A Message from the Director, DoDEA-Europe
Back-to-School 2015

I love a new school year! The opportunity to start anew, to see things differently, and to recommit to our chosen life’s work fills us with optimism and hope. The possibilities for all of us, adults and students alike, are endless. Looking back on the many “first days of school” I have enjoyed through the years, I can honestly say that this beginning is just as exciting as my first one so many years ago.

As we kick off a new school year, I know many of you are concerned about what restructuring will bring. It is important to remember that this restructuring is not about cutting personnel or cutting costs. Mr. Brady is clear that he intends to take care of employees. This restructuring is for one reason and one reason only, and that is to improve the achievement of our students.

We are focused on two priorities. Our first priority is to strengthen our standards-based educational system by transitioning to college- and career-ready standards that are infused with rigor and relevancy; and a common standards-aligned curriculum, instructional framework, and assessment system. We begin the implementation of college-and career ready standards with Mathematics PK-5 this school year. Our second priority is to establish the organizational capacity to uniformly improve student achievement and school operations. As DoDEA-Europe, we are unified with our DoDEA Headquarters to build the organizational capacity necessary to give our students in Europe the education they deserve.

We live in a time of transition and transformation, and many of you have experienced transition as the military’s footprint across Europe has decreased and we have closed schools. We do not anticipate any school closures this year; however, we do know we will see the four districts in DoDEA-Europe become three districts, and we will see our Area Office transform to better support the schools. With my move to the Area Office, Mr. Frank Simone is Acting Superintendent for the Kaiserslautern District. While there is no question that dealing with the uncertainty that comes with change is challenging, I ask for your patience during the transition. In turn, my pledge to you is that I will communicate with you, as often and with as much transparency as possible.

Welcome back! Please know that I am honored to serve you as you serve our military’s children. Every one of us has an important role to play in the success of our students, and there is no mission more noble than ours. With the teachers and staff we have, the sky is the limit for our students, and I look forward to visiting classrooms to see the outstanding work our students are doing.

Thank you for your hard work, your commitment, and your loyalty to the students we serve. I wish you the very best year ever!

Sincerely,

Dr. Dell McMullen
Director, DoDEA-Europe