



Dear Seattle Public Schools families,

A warm welcome to our students and families as we enter the 2016-17 school year.

Our schools, the heartbeat of our community, are ready to go! This summer, we worked hard to prepare for a great school year. Our staff are eager to care for, support and challenge each student to pursue excellence.

Our outstanding staff, are leading the way to prepare students for college, career and life. Over the last decade, our district has outperformed our statewide peers academically. Nearly three out of four SPS graduates enroll in either a two- or four-year college.

While we are making significant progress, opportunity gaps continue to exist for some of our students, specifically for African American males and other students of color. Eliminating these gaps is the issue of our time. As the superintendent of Seattle Public Schools, I am personally committed to ensuring a better and more just future for all of our students.

Our strategic plan guides our work and holds us accountable to the promise of educational excellence. This year, in support of the strategic plan and our commitment to eliminating opportunity gaps, we will continue to invest in the following:

- High quality instructional practices
- Coordinated academic, social, emotional and behavioral supports for students
- Culturally responsive practices

The best part of my job is my weekly visits to schools. I see the optimistic energy in our classrooms as students and teachers work and learn side by side. A new area of focus in 2016-17 will be the intentional support of improved school culture and development of positive student-teacher relationships, a foundation to student academic success.

We have a busy and exciting year before us! Thank you for the privilege of serving your family, your children and our community.

Sincerely,

Larry Nyland
Superintendent
Seattle Public Schools
Proud Graduate of Seattle Public Schools Class of '66