

## **Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments August 21, 2024**

**New Teacher Orientation:** On Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed 32 new professional staff to Pocono Mountain School District. This is the largest group of new teachers to join our district in more than 5 years. I want to thank Courtney Burrus, the Executive Director of Human Resources, and her staff for organizing an excellent orientation and induction for our new professional staff.

**School Supply Donation:** Thank you to Mike Sherman and PPL for their donation of 500 school supply kits to Pocono Mountain School District for the 2024-25 school year. Dr. Sweeney worked with Mike Sherman to get these school supply kits for our students.

**First Day of School:** The first day of school is Monday, August 26. For new students, I want to remind parents that buses may be running late the first week of school as everyone gets used to the new school year and their bus routes.

**Presentation by Mr. Strunk:** School Board Vice President, Nathan Strunk has a short presentation to make tonight on the highlights of the PSBA International Education Study Group's visit to Germany April 14-20 to learn more about Germany's education system.

**CREC/SEC Open Houses Postponed:** Clear Run Elementary Center and Swiftwater Elementary Center Open Houses, that were scheduled for tonight and tomorrow night, have been postponed. Our school administrators sent notices out to parents yesterday to inform them that we postponed the Open Houses due to sidewalk replacement projects that are underway at those schools. We also posted this information to the district and school

websites and on the district Facebook page. I know this is upsetting for some of our parents, especially our new kindergarten parents. We hoped to have the sidewalks completed prior to the open houses, but that just wasn't possible due to the contractors' availability, weather, and other factors. These are large projects that involve all the sidewalks leading up to the schools. We just didn't feel it was safe to have children and their parents walking through these areas that are right now in the various stages you go through when you are replacing concrete sidewalks. We appreciate the patience and understanding of our parents as our team works hard to get everything ready for the start of school.