



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT - OKINAWA
UNIT 5166
APO AP 96368-5166

WHERE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS
August 24, 2010

Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to SY 2010/2011! To our returning educators and staff – welcome back. I trust you found time during the summer to relax and have fun with friends and family. To those joining the Okinawa District -- welcome aboard. We are proud of our schools, our students, our educational programs, our partnership with parents and the military communities, and our collegial, professional relationships with one another. We are pleased to have you join us.


This year our schools will welcome approximately 120 new educators to our District and a number of new support staff as well. Mr. Terry Gibson joins us as the newly appointed principal at Kadena High School, and Ms Angela Butler assumes the assistant principalship at Kadena Middle School. We will bid farewell to Mr. Steve Sanchez, principal Kubasaki High School, as he leaves for the assistant superintendent position in Heidelberg, Germany. Mr. Sanchez will remain at KBHS until his replacement is named and on board. April St. Clair, Ashlea Ellis, Mike Schoebinger, Janie Amsbury, Marla Kimmel, and Karen Luckenbaugh join the District staff as instructional system specialists. I ask you to extend the hand of friendship that is the “Okinawa District way” to all of these educators.

As we move through the year we will continue to refine our skills in using data to inform classroom instruction in order to meet the different needs and learning styles of individual students. Flexible grouping will provide the focus. Schools will continue to implement their school improvement interventions and track student achievement progress along the way. Stearley Heights Elementary School, Kadena Elementary School, and Ryukyu Middle School will host teams for AdvancEd accreditation visits.

As the school year begins I ask each of you to reflect on and recommit to our mission. We must have a laser-like focus on providing an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all students for success in a global environment. We cannot be satisfied until each student is academically successful nor can we compromise on doing whatever it takes to accelerate achievement for all.

I know I can count on you because I have seen the good work you do during my visits to our schools and your classrooms. I have seen your commitment, professionalism, and compassion. I know you have embraced the concept of continuous improvement, and I know that you understand that academic rigor and relevance lead to achievement gains. I know as educators we feel the weight of our responsibility and believe in what research supports – a competent, caring teacher in the classroom and strong instructional leadership are two critical factors leading toward student success. You can count on the District office to provide support and assistance to you and your school as we all work together to achieve the goals of the Community Strategic Plan.

I look forward to seeing you when I visit your schools.


MARTHA H. BROWN
Superintendent