

We've had a wonderfully smooth and safe start to the new school year. I want to thank all of our students, their families and our staff for everything they did to make this happen. It hasn't been easy with so much hot weather, but hopefully we are now past the worst of it.

This is the first chance I've had in this space to congratulate Tim McKillip, our newest Teacher of the Year. Tim is a math teacher at the Middle School, and has just started his 37th year in the district. He is the longest-serving teacher in our district, along with his Middle School colleague Lonna Walker. Tim received multiple nominations, and his nominators had these kinds of accolades for him:

“With all extra jobs he does, it's not unusual for him to be at school from seven in the morning until ten at night, several days a week. But no matter what extra jobs he's taken on, he is always a teacher first.”

“His after school help sessions attract current students, former students, and even friends of those students. Students return year after year, for help, for support or just for conversation.”

“Tim spends many, many, hours working on curriculum and promoting programs for our at-risk students. Having these students believe in themselves has always been a high priority.”

Tim joins a group of outstanding educators who have won this award. The past Teachers of the Year who are still active in our district include Diana Knoth (1990), Lynne Dyer (1991), Colleen Silverberg (1993), Lee Ann Hieber (1995), Alexis Vafides (1997), Cynthia Walker (1998), Kim Nuxhall (2001), Kathleen (Peters) Gillespie (2002), Joyce Arnold (2005), Teresa Elash (2006), and from last year, the first teaching team to win, Linda Napier and Jim Yates.

Looking ahead, we have two very special football nights coming up. Tomorrow night our district is participating in the National Anthem Project. Schools across the country will be remembering the victims of September 11 and honoring our country by performing the “The Star-Spangled Banner,” which was written on September 14 by Francis Scott Key. At our home football game against Middletown, we are inviting groups, families and individuals out onto the field to join in singing the national anthem before the game. Groups who are interested in participating should contact our athletic office at 942-3255. Families and individuals don't need to call in advance, but should be in the stadium by 7 p.m. and then follow the instructions that will be announced.

Two weeks later, on Fri., Sept. 26, it's Homecoming. We'll be holding our annual Homecoming parade, but there is a new route this year. The parade will form at Fair Plaza, and then proceed along Pleasant Avenue, Magie Avenue, Holiday Drive, Wittenberg Drive, and Nilles Road. The band and other units at the front will go across Route 4 into the stadium, while the rest of the marchers and floats will finish at the Middle School. The parade will start at 5:30 p.m. The game, against Sycamore, begins at 7:30 p.m. The Fairfield Alumni Association will be holding its annual Homecoming

Social after the game. There's more information about it on our district website home page (www.fairfieldcityschools.com).

We are off to a wonderful start this school year. It's great to have the kids back, with all of their energy and enthusiasm.

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