

Welcome to the 2026–2027 School Year

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, Staff, and Community Members,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! As we begin a new Newell chapter together, I am excited to welcome everyone back to what promises to be a year filled with opportunity, growth, and success. A new school year always brings a fresh start, renewed energy, and the chance to build meaningful relationships while continuing our commitment to providing an outstanding educational experience for every student.

This year also marks an exciting transition for our district as we welcome our new administrator. My name is **Mr. Thomas Vail**, Superintendent. I will be working alongside our K–12 Principal, **Mr. Mark Galpin**, to lead our schools with a shared vision centered on student achievement, academic excellence, and strong community partnerships. Together, we are committed to supporting our students, staff, and families while fostering a positive and engaging learning environment.

Our outstanding teachers will report for Professional Development on **Thursday, August 13, and Friday, August 14, 2026**, preparing classrooms, collaborating with colleagues, and refining instructional practices to ensure every student receives a high-quality education from the very first day of school.

We invite all families to attend our **Open House on Thursday, August 13, at 5:00 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our teachers, welcome our new staff members and administrators, tour classrooms, and reconnect with friends and neighbors before the school year begins. We encourage everyone to join us as we celebrate the start of another exciting year.

As with every new school year, there are a few important updates. One significant change is the implementation of our **new cell phone policy**. This policy has been designed to maximize instructional time, minimize distractions, and create learning environments where students can remain fully engaged in their education. We understand families may have questions, and we encourage you to reach out to **Mr. Thomas Vail** or **Mr. Mark Galpin**, who will be happy to discuss the policy and provide any needed clarification.

The excitement of the new school year extends beyond the classroom. Our **volleyball, football, and cross country** programs will begin their first practices on **Thursday, August 13, 2026**. We wish all our student-athletes and coaches a successful season and look forward to seeing the dedication, teamwork, and school pride they bring to representing our district.

Newell School District thrives because of the strong partnerships we share with our families and community members. If you are looking for ways to become more involved, we encourage you to consider volunteering with our **PTA/PTO** or **Booster Club**. These organizations provide invaluable support to our students, staff, and extracurricular programs, and we are always grateful for those willing to share their time and talents.

Public schools remain the cornerstone of our communities and a beacon of educational opportunity. Every day, we have the privilege of serving remarkable students who represent the very best of public education through their character, determination, and achievements. Our dedicated, talented, and compassionate teaching staff works tirelessly to inspire curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and prepare students for success both inside and outside the classroom. Together, we will continue to foster innovative learning experiences, promote student engagement, and ensure every learner can reach their fullest potential.

As we begin this new year, let us embrace the possibilities that come with a fresh start. By working together, students, families, staff, and community, we will create an environment where every student feels welcomed, challenged, supported, and inspired to succeed.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership in our schools. We look forward to seeing everyone soon and wish each of you a safe, successful, and rewarding 2026–2027 school year.

Go Irrigators!

Sincerely,

Thomas Vail
Superintendent