



Stephen Russell, Ed.D.  
Office of the Superintendent  
**The Salem Public Schools**  
City of Salem

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Dear Parents, Guardians & Members of the greater Salem Community:

Welcome to the start of another school year!

In an effort to clearly convey our priorities, I've broken the various portions of the Salem Schools mission statement, as taken from our strategic planning document, into smaller portions. Each is intended to illustrate our school system's priorities and values. I wish to share them with you ...

The mission of the Salem Public Schools is to provide each student who enrolls with a sound education which will prepare that student well for:

*personal growth,*  
*continuing formal and informal learning,*  
*productive work,*  
*and active well-informed participation in self government upon graduation.*

As understood by the Salem Public Schools, a sound education consists of the mastery of:

*traditional basic skills,*  
*a higher level of learning about ways to lead a healthy, active life,*  
*and, of the required curriculum.*

It also includes:

*acquiring the fundamental traits of respect for others,*  
*self-control,*  
*and having opportunities throughout the educational process for self expression by*  
*acquiring skill(s) in the creative arts, athletics and other aspects of a well-rounded life.*

However this is only a portion of the "story". None of what's outlined above happens without your participation and direct involvement in our student's lives, activities, and programs- regardless of their age!

As we begin a new school year, I ask that each of you join us in a shared partnership and effort to support each student's success in the year ahead. In truth, we can't do it without you!

With Regard,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Russell".

Steve Russell  
Superintendent of Schools