Smooth opening for Gateway

Huntington – Gateway students returned to school on Wednesday, August 30 under sunny skies and pleasant temperatures.

For the staff who worked through the summer in empty school buildings, the return of students was a welcome change. “The energy of excited students and staff have revitalized those who were here over the summer,” said middle/high school Principal Jason Finnie. “We’re happy to have everyone back!”

Deanna LeBlanc, the Assistant Principal in both schools, shared her observations about her first opening at Gateway. “Our students are back with great enthusiasm, and our staff continues to strengthen their commitment to provide the best learning environment for them,” she said. “The halls are filled with excitement and expectation!”

Elementary Principal Megan Coburn reported that both of her schools had really smooth starts to the new school year. “We are excited to continue offering our STEM program for students in grades 3-5, and many of our teachers took part in a summer course at Westfield State University that focused on applying the Next Generation Science Standards into their classrooms.”

Gateway’s 1 to 1 Chromebook initiative expands again this year, now covering grades 3 through 10.

Upcoming events include Band Rental Night on Thursday, September 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the main entrance at Gateway. Area music stores will be on hand to arrange instrument rentals for students who need them. That night, the Gateway Girls Soccer Team has their home season opener against Hopkins Academy, with the JV Team starting at 4 p.m.; Varsity at 6 p.m. Admission is $2 for students and senior citizens, $4 for adults.

The boys soccer home opener is the following week, on Tuesday September 12 against Athol. JV starts at 4 p.m.; Varsity at 6 p.m. on Booster Field (same admission as for girls, above). The “Gator Shack” is also open during home games for food and snacks to raise funds that support Gateway athletics.

Other dates of interest coming up include: Picture Days (HS/MS on Friday, September 15; Littleville on Friday, September 29; and Chester on Friday, October 6) and Open Houses (Chester on Monday, September 25; Littleville on Tuesday, September 26; and the MS/HS on Monday, October 2); all start at 6 p.m. and more information will be coming.

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Photos: (top) Littleville first grader Jayden Brickley and his mom Adrianne Kunz arrive early on opening day and enjoy the pleasant weather outdoors. (below) The Gateway Courtyard underwent repairs over the summer (as recommended by last year’s “MARS report); seniors have the privilege of eating lunch in the courtyard this year. Left to right: Allie Clark, Jess Van Heynigen, Alex Auclair, Olivia Clark, Michala Torres, and Kallie Grochowski.