

Back to School Wishes
by Steven Westhoff, Superintendent
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As my thoughts go to the beginning of the new school year, I certainly have important goals or wishes for all of our students. I feel the best way that I can express them to all of you is by means of the way I would express them to my daughters. I know all of you love your kids as much as I love mine. We all wish the best for all of our kids. Here is what I wish for mine and yours.

Dear Natalie and Brenna,

I want to write this letter to both of you expressing my wishes for your upcoming school year. I also want you to know the wishes that I have for the two of you are the same for all of the other students who attend Reed City Area Public Schools.

I hope you love all of your teachers and they make you feel special. I hope one of them really pushes you into something you haven't experienced before that leads you to finding the special talent or skill you possess that provides direction for your life.

I hope you feel you're treated fairly and, at the same time, held accountable for your actions – in a positive way when you do something good and in a responsible way when you mess up. I hope all of the school staff treat you with respect and make you feel you can trust them and go to them if anything that makes you feel uncomfortable takes place.

I really want you to learn, learn, learn. I want classes to be exciting and challenging, never too easy that you get bored. I want you to learn lots about different people and cultures so you understand the value of all people no matter how different or what part of the world they come from. I hope you gain a love for learning that opens an incredible number of doors to your future.

School is also about friends and I hope you have lots of them. Hopefully, your friends will be the kind who will get to know the real you and like you anyway and who will always tell you the truth and look out for you. A real friend will sometimes make you mad and you might fight with her, but when all is said and done you're even closer. These friends will be with you for life.

I hope the pain and difficulty that you experience this year (yes, there will be some) will only make you stronger and develop your character. We've experienced some difficult times in our school district in the last year, and it made a lot of people feel sad, guilty, ashamed and confused. I hope we never travel down those roads again; however, I know life can really present some challenges sometimes.

I really hope you understand how much you are loved by your parents, teachers, administrators, secretaries, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, cooks, custodians, maintenance, and all other staff members. They dedicated their lives to helping you grow and learn. I hope you take advantage of all of the talents they share.

I hope you have a great year!