

Jody Monroe
Superintendent of Schools
jmonroe@bcsd.neric.org

Bethlehem Central School District

<http://bethlehemschools.org>



August 2017

Dear K-5 Family,

I hope that you are enjoying the summer and looking forward to a great year ahead. I would like to welcome everyone to the new school year, especially families new to our district. The first day of school for all students is Thursday, September 7 and we have an exciting year in store.

It has been a very busy summer around the District. We have hired many new teachers, administrators and support staff and are looking forward to having them join our talented team. Our Operations and Maintenance staff have been busy getting the buildings ready for September and we have some wonderful new spaces for our students and community to enjoy.

We have also been busy preparing for our Power of One initiative, which will provide Chromebooks to all students in grades 3-12, as a way to enhance personalized learning. Expanding Chromebook use across more grade levels is important as we strive to make technology integration in the classroom as seamless as possible

Chromebooks have been a part of Bethlehem Central's elementary school experience for the last few years. All Chromebook use takes place in the classroom, guided by the teacher. The devices allow for student collaboration and access to education apps such as See Saw, XtraMath and Raz-kids. They are also used for virtual field trips using Google Expeditions and Discovery Education. In addition, all K-2 classrooms this year will also be outfitted with six iPads for use in small group settings.

All information related to the Power of One can be found here:

<http://www.bethlehemschools.org/bcsd-power-chromebook-program-2/>

The Power of One Chromebook program is one of several district goals for 2017-18. At the August 9 Board of Education meeting, I presented an overview of the goals and also presented a framework for a five-year strategic plan for the Board to consider. In the coming months, we will be reaching out to parents and community members to assist us with this work. You can view all of this information on our website at bethlehemschools.org.

■
Educational Services Center
700 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054

518-439-7098
518-475-0352 fax

-more-

The beginning of school is such an exciting time and provides everyone with an opportunity to get involved. Please be sure to check out our website, the district's Facebook page, and our Twitter feed (@BethlehemCSD) to stay current on events around the District. Information is also shared with families who subscribe to our School News Notifier (SNN) system. If you are not a current subscriber or if you need to update your notification settings, I would encourage you to do so at <https://snn.neric.org/bcsd/>.

Most importantly, please be sure that your child's ASPEN account -- where a student's academic information and emergency contact information is stored -- is up to date.

Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer. If there is anything I can assist you with, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to another great school year at BC.

Sincerely,

Jody Monroe

Jody Monroe
Superintendent of Schools