



290 First Street
P.O. Box 100
Gervais, Oregon 97026-0100
Phone: (503) 792-3801
FAX: (503) 792-3809
www.gervais.k12.or.us

We, with the involvement of our culturally rich and dynamic community, will provide an educationally creative, enriching and safe learning environment that will instill a desire to become life-long learners, ready to enter the 21st century workforce and to be responsible citizens.

August 22, 2017

Greetings Gervais District TEAM,

Welcome back from a summer break of hopeful rejuvenation and quality down time. As we all prepare for our many respective roles and positions for the 2017-18 school year, we feel that positive anticipation for the first day when our students enter our building and classroom doors! We can only imagine how excited our students are to be *welcomed* back by a caring, resourceful and knowledgeable staff member, helping them to build confidence with their *higher* anxiety levels, on day one. With new Board members, Jenny Jones, Debbie Sullivan and Lorraine Martin and new principals Ken Stott at GHS and Creighton Helms at GES, I am very encouraged for our district and building leadership for the coming year.

Our new locker room, attached to the south side of GMS, is finally done and we have had all buildings and grounds spiffed up and rooms and offices cleaned by Tony, Gustavo and Steve. Every year, these gentlemen, and *all* of our custodial staff, put tremendous efforts into our older facilities, keeping them functioning effective for all of us in the mission... to teach our students. We also have a new varsity soccer field, garden plots distributed in more areas, a brand new FFA barn for animals and other agriculture applications, a redesigned and expanded pre-school area, and SBA has moved back to one of its original locations, to mention a short list of improvements. Tracy and her crew have also done a tremendous amount of work in a short amount of time in continuing to update our camera security systems and ever expanding the placement of district Chromebooks for learning applications. Of course, the wonderful ladies in the District Office, Melissa, Dora, Melinda and Sandra have been hard at it and are looking forward to having Eloisa back as well!

This year we will continue in our commitment to achieve Best Instructional Practices, with training in new district wide science curriculum, continued Google in Education applications, AVID, Proficiency Grading and our state recognized ELL model to name five!

My Goals & Objectives for the Year:

- Establish and Facilitate a Superintendent Advisory Committee – made up of community, staff, and civic leaders
- Increase awareness by building and promoting our schools and district student achievement data and accomplishments
- Engage parents, community and staff in our schools and district
- Continue to build the CTE program by expanding relationships with businesses and community groups

Target Audiences

*Students, Staff, Parents, Community, Businesses, Faith Community, Realtors, Civic Organizations, Governmental Leaders, Media...

With a newer school board and our leadership commitment to the full implementation of our **District Strategic Plan** (a 3-5 year effort) and our third year of striving to focus, system-wide on *Excellent Customer Service* for all of our students, parents, patrons...and each other... I know we will have an outstanding year! We owe our students and community nothing less. I cannot wait to have our new staff introduced and for you to hear our guest speaker this year, one of the courageous teachers from the Sandy Hook tragedy; she will truly inspire you with the theme of how our choices, each day, are yours to make and live proudly by.

With strong *Teamwork*, together, as the adults in charge of our educational community, I look forward this year to continuing a strong tradition of creating and crafting every day to be a positive learning experience for the young people we are responsible to educate. Coming together as a **TEAM** of Educators, let's make the 2017-18 school year an exceptional one for **all** students, parents, staff, district leadership and district patrons. Please note the agenda listed on the following page for next Monday:

Gervais School District is an equal opportunity educator and employer. El Distrito Escolar de Gervais es una empresa educadora de oportunidad igual.

Gervais Elementary * Gervais Middle School * Gervais High School * Samuel Brown Academy *

Monday, August 28th, 7:30 a.m., GES Cafeteria

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. – Vendor Fair / Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. - Superintendent (M. Henry) Welcome, New Staff

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. *Break* ...Matt Henry, introduction of guest speaker, Kaitlin Roig-Debellis, Sandy Hook

11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. LUNCH/Staff Recognitions (all staff - lunch provided by the district)

12:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Staff released to buildings

Sincerely,

Matt Henry, GSD Superintendent