

Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year!

A message from Superintendent Scott Payne

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year. You are bound to notice many small changes upon your return to campus this Fall. The final phase of our capital project will be wrapping up just before the start of classes in September. The most noticeable aspects will be the front canopies on both buildings. The more substantial renovations are in the Elementary School. Classrooms for our youngest learners have had the bathrooms completely replaced to come into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Flooring in the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes has been replaced. New doors are being added throughout the interior of the building. The Jr./Sr. High School has had some door replacements as well, and a more efficient heating pump will be supporting our pool that is also receiving some minor repairs.

While renovations of the physical plant have been occurring, there is a good deal of learning and sharing occurring on our campus as well. The Summer Enrichment programs for our students have been well attended. Additionally, our teachers have attended many workshops and planning days in order to continue to increase our commitment to academic achievement. You can join in that enterprise as well on one of our opening days. September 6th features Bill Daggett, a national speaker, who will be working with the faculty and staff at Pine Valley. Parents and community members are invited to join in the opening session that morning from 8:00-9:30 in the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium.

This summer we have wished some of our faculty and staff a fond farewell as they have departed for positions in other areas including Jr./Sr. High School Principal Paul Mihalko who has moved on to accept a leadership role in Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES. At the start of this school year we welcome Mrs. Brittany Iskula, elementary nurse. We will also be welcoming three new special education teachers, a new social worker, a part time physical education teacher, a part time mechanic helper in the bus garage and a custodial staff person. Hiring processes are underway in each area, and we look forward to providing each new person a warm welcome in September as they join the Pine Valley family.

The summer is a time for reflection, recharging and reenergizing. To that end, I have spent time learning more about how the world talks to one another. While I've never been entirely comfortable with social media, it is clear that this is the primary means of communication for many of you and perhaps most importantly, for our children. So the administrative team and I are looking to move toward an increased presence in social media so that we are able to better promote the exciting things happening in Pine Valley. We welcome your feedback and participation in our school's programs and activities and look forward to a great 2016-17 school year.