

SWANSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCOTT C. HOLCOMB
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ONE GARDNERS NECK ROAD
SWANSEA, MA 02777
(508) 675-1195
FAX (508) 672-1040

ELIZABETH A. WHITE
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

August 24, 2026

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your children back to Swansea Public Schools for the 2026–2027 school year!

I hope the summer provided your family with opportunities to slow down, spend time together, create memories, and enjoy some of the things that make summer special. As August begins to wind down and we prepare to welcome students back into our classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, athletic fields, and school communities, I am filled with excitement about the year ahead.

Every new school year represents a fresh beginning. New friendships will be formed. New teachers will inspire students. New interests and talents will be discovered. There will be challenges to overcome, successes to celebrate, and countless opportunities for our students to learn and grow.

Throughout the summer, our administrators, teachers, custodians, technology department, central office staff, and many others have been working diligently to prepare our schools for the arrival of our students. I am grateful for the tremendous work that takes place behind the scenes to ensure our schools are safe, welcoming, and ready for another successful year.

As we begin this year, I hope we remain focused not simply on preparing our children for their next grade level, but on preparing them for their futures. Our district vision reflects that responsibility:

Inspired to learn. Empowered to explore. Prepared to thrive.

These words represent the experience we want for every student who enters Swansea Public Schools. We want our children to be curious and excited about learning. We want them to have the confidence to explore new ideas, opportunities, interests, and possibilities. Most importantly, we want them to develop the knowledge, skills, character, and confidence they will need to thrive long after they leave our schools.

This year, I will be asking our school community to think about another important idea: elevation.

Every day, each of us has the opportunity to elevate another person through our words and our actions. For our staff, that may mean encouraging a student who is struggling, recognizing a child's effort, offering a kind word to a colleague, or simply being the adult who believes in a child when that child needs it most. For families, it may be encouraging your child when something is difficult, celebrating effort as much as achievement, supporting a teacher or staff member, or reminding a young person that mistakes and setbacks are part of learning and growing.

Sometimes the impact is direct and immediately visible. Other times, it is indirect, and we may never fully realize the difference we have made. A conversation on the ride home from school, an encouraging word from a teacher, a welcoming smile from a staff member, a coach recognizing effort, a classmate showing kindness, or a parent saying, "I believe in you" can change the trajectory of a child's day and sometimes much more.

When we elevate one another, we elevate our schools. When our schools and families work together to elevate our children, there is no limit to what they can accomplish.

That partnership between home and school remains one of our greatest strengths. Your involvement matters. Whether you participate in a Parent Teacher Organization, volunteer, attend conferences and school events, cheer from the sidelines, communicate with your child's teachers, or simply ask your child about their day, you are an essential part of their educational experience.

This will also be an especially important year as our community considers the future of Joseph Case Junior High School. Swansea Public Schools continues to work in partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority on a proposed new junior high school that would serve students in grades 6–8 and be located alongside Joseph Case High School. The project has been shaped through an extensive educational planning and community engagement process focused on creating learning environments that support collaboration, real-world learning, and the educational needs of future generations of Swansea students.

Our community will have important decisions to make in the months ahead, including a Special Town Meeting on October 19, 2026, followed by a ballot vote on November 3, 2026. I strongly encourage our families and community members to become informed about the project, ask questions, attend our upcoming tours and presentations, and review the extensive information available on the Swansea Public Schools website. Regardless of where one ultimately stands on the project, an informed and engaged community is essential when making a decision of this magnitude for Swansea and its future.

Just as we seek to elevate our students through the experiences we provide them each day, we must also thoughtfully consider the learning environments and opportunities we provide for the generations that will follow.

Beyond the classroom, I encourage our students to take advantage of the many opportunities available to them throughout Swansea Public Schools. Athletics, clubs, music, the arts, leadership opportunities, service, and other extracurricular experiences allow students to discover interests, develop friendships, build confidence, and find places where they belong.

As the year begins, I encourage families to remain connected with your child's school and our district communications. Please review calendars, attend events when you are able, communicate with teachers and administrators, and reach out whenever you have questions or need assistance. Most importantly, please remind your children that we are excited to welcome them back and that there are adults throughout Swansea Public Schools who care about them, believe in them, and want them to succeed.

There will undoubtedly be busy days and challenging moments during the year ahead. There will also be remarkable moments of learning, accomplishment, friendship, kindness, and growth. Some will be big

and worthy of celebration. Others will happen quietly and may go largely unnoticed. All of them contribute to the people our children are becoming.

Thank you for the trust you place in Swansea Public Schools and for the partnership you provide each day. Educating children is a responsibility we share, and I am grateful to work alongside our families, educators, staff, and community in support of the young people of Swansea.

As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, I hope we will all look for opportunities to elevate one another through our words, our actions, and the examples we set. Together, we can create a community in which every child feels valued, supported, challenged, and inspired to become the very best version of themselves.

Welcome back to Cardinal Nation! Here's to a wonderful year of learning, growth, opportunity, and elevation as we work together to ensure every Swansea student is inspired to learn, empowered to explore, and prepared to thrive.

I look forward to seeing our students back in our schools and to seeing all of you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Holcomb- Superintendent of Schools