



Michael Zoerhoff
Superintendent of Schools

Office of Superintendent

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe. There is no doubt that the upcoming school year will be like no other. Difficult times remind us of the importance of creating strong relationships as a team and with our students. We truly do make a positive difference in the families that we serve. There is no other team that is more prepared for challenges like this than our KPS family.

We have to deal with changes this year, but it is equally important to celebrate our many successes with our students and as a staff. Congratulations to Discovery Elementary on being nominated as a National Blue Ribbon School! Congratulations to Crestwood, Southwood, Glenwood, Bowen, Meadowlawn, Challenger, Discovery and Endeavor, on being named National Showcase Schools in the *Capturing Kids' Hearts* program. Congratulations to Crestwood on being named a Michigan Green School designation at the highest level. Our commitment to excellence was visible last June as our senior class received over \$6 million in academic scholarships. The list goes on and on about the amazing things the KPS staff and students are doing! **This recognition reflects the power of our culture and continues to fire our passion for excellence and equity for all.**

Soon we will be asked to return to school unlike we have ever done before. Some may look at this challenge as impossible. I on the other hand cannot wait to see the "Points of Pride" that our amazing students and staff create in this new environment! Out of difficult times, comes innovative thinking and new opportunities. Our KPS team and students have demonstrated this repeatedly over the last two decades. I am confident we will meet and overcome these challenges and continue to be a beacon of light and hope for all to see and follow.

As we prepare for another year, here are the 2020-2021 themes that we will emphasize:

- 1. We are a transformative community that celebrates global diversity:** Our commitment to excellence and equity for all transforms lives and prepares each of our students for success.
- 2. We build positive lasting relationships:** Our staff and students build strong relationships that last a lifetime. This is more important than ever in a time of social distancing.
- 3. We meet challenges with Kentwood Grit, a growth mindset and resilience:** No matter what life throws at us, we will not quit. We will continue to lead others to make the world a better place.

On Monday, August 24, we welcome our students back virtually for their first full day of school. Thank you again for your support, patience and cooperation as we all navigate through this unprecedented challenge. These challenging times will pass, but the quality education that your children receive at KPS will serve them for a lifetime. As we have said many times before, **we will get through this together!**

Sincerely,

Michael Zoerhoff
Superintendent