COWDEN-HERRICK C.U.S.D. #3A
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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year!

This year the district looks to continue building on the academic successes of the past year. One highlight was the most recent school report card where 76.5% of 3rd through 8th grade Cowden-Herrick students met or exceeded proficiency on the English/Reading state standardized test, well above the state average of 53.1%. This is an incredible achievement for our students and staff! At the high school level, the district is able to offer multiple dual credit courses through the following programs: Lake Land College, LIFT program in Mattoon, Health Occupations, and Shelby County CEO. In addition, this year students had the opportunity to register for classes through a new career and technical education program called Core Academy which is located in the Lake Land College Effingham Technology Center building. Cowden-Herrick has multiple students enrolled in the program to take criminal justice, CDL, and automotive courses. The district is always looking to add class offerings and experiences that will expand students' interests and opportunities.

During the summer, two major building and grounds projects were completed utilizing the Shelby and Fayette County 1% Sales Tax Funds and a State Matching Maintenance Grant. At the Cowden campus, the track was resurfaced and restriped. At the Herrick campus, the roof was replaced. In addition to these projects, the custodial staff has the buildings looking great after working diligently to prepare for the upcoming school year.

The district is also pleased to announce continued participation in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) which will provide free breakfast and lunch to all students through the school year regardless of a family's household income or size.

As we start a new year, I would like to thank you for the opportunity you have given us to work with each of your students. Education is important not only for academic achievement, but also for developing character, work ethic, and a positive attitude. As a district we look forward working alongside you to help your students develop the skills, knowledge, and character they need to reach their goals!

Sincerely,

Seth Schuler

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Cowden-Herrick CUSD 3A
Superintendent

Placing Students First