



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
MEDITERRANEAN DISTRICT
UNIT 31401, BOX 11
APO AE 09630-0005



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Dear Students and Parents, Community and Commands, and Educators and Support Staff:

Where has the summer gone? Here we are again, welcoming back our students and colleagues, even though it seems like only yesterday when we were cheerily bidding everyone "Happy Summer Holidays." This past year, in early June, I let all our administrators and logistical personnel know that one of my highest expectations was the readiness of each school—with *no problems!* I was very focused on ensuring that our schools, all 17 of them, would be ready to open their doors at least ten days prior to the first of our teachers returning. Our schools would be absolutely ready for every child in every classroom. That meant: construction and renovation projects were to have been completed; technology and computers were to be in place; supplies, equipment, and materials were to have been ordered and stocked; deep-cleaning was to be underway; air conditioning was to be functioning; grounds were to be well tended; schedules, bus routes, menus, handbooks, and parent bulletins were to have been prepared; our classrooms and offices were to be creatively arranged and inviting for everyone; and our curricular implementations would be ready to go. My District Office staff and all our administrators have been working really hard so that the total Mediterranean District—with its 17 schools in five different countries—continues to be a shining star in DoDDS-Europe and in DoDEA.

The curriculum implementations in Math and Social Studies, as well as the continuation of last year's English Language Arts implementation, are providing challenging and innovative ideas for students. Learning will be exciting for them, taking them to new levels of problem-solving and understanding. The "Train-the-Trainer" model, initiated right here in the Mediterranean District, is now being used across the system. Continuous School Improvement (CSI) teams are meeting already, taking the results of Terra Nova, Advanced Placement, and other assessments to weave these data into a formula that will improve instruction and learning for all students. Our schools that were recipients of Quality Assurance Reviews (QARs), formerly known as NCA visits, now can build upon the reports they received, further enhancing everything positive and working hard to strengthen areas in need. But none of us can make this happen overnight—and we certainly cannot do it alone. We need the help and support of all students, parents, educators, support staff, and military community members!

My staff of 11 Instructional Specialists, 2 Safety & Security Officers, 4 Budget Department members, 5 Logistics Management personnel, 3 Information Technologists, 1 Administrative Assistant, and 1 Executive Officer, and 3 Executive Leaders—all help me with problem-solving and decision-making. We continue to be a wonderful team, working together at all times toward developing the best possible schools in the most exceptional District. Because we are here for you, another one of my high expectations is that all our educators and support staff in this District will dedicate themselves and their skills toward enriching our students' lives. With that goal in mind, I wish all of you a dynamic and successful year!

Dr. Elizabeth Walker, Superintendent
Mediterranean District