



School
for the Deaf



State School
for the Blind



John R. Kasich, Governor

Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Lou Maynus, Superintendent, Ohio School for the Deaf and Interim Superintendent, Ohio State School for the Blind

Dear OSD Family,

It is an honor as your New Superintendent to write my first *Welcome Back to School* letter. The Ohio Department of Education recently released the new state strategic plan with one goal. OSD shares in reaching this goal of increasing the number of students who graduate high school engaged in a meaningful vocation, college, or earning a living wage. We will continue to collect data to see just how well we are doing with this most excellent goal and share with you.

I plan to *think big, start small, and learn fast* in serving the OSD community. I will soon reach out to parents, community stakeholders, business and industry, state leaders, principals, and teachers to inform our continued efforts to improve our school. A representative number of stakeholders will be invited to help us as we plan. We will consider initiatives such as a possible five year 1:1 technology plan, increasing our transition services, improving our facilities, and increasing our student life program. We will solicit feedback for example, on our safety program and how we might improve communication with all stakeholders.

With such goals in mind, it is my pleasure to introduce you to our new elementary and middle school principal, Joshua Doudt. Mr. Doudt comes to us with experience as a mathematics teacher at Maryland School for the Deaf. He is fluent in American Sign Language and has a passion for educating deaf and hard of hearing students. He is very knowledgeable and ready to serve OSD. We are fortunate to have such a skilled educator join our staff. I am confident with our principals, Greg Mendenhall and Joshua Doudt, leading our school to even greater heights this year.

Another strong and sincere educator who will be working at OSD again this year is Dr. Alison (Al) LaBarre. Her role has expanded as she has accepted the Assistant Superintendent position for both the Ohio School for the Deaf and the Ohio State School for the Blind. Dr. LaBarre has been charged with leading data gathering – *multiple measures* - our student's academic achievement, language development, as well as other measures to quantify our student growth at OSD. She will work in unison with me and the other administrators and teachers to move OSD to greater rigor and curriculum relevance for all students.

500 Morse Road
Columbus, Ohio 43214
www.osd.oh.gov

Phone: (614) 995-1566
Fax: (614) 995-1567

5220 High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43214
www.ossb.oh.gov

Phone: (614) 752-1152
Toll Free: (800) 310-3317
Fax: (614) 752-1713

I witnessed evidence of rigor in our curriculum this summer. If your child participated, I hope you were as impressed as I was about the variety of offerings. There were a lot of great experiences for our students, and I hope we will be able to expand our offerings next summer. Special thanks to those educators who worked hard to make this happen. OSD is a great place for students. We want to continue to grow the school, and we aspire to become a premier school for the deaf.

I look forward to getting to know everyone in the OSD family. One of my first observations has been the passion and hope of this community. I am ready with sleeves rolled up to work with everyone to make this school year great by *thinking big, starting small and learning fast*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lou Maynus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lou Maynus, Ed.D.
Superintendent, OSD
Interim Superintendent, OSSB