



BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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LINCOLN HOHLER
Superintendent

RALPH ACKERMAN
President, Board of Education

JOHN A. SKROBOT, III
Vice President, Board of Education

July 2, 2020

Dear BSD Students, Families, and Staff,

For many years, the Brandywine School District has prioritized equity and student supports. Through such innovations and programs as Positive Behavior Support, No Bully, Compassionate Schools Model, District Crisis Team, District Trauma/Social-Emotional Learning Team, Responsive Classroom, Multi-Tiered System of Supports, and more, BSD has maintained a focus on equitable supports for the diverse population we serve so all students can learn, grow, thrive, and succeed. Recent events across the nation, coupled with the passionate, peaceful protests right here at home, have given us an opportunity to evaluate our approach with renewed vigor.

Like all institutions and organizations, we are listening, learning, and evolving. We must continue to strive for a culture that celebrates diversity, promotes empathy and understanding, and encourages children - and adults - to accept others as they are. After all, our diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Every student deserves to be treated with respect and empathy. We can and must do better.

Working with the leadership team and School Board, I have the opportunity to model our organizational structure to focus on what is best for all students. With that in mind, I am pleased to announce a restructuring to provide greater focus on student supports. In lieu of a traditional Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Dr. Lisa Lawson has been named Assistant Superintendent for Student Services. In this role, she will be focused on services and supports for students beyond academic growth and achievement, particularly educational equity for each student to support their academic and social/emotional growth and development as a learner. Dr. Lawson has been with the District for the past five years as Director of Special Education and Support Services and was named Special Education Director of the Year in 2018 by the Delaware Association of School Administrators. She earned her Bachelor's, Master's, Administrative Certification, and Doctorate from the University of Delaware.

In addition to working with Assistant Superintendent for Academic Achievement Cora Scott, members of the executive team, and PK-12 principals, Dr. Lawson will oversee Special Education and Student Services. A newly created position in this department, Supervisor of Equity and Culture, has been filled by Ms. Marqueia Davis. Ms. Davis, most recently Assistant Principal at Concord High School, will assist students and staff in raising cultural awareness, dealing with toxic stress created by social unrest, and identifying and addressing known issues involving intolerance and injustice to ensure that equity is woven into all aspects of the District. In this newly created position, she will be responsible for establishing a District Equity Committee comprised of an Equity Lead from each building to develop immediate and long-term plans based on identified need, identifying barriers in classroom instructional practices that contribute to disproportionate outcomes for historically underrepresented youth, and providing recommendations, supports, and coaching to District and building administrators, classroom teachers, and support staff to better meet the academic learning needs of all students. A BSD employee for more than 20 years, Ms. Davis earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware and her Master's from Wilmington University. She has been recognized nationally for training hundreds of teachers and administrators in implementing Culturally Relevant Teaching Practices.

I am excited about the opportunities and advancements that are possible with this restructuring and hopeful for the future. We will continue to listen with empathy and promote equity and acceptance.

Proud to be ... BSD!

Respectfully,

Lincoln Hohler
Superintendent

It is the directive of the Board of Education that the Brandywine School District shall not discriminate in its employment practices or its educational programs and activities for students on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, veteran status or other legally protected characteristic. All policies, regulations and practices of the District shall be guided by this directive.