



A note from the Superintendent

by Matthew Moore

The 2018-19 school year is off to a fantastic start and I want to thank our school communities for working together to make this year's transition back to school as smooth and seamless as possible. I know how much work and preparation go into helping our students with a successful kick-off to the year, and I appreciate all of your efforts on their behalf. I am so excited about the new opportunities for growth and learning this year!

On August 13th, JCS employees gathered to celebrate the beginning of another school year, as we prepared to welcome new and returning students. Our theme for the event, and for this school year is, "We Are Family." One doesn't need to spend much time in any of our buildings to get a sense that our schools are like a family, with staff looking out for and supporting their students, as well as each other. At our Opening Day staff gathering, I shared with our 1400 employees that one definition of "family" is "a group of people united by certain convictions." Doing what is best for our students and supporting them to reach their fullest potential is the tie that binds us all together. My intent for this year is that our district family is laser-focused and unified in purpose, working toward our three goals: meeting each student's individualized learning needs, helping students to find their passion and purpose in life, and providing a safe and healthy positive learning environment.

You've likely noticed new logos for our district and schools this year and that's all about family as well. The new logo system conveys our district's pillar of family, as well as additional themes of excellence for all, and the idea behind our new tagline, Tradition & Innovation. A common shield shape represents family and unity. Each elementary school is signified by a star, positioned on either the east or west side and grouped together on the logos of their respective secondary schools. Ninth through twelfth grade schools are indicated by stripes. Each logo tells the unique and individual story of the school that it

represents. Be on the lookout for more information sharing the backstory behind each of the new logos. You will soon notice that they were designed in the same manner that we strive to make each and every decision--in a thoughtful and meaningful way with our students at the forefront.

We've been sharing the news that, for the past two years, our district attendance has been the highest ever recorded in Jessamine County. I am confident that with your help, we can improve even further this year and surpass last year's attendance rate. The start of school is a great time to lay the foundation for the year and set clear expectations regarding not only your child's attendance, but also behavior, and academic performance. Better attendance improves academic performance and also has a positive impact on student social and emotional well-being, as students feel a greater sense of belonging when they are able to attend with their peers. Thank you for working in partnership with us to give our students the best opportunity for success.

The start of a new year is also a time for reflection on what we are doing well and how we can improve. Our district is participating in a systems improvement process that will enable us to evaluate our performance and learn how we can better serve our students, our employees, and our community. You may be asked for feedback this year about how we're doing. Please know that this is valuable information that we will incorporate into our improvement process and we very much appreciate your participation and input. We will use this information to guide our decision-making and make changes to better serve our families.

Whether it's our new Diesel Mechanics program, the Community Eligibility Provision that will allow all elementary and Providence School students to eat free of charge this year, or our innovative new logo system, there are exciting changes for JCS in 2018-19. We're glad that you're here and a part of our family!