



## **A Message from Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood, Hamilton Heights School Corporation**

There are some extremely important issues impacting public education in Indiana today. Shortfalls in the state's public education policy and low teacher salaries are having a negative impact on school districts around the state. Indiana is not the only state struggling with these issues.

To help make our voice heard to help promote positive change, Hamilton Heights School Corporation in cooperation with the Administration and the Hamilton Heights Teachers Association, has made the difficult decision to **cancel classes on Tuesday, November 19**. This will allow for our educators to take a personal day to join colleagues from around the Indiana to advocate for increased teacher pay and funding for our public schools at the State House for Legislative Organization Day. This day will be made up with the pre-set flex day on **Friday, February 14, 2020**.

A great deal of time and thought was put into the decision to cancel classes. We believe that this issue has reached a point that we must take extraordinary steps to ensure we can provide the best educational opportunities and in a safe and welcoming environment, for Hamilton Heights students, now and in the future. To accomplish this, we need to come together as a corporation, a community, and at the state level.

We need our fellow educators, parents, and public-school advocates to help our lawmakers understand that we are in desperate need for increased teacher pay and funding for our public schools. Public education is a gift and our State Representative Tony Cook (District #32), is one of our strongest public education advocates. We want to work with our legislators to support their efforts to work on fair compensation and funding. By making a strong showing at the State Capital, it is our hope that our legislators will take another look at current legislation related to public education policy and teacher compensation

Please understand this action is about being able to provide the best educational experience for our students. Our teachers became teachers to make a difference and they do. We invite you to join us at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 19 on the Statehouse steps that face Capital Avenue. The children of Indiana need us all there.

We encourage our district families to share their support and let your legislator know how important this issue is by calling, writing, or emailing, Stay up to date on this important topic at the Indiana State Teachers Association website at: <http://advocacy.ista-in.org/Engagements>.

Many thanks for your understanding and support as we work together locally and at the state level for the best interests of our children.