



JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

August 2017

Welcome New Teacher,

You have chosen to embark on a journey that few people will ever experience. Better yet, you are leading others on a journey they will never forget.

As a teacher, you have a license to explore and an invitation to inspire. You could choose to take your students to the moon, a rain forest, or ancient China. Some of you will delve into the minds of Pythagoras, Mozart, Shakespeare, or Dr. Seuss. Learning is dreaming during the day. Without you as coach, the act of recall will never transform into invention.

There will be days when teaching is not glamorous. You will stumble over the complexities of individuality, when your students' strength as independent thinkers conflicts with your expectations. This is the greatest learning process of all: recognizing the true needs of your students and customizing their experiences to clear the path for them to excel. All teachers are true life-long learners.

Without great teachers, there is no promise for the future. It's an exciting time in education as we begin our strategic eight-year plan for learning in Oklahoma. Your service and compassion fuel the hopes of our state. Thank you for shaping the lives of our families and our communities. Through your leadership, you have chosen to lay the foundation that will make a difference for generations.

All the best for a fantastic school year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joy Hofmeister". The signature is written in a cursive style with large, flowing loops.

Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent of Public Instruction