



KANSAS SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

STATEWIDE RESOURCES ON DEAFNESS AND BLINDNESS

www.KSSDB.org

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August 1, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you have had a relaxing summer – even though many of us worked through the summer to prepare for the beginning of a new school year. We are about to begin a great school year filled with vision, enthusiasm, and excitement.

The State Board of Education has voted unanimously to give the current interim superintendents of KSD and KSSB permanent status as the Superintendent of their respective schools. I would like to take this opportunity to say I am honored and very excited to be the 29th Superintendent of the Kansas School for the Deaf. As an educational leader, I believe in a quality education for all students in the state of Kansas, and my every intention is to ensure KSD continues to expand its programs. Every child has the right to a top-notch education and full access to language.

This year will continue to be shaped by our efforts as outlined in the Strategic Plan approved by the State Board of Education and our final year of a 5-year cycle of CEASD Accreditation. The initiatives that will be implemented this year are:

- Language Assessment Program for DHH
- Expansion of Outreach Programs
- Staff Support and Development in Core Content Areas
- Statewide Professional Development
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Social-Emotional Level Curriculum

This year's theme is "You Have Made a Difference." Colin Powell said, "A dream does not become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work." We all want to make a difference in the lives of our students and KSD's reputation is not only for its outstanding academic excellence and extracurricular programs, but also for the positive and healthy relationships between staff and students. Several KSD graduates have been asked to give short presentations on August 13 about their successful journey in life after graduating from KSD, and I hope it will be exciting to actually see and hear the impact you have had on their lives. Hard work does pay off!



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Still, we do have tremendous work to do that requires commitment, diligence, and collaboration. As Steve Jobs said, “The only way to do great work is to love what you do.” Our students are fortunate to have dedicated employees who are deeply committed to ensuring that all students reach their full potential by providing unending support and unwavering passion.

Please review the professional development schedule for August 13-15 which is posted on our website. Regarding the all staff back-to-school meeting on August 13, it is with a heavy heart that I have to announce that in accordance to the Ethics Committee’s guidelines we are not allowed to serve meals to staff; therefore, breakfast will *not* be served on August 13.

I hope that you all enjoy the remaining days of summer. I look forward to a year filled with stories of great success and great learning.

With great Jackrabbit pride,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luanne Barron".

Luanne Barron
Superintendent