

From the desk of Superintendent Michelle Jensen

*"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."* [Henry Ford](#)

It is with great enthusiasm that I and the board of education welcome our students, staff, parents, and community members to the start of a new school year. As we continue to move forward in the areas of curriculum and technology, many updates have taken place throughout the summer in our buildings and on our school grounds. These preparations will soon be seen by many as we open our doors to over 800 students this fall.

*Now is the time to set our goals.* With the efforts of many people who took part in the "Forward...Together" event on July 15-16, the board and administrative team have a set of focus areas to guide our district goals. Expanding our education on citizenship and character to better help our students become productive, caring community members was a common dialogue during this event. Further exploring the professional evaluation and supervision process as well as creating concise curriculum maps were also identified as priorities for the near future.

*Now is the time to look at the positives.* Deerfield continues to be a great community which supports our schools and our students. Graduating seniors continue to share with me that the most important aspect of growing up in a small school was the individualized help and attention they received from so many people over the years. They truly feel supported by parents, staff members and the community. We will continue to build on this positive culture to further student achievement academically, socially and emotionally.

*Now is the time to volunteer your time.* Volunteers form the backbone of our communities. Consider taking part in our elementary volunteering program to assist students in reading and math. Participate in the parent-teacher organizations to lend a hand at the craft fair or organize student activities. Step forward to become active on a board committee or help staff in a concession stand or work at an athletic event. Volunteering brings help and guidance to the recipients and great satisfaction to the givers.

*Now is the time to look to the future...together.* Looking forward brings hope; it opens our eyes to opportunities. As our steps continue on the path of excellence and equity in educating all of our students, we must realize that a winning team is greater than the sum of its parts. I was once told that my position was the "face" of Deerfield schools; I believe that all of us are the "faces" of Deerfield schools. Moving forward together is sure to lead to success.