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A Community Passionate About Student Success

July 12, 2018

Dear BESD Staff,

This will not be your typical and mundane "Welcome Back Letter" from your Superintendent, because I am beyond excited for this upcoming year and for the direction we are going, together. To put it succinctly, 2018-2019 will be a year like none we have ever experienced, and it's only the beginning.

Just what has me so optimistic and energized? First, it's you! One thing that will never change about BESD is that it is truly a family. Our relationships will continue to sustain us; we are a team. We need each other, rely on each other, and know that we can depend on our colleagues to support us in every way. This is the foundation of all that we will accomplish.

Beyond that, I cannot capture all that is happening in one letter, but know that we have begun a shift that will see this district embrace the coming growth with a strong infrastructure, effective strategic planning, and visionary and engaged employees - regardless of role or title.

New and transformative site-based initiatives are underway at every school that support improvements, based upon site need and interest. AVID will be introduced at Westpark and Marionneaux, Summit Personalized Learning at Buckeye and Jasinski, Safe and Civil Schools at Inca and Bales, and the new STEM model being implemented at Sundance is already creating incredible buzz. I cannot be more proud of each school's staff for trying something new, taking thoughtful professional risks, and being positive supporters of models and strategies that have been proven to work with committed implementation.

Other improvements and support abound for the 2018-2019 school year, including new laptops for teachers and a major announcement regarding student hardware that is forthcoming. We've creatively designed additional opportunities for staff to lead and engage in the profession, and we will be seeking your voice throughout the year. The Human Resource Department has implemented significant strategies to recruit and retain quality staff that have already made a difference, helping to yield the highest teacher return rate in years. And, those teachers can count on strengthened support and coaching next year through an improved model for coaching and EBISS support.

In short, we're here to help, now more than ever.

As I mentioned, I cannot begin to describe all that is happening now in a letter, but also know that plans are taking shape for years into the future. With new schools on the horizon and incredible projected growth, we have an opportunity like never before to evolve into a school district that understands and supports the modern learner like no other in Arizona. Going forward, we will embrace what works and aggressively challenge what does not. We cannot be afraid to disrupt the status quo to achieve the academic, social, and emotional outcomes you all want for your students.

I wish you all the best for this year. You have my fullest support and admiration for the work you do and for the people that you are. You represent that community passionate about student success that I always describe. Your importance to the children of this community cannot be overstated.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sandvik

Bales Elementary.....	623.847.8503	Jasinski Elementary.....	623.925.3100
Buckeye Elementary.....	623.386.4487	Marionneaux Elementary	623.866.6100
Inca Elementary.....	623.925.3500	Sundance Elementary.....	623.847.8531
WestPark Elementary.....	623.435.3282	BESD Preschool.....	623.925.3333