

From the Desk of the Superintendent, Jane A. Collins

I hope this message finds you safe and healthy. I would like to thank all of the families, teachers, staff and students who have made this school year possible. A special note of appreciation to those parents who drove their children to school so that we could socially distance students on the buses during this pandemic. This is a true testament to our motto "Together, we are, Panther Strong!"

The 2020-2021 School Year has presented us with many challenges. Through hard work and collaboration, our Panther Community has risen to every challenge. We shifted to a hybrid model for most of the school year combining in person instruction with virtual learning. We are excited to have our K-8 students back! We are now focusing on bringing all of our 9-12 students back to school.

The Board of Education's # 1 Goal is "To continue to provide opportunities for our students to excel in academics, career trades, extracurricular activities, and skills development, by offering a variety of programs and providing the resources necessary to support thereof." The District takes great pride in all of the programs offered at Belleville Henderson. The Agriculture Program, which is the oldest, continuously operating program in the United States, provides a high quality agriculture education to our students. Our technology program offers a wide range of courses like eighth grade technology, drawing, design, and production, basic woodworking/carpentry, computer-aided design and drafting I and II, construction technology, and driver's education. Our science and math programs have strong college prep offerings. We offer JCC courses in French, Math, Business, ELA, and Agriculture Science through Morrisville. In the area of business, students graduate with a credit in careers, computing and financial management. Our business classes begin in the elementary with keyboarding, as well as, eighth grade keyboarding and business law. In the arts, teachers tap students' creative talents. Music is alive in drama, vocally and instrumentally. PE is broadening students' fitness interests. Additionally we offer Spanish and French. Students have the opportunity to attend the Bohlen Technical Center to earn a technical endorsement designation in culinary, cosmetology, criminal justice, auto body repair, and welding, and electrical trades. Our Pre-K through grade 6 program continues to focus in the core courses of ELA, math, science and social studies. We are pleased to be able to expose elementary students to a second language in French and Spanish. We support students with academic intervention services (AIS), ELL and special education.

We are thrilled to have our athletic programs back! Our athletic programs are a source of pride for our school and we were excited to offer a full Spring Athletic Program!

In the 2020-2021 School Year, we continued to upgrade our technology by replacing older Chromebooks and invested in technology and training in order to provide one-on-one devices for all pupils whether they are at school or tuned in virtually. Through a combination of the 2021-2022 Budget and federal stimulus funds, we will continue to add new Chromebooks to replace older models. This will ensure that our students are able to have the best technology available to them in their education. The strategy we are using to help our elementary students catch-up next year will be adding 4.5 teachers to our staff using federal stimulus funds. The addition of smaller class sizes for grades 1st, 4th, 5th and 6th grades where our student enrollments are high will create more focused intensive instruction for all students. An additional half time AIS Teacher will also work with students throughout the school year.

The 2021-2022 Budget will increase 3.51% and the levy will increase 3.07%. It includes a \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project expenditure for HVAC and mechanical renovations, \$12,000 for teacher supplies to ease the burden on families, and two new school busses for the 2021-2022 School Year.

The Board of Education would like to thank the community for its ongoing support throughout the years! Together, we are, Panther Strong!

