

July 18, 2016

Dear Patrons of Ray School:

The past school year was a good year that seemed to go way too fast. The summer seems to be shaping up the same way as it is already time to let school start sneaking in the back of your minds. We have another exciting year planned out for our students and staff. The unfailing support of our community is the best asset we have as a school and we are very appreciative of the backing we get from the Ray Jay family.

We are currently getting close to completion of new ceilings, lighting, and some flooring in our elementary wing. That has been underway since school got out and we are feeling good that it will be finished by August 1, barring any unexpected hiccups.

This year we were lucky enough that we only had to fill one and a half teaching positions. Erin Johnson has decided to spend more time working at their farm and home and she will be missed. We are lucky enough to have hired Kathy Ness to cover the elementary school resource room. Additionally, Shannon Hauge will be returning to school as a half time librarian. Mrs. Cvancara will be covering some elementary classes which helps to fill out our schedule nicely. With only one new to the community teaching staff member we will be providing consistency for our students which has proven to be helpful in boosting learning. Changes in student numbers remain to be seen at this point but early indicators point to the fact that we'll have a few less students beginning the 2016-2017 school year.

I ask that you please look very closely at all of the information in this packet. Enclosed are Parent's Rights, Parent's Right to Know, applications for free and reduced meals, school and activity fee schedules, in addition to a monthly and yearly school calendar. We are sensitive to the fact many have changed jobs, taken pay cuts, or had significant life changes over the past year. It is helpful to the school and to all who could use it to complete and return the application for free and reduced meals if you will have any difficulty making that payment. This year the state will continue to cover a free breakfast for those that qualify for reduced price meals.

Our back to school registration day for students in grades **7-12** will be on **Thursday, August 4, 2016**. It is important for our planning purposes that as many students as possible make it to school to register on that day. If your child(ren) will have a conflict on that date, please contact the school and we will schedule another time for your child(ren) to register. The registration will be held in our Commons/Lunch Area (by door #1) from 9AM to 3PM and if you do not make it or contact us prior you may not have the flexibility to choose the class schedule you want. Please make every effort to be there.

As we look forward to the 2016-2017 school year I believe it is important to remember that we all have a lot to be thankful for. There will be many accomplishments by our students and staff that we should all be proud of and do our best to support. As always, please feel free to stop in any time or call me at (701) 568-3301 for a visit. Enjoy the last few weeks of summer break!

Thank you,

Benjamin L. Schafer, Superintendent