



CALDWELL-WEST CALDWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Christopher Conklin, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Kaitlin Jones, Assistant Superintendent

Brian McCarthy, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

September 8, 2021

Dear Caldwell-West Caldwell Public School Community,

Following such a challenging school year, I hope the summer afforded you time to rest, relax, and recharge with family and friends. I recognize that we all must continue to navigate these unprecedented times and the local impact of the pandemic continues to be uncertain. I am mindful and respectful of each person's individual perspective. As one of the leaders in our school community, I believe that we are all unified in our commitment to ensuring that students attend school in person and that schools strive to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. The district is committed to strengthening our restorative practices and rebuilding relationships with students and each other. The schools will focus on teaching and learning. The staff values each student's unique geniuses ([5 Moore Minutes "What are you a genius at? Getting to know our strengths"](#)), and will ensure students have the individualized support needed to address any learning gaps. The staff will maintain a focus on the subsequent priorities:

- **Health & Safety-** [Caldwell-West Caldwell Plan for Safe Return 2021-2022](#) This comprehensive plan identifies the strategies that will be implemented to mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. The staff continually monitor local data (CALI scores) and communicate with local health officials to make informed decisions that help to ensure a safe and healthy school environment, and to guide our mitigation strategies. In addition, the district is partnering with the local health departments to offer vaccination clinics.
- **Research-based instructional strategies, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion** - The return to consistent, in-person instruction means that all of our students will have access to high-quality instruction that includes actively engaging students in practical and individually meaningful projects, small-group instruction, targeted evidence-based interventions, and multi-sensory learning activities. The district remains committed to our belief that all students, regardless of race, culture, educational label, gender, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background deserve a learning environment that is responsive to their unique learning, social, and emotional needs.
- **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**– The district is focusing on the New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies and Sub-Competencies, which emphasize the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for each student to develop healthy identities, manage their emotions, and help establish and accomplish individual and shared goals, internalize and express empathy, make and sustain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

I appreciate your dedication and commitment to partnering with your child's/children's school(s) to make this a wonderful year for all of our students. On behalf of the Caldwell-West Caldwell Public School administrative team, I welcome everyone back to the 2021-2022 school year!

Sincerely,

Christopher Conklin

Christopher Conklin, Ed.D.
Superintendent Caldwell-West Caldwell School District
One Voice and One Vision Elevating Caldwell-West Caldwell Schools