



Tradition-Rich, Future-Focused!

REDFORD UNION SCHOOLS, DISTRICT NO. 1

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Dear Panther Families,

The cooler temperatures and vibrant colors of autumn have arrived. I'm grateful for this season and the rapid growth we have seen in our students in just a few short months. I encourage you to continue to send your students to school all day, every day so they can receive vital in-person instruction and collaborate with their peers.

Working to provide a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment is a top priority within Redford Union Schools. We recognize National Bullying Prevention Month and remind every member of our community the role they play in keeping acts of kindness, civility, and acceptance a priority. Within our schools, various staff members will be talking about how students can support others and report incidents to trusted adults. At home, we recommend you speak with your child (or children) about bullying and how he or she (or they) can help create a culture of acceptance in the classroom and during extracurricular activities.

One ongoing program we feature that is focused on peer-to-peer support is Hope Squad. As part of this program, a group of our high school and junior high students have elected to receive training on how to provide non-judgemental support and resources to peers facing mental health challenges. Hope Squad has already proven to be a dynamic program and I'm excited to see this program continue to grow and thank our students for their commitment to supporting others. We can all learn from them!

In October, we also celebrate Michigan College Month, a time to ensure that all students have the opportunity to apply to postsecondary education and receive information on the resources available to guide them through the application process. Throughout the month, our high school students will have an opportunity to learn about possible career paths, scholarships and how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Additionally, we will reintroduce students to our Early Middle College programs with Lawrence Technological University and Wayne County Community College, where they can earn both their high school diploma, college credits, and, potentially, an associate degree at the same time.

I'm excited to share that we are using the Ron Clark Academy House System again this year and expanding the number of students involved within our Junior High and both Elementary Schools. For those who are not familiar, we are working to foster a stronger positive and engaging culture

by promoting character development, healthy competition, and school spirit by randomly placing each student within 1 of four houses. Each house then competes against the others to demonstrate academic excellence, good attendance, positive behavior, and leadership to earn points. I look forward to sharing more details about this initiative with you in the coming months.

I would also like to remind families that support extends beyond the classroom. The Fresh Den will be available to provide food and laundry services to those in need. To inquire about the Fresh Den or request items, please reach out to your child's (or children's) Principal.

Finally, October is also National Principals Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the incredible leaders who shape our schools, inspire and support our teachers, and help every student thrive. Principals set the tone for learning, creating safe, supportive, and high-achieving environments where students and staff can do their best work. Their vision, compassion, and steady leadership drive everything from student success to school culture. This month, we honor our principals for the dedication, long hours, and heart they pour into helping our schools and learning communities succeed.

I hope to see you cheering on the Panthers at their next home football game against Melvindale High School at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 17th. Let's continue to show our incredible District spirit.

It's always a great day to be a Panther!

Jasen Witt
Superintendent