



# Dover City Schools

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## DISTRICT STAFF

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## SCHOOLS

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Dover Students and Families,

Welcome back.

If you are just beginning your journey with us, welcome to the Dover family. Choosing where your child learns and grows is an act of trust, and it is a responsibility our entire staff takes seriously. To our returning families, thank you for your continued faith in our educators. On behalf of the entire Dover City Schools team, we promise your children will receive our best every day.

August is a season of fresh starts. It is a time to plan, to dream, and to envision the possible. While our students plan their goals for the year ahead, as a district, we are dreaming big about how to best support them. We'll both embrace today and look ahead to the future.

This school year, we are focusing our energy on an in-the-moment presence, through hands-on discovery, meaningful dialogue, and fewer digital distractions. In a world increasingly dominated by algorithms and digital devices, we will prioritize human connection over digital consumption. Yes, technology remains a valuable tool. However, the magic of education happens when students look up from their screens, look at one another, and learn to understand each other and the world through effective, respectful communication.

Growth rarely happens within one's own comfort zone. We hope to encourage our students to dream bigger, embrace the unfamiliar, and try new things. Making mistakes is a necessary and healthy part of the creative process. Every day in our schools, resilience is revealed and character is strengthened through these challenges.

With your support, your child will learn to navigate setbacks with grace and emerge stronger than ever. Most importantly, they will know they never have to navigate life's hurdles alone. Whether your child's goal this year is mastering the fundamentals of reading, picking up an instrument for the first time, joining a new club, or stepping onto an athletic field, now is the time to turn those sparks of interest into reality. We are here to help make it happen.

At the same time, we must study the big picture as to where Dover City Schools is heading. This year provides the opportunity to plan for the future of Dover Schools together as we re-engage our community and update our Strategic Plan. Our [current plan](#) has served as a roadmap for many of our recent successes. However, our organizational strategies must be challenged to grow, and as we look ahead to Dover 2030, we need your support.

*A Distinguished History and a Dynamic Future*

To ensure this, stakeholder engagement is essential. In the coming months, we will be hosting community forums, online sessions, and surveys. We need our whole community to engage, but we especially value the voices of our current parents and students. Today's experiences, tomorrow's goals, and your dreams for our schools will directly shape our future priorities. Please watch for announcements on participating in these feedback and planning sessions.

Through the years, the Dover community has stood as an unwavering pillar of support for its young people, shaping generations of Crimson Tornadoes. As we move forward into this fresh school year and look to our next decade and beyond, continuing that legacy together will be our highest metric of success.

Filled with enthusiasm, optimism, and a shared commitment to excellence, let's look up, connect with one another, and get this school year started.

*Together, we are Dover.*

Karie McCrate  
Superintendent, Dover City Schools

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