

Each year holds the potential for greatness

By Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.
Superintendent

AS MUCH as our students anticipate the start of school with excitement and maybe a little trepidation over the as yet unknown, there is not a teacher around who doesn't do the same. I remember from my teaching days the eagerness with which I would anticipate the first day of the school year and the first opportunity to meet my students.



Eimear O'Brien,
Ed.D.

Each one had a unique personality and learning style, and it was always a joy to begin the process of getting to know each student, to understand how they learned best, to discover what kinds of things engaged them in lessons and what caused them to lose interest. Who would be the quiet and introspective ones and who would be outgoing and a bit of a chatterbox?

In the weeks leading up to the first day of school, I would

pour over their student records, carefully plan out my lessons, ponder how best to ignite a love of learning in their hearts, decorate my room to create a welcoming and inviting environment, and polish desks so that my students' first impression was a great one. I recognized that my work had an impact far beyond any single school year, and that as an educator I was building tomorrow in my classroom today.

Though my role as Superintendent has taken me a few steps away from those earlier days of my career, I know that the same level of detail and preparation is happening at every school and grade level of our district in the weeks leading up to the start of the 2022-23 school year. I also know that as much time and attention our classroom teachers are putting into readying their instructional space, there is an even larger team of support staff who have spent the past several months focused on the myriad details needed to be ready to



**BUILDING TOMORROW
TODAY**

“The students who will arrive in our classrooms in August represent our community’s future.”

greet close to 43,000 students on Aug. 22.

Almost before the final school bell of the 2021-22 school year rang, teams from our maintenance and construction departments were at work on projects

to keep our school buildings in good repair.

Our bus drivers have been thoughtfully mapping out efficient transportation routes, so bus riders get to school safely and on time.

Campus catering employees have been developing new recipes and creating inviting lunch and breakfast menus.

School leaders and teams have been planning out events and activities, building opportunities for families to connect to their schools, and laying the groundwork for achieving a high standard in the coming year.

In Clovis Unified, we believe every single employee plays a part in the educational process and has a role to play in the success of our students.

From the school registrar who may be the first contact a new family has

to our district, to the bus drivers who greet students early in the morning and often bid them goodnight after a late game or activity, to the caring nurse who tends to hurts or illness, or our

technology team who ensures stable and secure access to the tools we use for learning and business, the list of people working to ensure we deliver a great educational experience for our students is long and diverse. We want each child to be the best he or she can be in mind, body and spirit, and we're willing to put in the effort to create opportunities for them to achieve their full potential.

Our theme for the 2022-23 school year reflects this: *Building Tomorrow Today*.

This idea serves as a constant reminder that each day matters in achieving our ultimate goal, whether that is in the classroom, on the playing field, in the cafeteria or in the office.

The students who will arrive in our classrooms in August represent our community's future, and we embrace the responsibility and obligation to do our best for them.

There are still a few weeks before school begins but be assured that there are 6,000+ educators in Clovis Unified who are eager to welcome your child to school, and who may already be lying awake at night planning how to make sure this year is your child's best one yet.