



# Pinckneyville Community High School #101

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## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!

Dear PCHS Students, Families, and Community,

It is my honor to welcome you to the 2017 – 2018 school year! As always, I am amazed at how quickly time passes each year, whether during the school year, the sports seasons, or summer break. I have used time as the theme for previous letters and speeches. However, I have decided to put a little different twist on things this year.

Dr. Foutch is challenging our school this year with a theme based on the ideals of **Gratitude, Positivity, and Goals**. I cannot think of a better theme for us to embrace with everything that is happening on the State, National and Global fronts at this time. I believe that the constant stream of negative messages we are filtering through each day fail to tell the true story of us. I fear that the constant exposure to negative influences will begin to cause us to believe that we are not grateful, have nothing positive to offer, and have no goals for a better tomorrow. I firmly believe that nothing can be farther from the truth.

I have traveled around the State this summer while working to help secure legislation that will provide a safe and fair educational future for our current and future students. While doing so, I have had the privilege to speak with many leaders and parents from other communities about our school. I cannot begin to express how proud I am when they tell me that they wish they could have a school like PCHS. They know where we were several years ago. They know how hard we work each day. They recognize what we are becoming as a school. They also know how we take care of our kids each day, in and out of the classroom. Many of them wish they worked here or wish they had their students enrolled with us. I will never take that for granted.

While preparing for the upcoming school year I have been able to reflect on the new lessons I have learned this summer, as well as old lessons brought back to me. The most significant lesson was about taking the time to show gratitude for the things we often take for granted like family, friends, and the opportunities that come from living where we do.

I am grateful for our school. I am grateful for the challenges I am entrusted with every day and the chance to overcome them on behalf of our kids. I am grateful for the students that are part of our PCHS Family.

I am grateful for the professionals that have chosen to accept the responsibility of working for those students.

It doesn't matter if they are teachers, support staff, bus drivers, kitchen crew, custodial staff, coaching staff, or administrators, each has embraced the powerful role as educator for our children. We should all be grateful for them.

Be grateful for the time you have every day, no matter how fleeting. Be **grateful** for the chance to make a difference. It could be the difference in someone's day or in someone's life. **Reflect** on the positive things that happen every day. Set **goals** for a brighter tomorrow.

Panther Nation is on the rise. There are great things happening here. We are proud to have you be a part of it. Welcome to the 2017 – 2018 school year!!

Keith J. Hagene  
Superintendent ~ PCHS