It entails. One of the biggest changes this year is a district-wide approach to reading instruction in grades K-6. We appreciate our teachers who volunteered their time last summer to come in for four days of intensive training to prepare for this work. We will also be working hard to accomplish our goal to build new elementary schools to better prepare our students and support their learning.

We will continue to work at improving our communication, including quarterly newsletters like this one. I'll continue to host monthly coffee chats open to all who want to learn more about our district or ask questions. We will also be hosting monthly meetings to discuss our plans to build new schools. Please join me!

It is an honor to be a part of such a vibrant community and to help lead this great school district. Thank you to all of you who help make Troy such a special place to live, work and learn!

A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Chris Piper, Superintendent, Troy City Schools

We are off to a great start this school year! We welcome all students and families that are new to us and look forward to working with you to make sure we are empowering our students to dream big, work hard and succeed!

We are excited to begin implementing our 5-year strategic plan and encourage you to visit our website to see what all it entails. One of the biggest changes this year is a district-wide approach to reading instruction in grades K-6. We appreciate our teachers who volunteered their time last summer to come in for four days of intensive training to prepare for this work. We will also be working hard to accomplish our goal to build new elementary schools to better prepare our students and support their learning.

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KEY DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2019 CALENDAR YEAR:

Oct. 14: Columbus Day/PD Day, No School
Oct. 25: End of first quarter
Oct. 28: Begin second quarter
Nov. 11: Teacher/staff Personal Development Day, No School

Nov. 27: Parent/teacher conferences, No School
Nov. 28: Thanksgiving Day, No School
Nov. 29: No School
Dec. 20: Last day prior to Christmas vacation
Karen Warnecke soared to new heights this past summer.

Warnecke, an intervention specialist at Hook Elementary School, took part in Air Camp Aviation Summer Camp Adventure in Springfield, a three-day program in which teachers learned about options for students in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) fields after graduation.

“I became interested in the camp after learning about it on the WPAFB Museum website, Warnecke said. “My son plans to become a pilot, he’s 15, and I wanted to learn more about flying to be able to connect to his passion. I learned that the program was free to teachers and that it would go far beyond just learning to fly. I learned that I would get many ideas for incorporating lessons into my after school STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) program. I came away with a ton of lessons that I could incorporate into my curriculum immediately!”

The highlight of the camp, Warnecke said, was learning to fly an airplane. After practicing in a flight simulator first, Warnecke was able to fly an actual plane from the Greene County Airport to Caesar’s Creek and back.

“I had no problem steering the plane with my feet on the runway or on lift off,” she said. "I was able to reach the designated altitude with ease, and I had little difficulty keeping my wings level. It made a difference that I could see the ground and the skyline in the actual plane as compared to the simulator.”

Warnecke said she hopes to incorporate much of what she learned into lessons for her students this year.

“The specific things I will use in my class this year are experimenting with straw rockets, reading about the Candy Bomber of Berlin and then creating parachutes to target drop candy, building a wind tunnel and creating vehicles to test wind speed, and programming then flying a drone," she said. "I have a growing number of resources that is now made available to veteran teachers of Air Camp that I suspect I will be able to incorporate into my STEAM program.”

She also said she’d encourage students to participate in the camp, which currently is for grades 4-9, but soon will be adding grades 9-12.
THE TROJAN WAY: Encouraging Students to Succeed Through Positive Interactions

This year, you'll hear your children talking about "The Trojan Way." You'll also see the hashtag #TheTrojanWay on all of the district's social media platforms.

The Trojan Way is part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative.

Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to earn Trojan Way Tickets which will allow them to earn a variety of rewards. Any teacher or staff member at any school can award a student at Trojan Way Ticket when they see him or her acting in a positive manner that aligns with our school district core values.

OPERATING LEVY RENEWAL ON NEXT BALLOT

The Troy City Schools will have a 5.9-mill operating levy renewal on the Nov. 5, 2019 ballot.

As this is a renewal levy, its passage will NOT raise taxes. The levy currently is collecting at a rate of 3.53 mills. First passed in 1990 and renewed five times since then, the funds raised by the levy are used for operating expenses such as salaries, classroom materials, utilities and any other costs associated with the daily function of schools.

PROGRAM PROFILE: Heywood Elementary School Students Learning, Having Fun in New STEM Lab This Year

For many Heywood Elementary School students, it felt like walking into a toy store.

What they may not have realized, however, is how much learning was going in the process.

This year, thanks to donations from the Troy Foundation, Honda and the Heywood PTO, the school to opened a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Lab, filled with both building sets and computers.

"The kids love it," Heywood principal Maurice Sadler said. "For some of them, coming to the STEM Lab almost feels like a second recess. A lot of them may not even realize how much they are learning while they are doing this. To me, that's pretty exciting to see, when a kid is learning something and having fun doing it. It makes them want to learn, instead of feeling it's something they have to do."

Sadler said the idea to start a STEM Lab came as the result of a Heywood PTO Fun Night.

"They had a STEM Night for one of our Family Fun Nights, and this just kind of grew out of that," Sadler said. "We hope it only gets bigger from here."

In addition to computers students can use to help them in their building projects, the lab also contains KEVA Planks, LEGO Bricks and K'NEX building toys.

"We chose to do a low-tech STEM Lab," Sadler said. "We purposely chose to do that because kids are so high-tech these days anyway, we wanted to give them some different options and let them have some fun."
JOIN US FOR A COFFEE CHAT

Last year, Superintendent Chris Piper began hosting informal coffee chats as a way to gather honest feedback and creative ideas from his local community. Because he deeply values your input, he’s continuing that tradition again this year.

Please join Chris at an upcoming coffee chat to share your thoughts on topics, including: the need for new facilities, growing pride in the district, futures opportunities and more.

DATE: Oct. 23, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Tim Horton’s, 700 W. Main St.

DATE: Nov. 22, 1-2 p.m.
LOCATION: Bakehouse Bread & Cookie Company, 317 Public Square SW

DATE: Dec. 5, 8-9 a.m.
LOCATION: Winans Chocolates and Coffees, 10 W. Main St.

DATE: Jan. 15, 7-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Starbucks, 1914 W. Main St.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Troy High School Senior Values His Time at School

Jackson Goodall, Senior, Troy High School

Jackson Goodall is a good student who is going places in life. But the Troy High School senior is never going to forget from where he came, either.

“The thing I like best is the community we have with the teachers, administrators and all the students working together,” Goodall said. “A lot of my friends are involved in the same clubs and activities I am.”

Which, considering Goodall’s lengthy resume, is saying something. He is president of the Troy High School National Honor Society, co-president of Interact Club, treasurer of the Business Club, treasurer and fundraising committee chairman for Student Government, on Senior Cabinet, a Reading Buddy, a member of the Science Club, Academic Quiz Team, Math Club and Spanish Club. He also is a member of the varsity tennis and swimming teams.

He also loves everything about being a part of Troy High School.

“I like the teachers in all of my classes,” Goodall said. “I'm able to have a conversation with a teacher just as easily as I could have a conversation with one of my friends. There are teachers I've had in the past, like Mrs. Lehmkuhl or Mr. Scott, who I still feel like I could talk to if I ever needed anything. If the students here put in the effort, the teachers here are willing to put in that same effort to try and make a connection.”

Troy High School principal Dave Dilbone said Goodall has a maturity and focus that belie his young age. "He has an uncommon outlook on academic life as a high school student," Dilbone said. “He’s as good a kid as you are going to find.”

After graduation, Goodall said he plans to study aerospace engineering in college. While he hasn’t yet settled on his next destination, he knows his current one always will have a place in his heart.