



August 17, 2022

Dear Caledonia Parents and Students,

I would like to extend a welcome back to everyone as we prepare for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. I hope this summer provided time for your family to recharge and get ready for all the excitement and energy that starting a new school year brings. Check out this [video message](#) that not only welcomes families but gives exciting updates to start the year.

Here in Caledonia, an aggressive strategic plan was developed to bring together educators, families, volunteers, and our community alike to collectively strive towards our vision of:

“Cultivating Agile Learners who are empowered with 21st Century skills and prepared to compete in a global environment.”

In order to bring this vision and multi-year strategic plan to life, our staff is focused on actively pursuing opportunities for the student learning environment, as well as enhancing activities that go beyond the classroom walls. Caledonia Community Schools continues to build upon the legacy of success that they are known for:

- High Graduation Rates
- Award Winning Academics, Fine Arts & Athletic Programming
- High Proficiency on Standardized Tests
- Dutton Elementary - National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

This summer an initial training of Capturing Kids Heart (CKH) was launched for ALL staff in the district. It was a great opportunity for our staff to come together district-wide and learn about the important role each of us plays, regardless of position, in the lives of our students and how we can collectively create a positive learning culture and climate across the district. We have also added more Instructional Support Staff to expand current levels of intervention support in the areas of reading and math.

Student safety has always been a priority in CCS, as such, Active Shooter Training will again be provided for all district personnel thanks to national school security expert and local resident Jason Russell. In addition to this training, the district has hired two retired Kent County Sheriff Deputies as safety officers and added multiple safety monitors this summer to increase safety support across the district. Finally, a new [Student Assistance Program \(SAP\)](#) providing

increased mental health support access for Caledonia families has been added through a partnership agreement with Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services.

I'm excited to see where we as a district will take these new initiatives and what they will do for our students, staff, and the community. The Capturing Kids' Heart training gave our staff a common language, and it also spoke to the heart of who we want to be for our students and families. Our families will know we are about:

- **Capturing Kids Hearts**
- **Academic, Athletic & Arts Focus**
- **Leaders in Educational Excellence**

I look forward to seeing the students return on August 23rd and I personally look forward to working with our school community as we continue to chart a new course towards the continuance of success and excellence at Caledonia Community Schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dedrick Martin
Superintendent
Caledonia Community Schools