

Dear Parents,

As Principal of Gavit School, I would like to welcome you to the 2007-2008 school year. I hope your summer has afforded you time to spend with family and friends. As we approach the start of school, I wanted to share some of the many changes that have transpired since we were last in session. While students have been on vacation enjoying our tremendous summer weather, we have been working diligently to improve our academic programs, extra-curricular activities, and facilities at Gavit.

Academically, we have been guided by our mission of "Learning for All". Our challenge has been to reinvent schools that support learning on an individual level. Basing decisions on what is best for the students has been our internal motivator. The use of data from the ISTEP+/GQE, the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI), ACT Plan/Explore, and additional sources are allowing us to create programs that target individual learning goals in the classroom, demanding enrichment and remedial learning opportunities for all students. Our academic opportunities this year include, but are not limited to: 8th grade Spanish at the high school level, 8th grade Honors Algebra at the high school level, a freshman academy for all 9th grade students, 5 Project Lead the Way course offerings including some sections taught at Purdue Calumet for dual high school and college credit, multi-age and looping opportunities for all 7th and 8th grade students, revised AP and Honors courses in all content areas, Advanced Drama, Chorus and Art classes, courses in Web Design, three term English and Math courses for all freshmen, and even a possible Advanced Physical Education Course taught in cooperation with the Purdue Fitness Center. We will have PLATO computer learning support along with individualized tutoring available after school daily in the Atrium from 3-4 p.m. Jump Start programs for all students grades 7-12 that focus on ISTEP+/GQE preparation will begin August 6th and continue through the 17th from 8-12 daily; 6th grade students start transition on August 6th and continue through the 10th daily from 8-12. This year, we have established literacy support to reading classroom teachers at the middle level by affording peer reading tutors from the high school. These high school tutors will enroll in a teacher internship program that will afford them the experience of a lifetime and elective credit. For the parents, we are allowing home access to our student information system (STI), affording time for parent conferences in our efforts to keep you informed of academic achievement, and including you in classroom programs, activities, and our literacy efforts. School improvement is ongoing, we will be under construction for quite some timeJ

Our extra-curricular programs at both the high and middle levels will continue to include academic, social and athletic opportunities. We will continue to support our strong academic extra-curricular programs like Science Olympiad, Academic Decathlon, Spell Bowl, Middle and High School Academic Teams, and Hammond Robotics. New this year will be our high school club "Students Making A Difference" and our Rotary Interact Club. We have made extensive efforts to connect students and coaches by hiring in-house teachers to facilitate most coaching responsibilities. We have hired a new athletic director at the high school and new coaches in football, baseball, swimming, dance, cheerleading, boys soccer, girls soccer, and boys tennis. We have added male swimming at the high school and intramural swimming for all middle school students.

For parents, we have resurrected our Booster Club in an effort to allow for participation and financial support of athletic programs.

We have been on a mission at Gavit School to update and remodel many of our facilities. A new computer lab was added this summer along with an updated phone system with voice mail capabilities for staff and teachers, computers in all middle level classrooms are targeted for installation along with classroom phones, and availability to general technology has been improved. We will be completing our newly restored gym floor, refurbished locker room, and weight/fitness area by the opening of school. Our facility is gradually being painted as refurbished areas are completed.

Change at Gavit is a reality. We are driven by school improvement and the many mandates that require "Learning for All". In our efforts to meet the needs of all students, we will clearly need your parental support and help more than ever. Please feel welcomed at our school. Visit as often as possible. Volunteer for daily duties if you have the time. Attend events and meetings as they pertain to your child. Communicate with teachers and the administration as needed. Most importantly, have high academic expectations for your child that will support their learning and development. We wish you and your child the best as we enter a new school year.

Thanks for All You Do,

jw-Principal

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For your information, we have included policy changes for the 2007-2008 school year in this addition of our PTSA newsletter. Please note changes in expected student attire, the attendance policy, and the wearing of school IDs. Policies have been revised to support a safe learning environment for all students, teachers, and guests.