

WALTER B. HOWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1478 Route 20
New Lebanon, NY 12125
(518) 794-8554

August 2016

Dear Families:

I hope you and your family are having a relaxing summer filled with exciting memories. As a school community we are gearing up for the 2016-2017 school year and are eager to welcome you and your family back to our WBH school community. WBH is a special place. We are a school that is centered around the individual child. A school that takes the time to know each of our students and ensures that each child is being challenged and their individual needs are being met. We are a school with the most dedicated and talented educators around who truly care about our students. Please join us this school year as we ensure the very best school experience for your child. Welcome to the 2016 – 2107 school year and together we make our school community!

I want to thank and commend our summer office staff, cleaners, and maintenance for their hard work and dedication over the warm summer months. They have been working diligently to ensure that our school is ready for opening day. I would like to welcome some new faculty and staff to our school community. Join me in welcoming Claire Budzinski who will be teaching special education, Kelly Smith who is now a permanent part of our school team and will be teaching grades 5/6 writing & social studies. Let's welcome Marissa Pignataro who will be teaching grades 5/6 Reading until Chelsea Mastin returns from her maternity leave. I also want to welcome April Smith who is joining our team as a teacher assistant and Zach Seyerlien as our new night cleaner. We are incredibly lucky to welcome such a talented group of staff and educators to our school family.

Our first day of school for children in **grades 1-6 is Wednesday, September 7th** and our first day for our **preschoolers and kindergarteners is Thursday, September 8th**. **Be sure to complete the emergency form and send it to school with your child on the first day.**

Be sure to look for the welcome back packet that will be sent home with your child on the first day of school. All colored forms must be completed by a parent or guardian and returned back to the office no later than Monday, September 12th. Be on the lookout for our events calendar – sponsored by our wonderful PTA. Please consider joining our PTA, without them our great community events would not be possible.

Communication is the key to a successful school year. Be sure check our school web-site on a regular basis for updates, events, and school forms. Like in previous years I will periodically send home a principal's update with any school announcements and happenings. Please look for these letters in your child's take home folder and on our web-site. Check us out at www.newlebanoncsd.org - be sure to also like us on Facebook. We hope to see you at this year's family "Welcome Back Picnic and Outdoor Movie Night" on Friday, September 16th at 6pm (More details to come) and at our open house on Thursday, September 22nd at 6pm. If you have any questions feel free to call the office at 794-8554 or e-mail me at akourt@newlebanoncsd.org. I look forward to another great school year and working with you and your child!

Sincerely,

Andrew Kourt
Elementary Principal