

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year! As I begin my fourth year as the district's educational leader, I am honored and privileged to serve the students, parents/guardians, and community of the Oxford Area schools.

As we enter a new school year, our district, along with all families, organizations, and institutions across the United States, faces many challenges in these tough economic times. Like the entire Oxford community, we are dealing with rising costs and declining revenues.



Recognizing these challenges, we are committed to providing the best education for our young people while placing the least possible burden on our taxpayers. The district staff and I are equally committed to continuing the academic progress our students have achieved over the past decade. Allow me to remind you that our school district was cited by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania when a national report showed that Oxford had the eighth highest increase in student performance of the 500 school districts. This recognition was the result of hard work by many individuals and our community's continuous support of academic excellence.

This past school year, through our Curriculum Review Cycle, we updated resources, textbooks and lesson plans for science and technology in grades kindergarten through 12 and for family and consumer sciences at Oxford Area High School. This year we will review the K-12 social studies curriculum in all grade levels along with school counseling and gifted education.



We also look forward to our K-8 students continuing to improve proficiency in literacy through the Action 100 reading model, which we established by utilizing federal dollars in the 2009-2011 school years. Teachers will continue to utilize the intense professional development they have received over the past two years. By doing so, they can continue to help students meet with success in literacy while fostering a love of reading.



I am excited to share with you several changes in our district that will have a very positive and direct impact on our students. In December 2010, Mrs. Jenny LeSage joined our staff as Director of Special Education. Mrs. LeSage brings both a vast knowledge and first-hand experience in this field. We also welcome Mr. Lou Conti to Oxford as the new assistant principal at Hopewell Elementary School. Mr. Conti has experience as a 5th and 6th grade teacher and as a Dean of Students for grades 5 through 8. Our Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Dave Hamburg, is now also assuming the duties as the new principal of Jordan Bank School.

Preparing students with the skills they will need for success in the 21st century is critical in all we do, but we cannot do it alone. Close cooperation and communication between home and school are essential to providing the best education for our children.

I encourage you to visit your children's schools, attend scheduled meetings and school functions, and become active participants in our Parent Teacher Organization and the Oxford Educational Foundation. I also welcome your support and involvement at school board meetings, which are held on the second and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building.

Please keep communication open between you and your child. Take time each day to talk to your children about their day. Your interest in his/her academic and social experiences can be a great motivation for learning. Together we can continue to make Oxford a district of excellence and a school community of which we can all be Oxford Proud.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Oxford Area School District

**Dr. Raymond A. Fischer
Superintendent of Schools**

A Proud Tradition — A Bright Future