diligently to master all of the state academic standards, our students and staff will also become familiar with Restorative Practices and mindfulness to deepen our district's focus on our students' mental and emotional health. In addition to having a trauma-informed faculty, bringing in Restorative Practices and mindfulness will help students improve communication and self-regulation skills while learning strategies to reduce stress.

Additionally, as we aim to develop global citizens of the 21st Century, we will increase our commitment to celebrating diversity in our school, our community, and the world. Last year's creation of a district Diversity Committee elicited some creative ideas and potential for activities and events that will bring us together by understanding our differences. We invite community members to sign onto this Committee as opportunities arise to help spread the word and work toward a district-wide celebration in 2023.

GMRSD will also be working to improve air quality and temperature in all buildings, enhance our technological infrastructure, and collaborating with local law enforcement to ensure our school campus is the safest it can be.

Please join us on this journey! There are great things in store for all of our students that can only be enhanced by the inclusion of everyone in our school community. Welcome back! Let's get to work!

Sincerely,
Michael Mai
Superintendent of Schools
Principal – Central Elementary School