

**August/September 2011**

**Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of Bay City Public Schools,**

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope that you and your family have enjoyed a healthy and happy summer.

As we begin this school year, we do so with great pride in how our students are continuing to learn, grow, and improve academically both in and out of the classroom.

Our teachers, principals, and staff are committed to excellence, not just in the community, but in the region, and in the State. So while we are excited about all we offer our students and how they are doing, we continue to set our goals very high. I hope you will take a few minutes to review these goals on our website at [www.bcschools.net](http://www.bcschools.net). As always, please feel free to share with me your comments and suggestions either by phone at 989-671-8165, by email at [newcombed@bcschools.net](mailto:newcombed@bcschools.net), or in person.

Our overall focus is to offer our students the classes, programs, and extracurricular opportunities that are important and necessary for them. At the same time, we will continue to step up efforts to help students who are struggling in school whether at the elementary, middle or high school level.

This year we are also continuing an increased emphasis on reducing bullying which is really about teaching students to respect others. To improve this, I need your help because teaching respect cannot just be accomplished at school; it must be practiced and taught outside of school as well. If our nation is going to reduce bullying, we all have to set good examples as adults and help students learn how to set good examples themselves at school, in public, on the internet, and when talking or texting on the phone.

A few other areas of interest I like to share out:

**Gifted and Talented:** We have added programs this year at Washington and Auburn Elementary. There will be more expansion of this terrific program in the future.

**Facebook:** Several of our schools have begun using facebook as a means of communicating with parents and students. We will be expanding this in conjunction with our current District and school web pages.

**Opportunity Connection Website:** This resource, created by a combination of business and education partners in the Bay area, offers a variety of learning opportunities for students, teachers, and businesses. You may visit their website at [www.opportunityconnection.net](http://www.opportunityconnection.net).

**Imagination Library:** The Imagination Library is a Dolly Parton initiative being offered through Bay-Arenac ISD. This is a FREE book a month program for ANY child (age birth to 5) living in Bay or Arenac Counties. Visit [www.imaginationlibrary.com](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com) for more information and to register, or call 989.667.3280.

Thank you for your support in the education of your children; it is appreciated, and is extremely important for their success.

**Sincerely,**

**Douglas L. Newcombe  
Superintendent**