



Russell Dyer, Ed.D. • Director of Schools

4300 Mouse Creek Road, NW • Cleveland, TN 37312 • phone (423) 472-9571 • fax (423) 472-3390

Dear CCS Families,

This summer has been busy as we prepare for the 2018-2019 school-year in Cleveland City Schools. We have a new Principal, Mrs. Prisavia Croft, at Blythe-Bower Elementary as well as new Assistant Principals at Mayfield Elementary, Cleveland Middle, and Cleveland High. We also have several administrative changes that have taken place within our central office structure. Change can be difficult, but I also believe purposeful change can prompt us to dig deep and be innovative as we look to the future of such a wonderful organization.

Cleveland City Schools traces its roots back to 1882 and we have a rich history full of grand traditions and excellence in education. I have the privilege of serving as Director of Schools for my third year following education giants such as Dr. DeWitt Clinton Arnold, Dr. Donald Yates, Dr. Rick Denning, and others. These education leaders have helped shape Cleveland, TN and I hope to build on their legacy through close alignment and great relationships with our Cleveland City Schools Board of Education, mayor, city council, city leaders, and all of our wonderful employees. I want to especially thank Mayor Tom Rowland for his unyielding support of Cleveland City Schools during his tenure as Mayor of Cleveland.

Cleveland City Schools and Bradley County Schools are both strong school systems. I applaud Dr. Cash and her team for working hard each day to provide for their students and I appreciate the relationship we have forged. I am also thankful for the support of our Bradley/Cleveland Public Education Foundation working hard to ensure our educators have what they need to be successful in their classrooms.

As I look ahead, we would like to update the community on several items. Please read below and find out more about some of the great achievements happening in our city schools!

- A. Candy's Creek Cherokee Elementary School, our newest elementary school, will open in August, 2019. This school, located off Georgetown Road/Highway 60, will alleviate crowded conditions in our other elementary schools and will serve grades K-5. Rezoning will be required and this process will begin soon. The public will be updated and feedback will be taken as we work on this plan.

- B. The U.S. Air Force JROTC program will begin its first year at Cleveland High this August. This is exciting and the program will house two instructors teaching students about leadership, Air Force history, and more.
- C. The B.L.A.D.E. (Blended Learning and Digital Enhancement) Project continues to grow. All middle school students received a Chromebook computer last year to be used at school and at home. This year, all middle school students and high school students will receive a device. The B.L.A.D.E. Project is another wonderful tool teachers may use to enhance the classroom experience. However, a computer will never replace a teacher's human touch and teaching digital citizenship is an important part of our curriculum.
- D. Lucy Calkins Writing and Reading Workshop will continue to play a huge part of our curriculum in elementary and middle school. We believe this systematic approach to learning will assist all students and challenge them at their own level of learning.
- E. We have closed the Denning Center as a separate school and transferred most students into a small learning community at Cleveland High School. This focused approach to learning will allow these students flexibility to thrive and learn at a higher level. Mrs. Barbara Ector has transitioned from Principal of the Denning Center to the Dean of Students at Cleveland High School. The Denning Center is still open, but will serve as an annex for our central office staff. This allows our employees more space for professional development and other uses.
- F. All of our middle and high school teachers and administrators are now trained in Capturing Kids Hearts. The core belief of this program is, "If you have a child's heart, you have their mind." This new program for our district will pay huge dividends for all involved. Our elementary schools are heavily involved with Positive Behavior Intervention and Support and other programs aimed at creating a positive environment for our students and families.
- G. Our middle school and high school offer some of the most challenging and exciting Career and Technical courses in the state. In fact, Tennessee Department of Education Commissioner, Dr. Candice McQueen, recently stated, "We consistently use your (CCS) overall CTE work as an example and would love to have some of our national partners see your work firsthand." I am proud of the choices we offer students regardless of their plan after high school. We prepare students now for their future and we work with our industry partners and the Cleveland-Bradley Chamber of Commerce to make sure our curriculum meets the ever-changing needs of our local businesses. Below is a list of academies offered by Cleveland City Schools for all students.

- a. Automotive
 - b. Aviation (new for 2018-2019)
 - c. Business
 - d. Cosmetology
 - e. Criminal Justice
 - f. Culinary Arts
 - g. Digital media
 - h. Engineering
 - i. Health Sciences
 - j. Robotics
 - k. Work-Based Learning
- H. Last school-year, 331 students graduated from Cleveland High School and 36 graduated from the Denning Center. Here are some facts that are very impressive regarding these graduates:
- a. Over \$7,500,000 in scholarship dollars were awarded.
 - b. Post-secondary plans include 43 colleges, technology schools, or military training
 - c. One student is attending the U.S. Air Force Academy.
 - d. 18 students were Graduates of Distinction with a 4.0 GPA while taking 12 or more honors courses.
 - e. Brian Byerly was named a National Merit Finalist.

As you can see, we have much to be proud of and the citizens of Cleveland should be excited to see our tax dollars at work in such a beneficial way. We are making a difference in the lives of our students and families each and every day. The return on investment in Cleveland City Schools is outstanding and I look forward to sharing more good news with you as we go through the year. For more information, go to www.clevelandschools.org or download our app for your phone!

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Russell Dyer
Director of Schools