

**Dear SHS Students and Families,**

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a rejuvenating and joyful winter break surrounded by loved ones. As we bid farewell to 2024 and welcome the promise of a new year, we are thrilled to have our students and staff return to campus.

We take great pride in celebrating the dedication and hard work of our students, teachers, staff, and families who make our schools a true model of excellence. This recognition reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering an environment where every student can thrive and reach their highest potential. It also highlights our ongoing efforts to close achievement gaps, improve student outcomes, and prioritize both academic success and well-being. Together, we remain steadfast in our mission to achieve excellence across all our schools.

Transitioning from the comfort and joy of the holidays back into our school routines can be challenging for students, parents, and staff alike. However, it also presents an exciting opportunity to re-establish momentum and refocus on our learning journey.

I encourage our students to embrace this new year as a fresh start—an opportunity to reconnect with friends, actively participate in classroom discussions, and approach their studies with renewed energy and enthusiasm. We will be emphasizing the importance of and our high expectations for attendance, academics and behavior as we return to school.

As we look ahead, we are mindful of the potential for winter weather and snow days that could disrupt our routines. To stay on track, I encourage students to remain proactive in managing their assignments and staying prepared for any schedule changes. A little planning can make a big difference in easing academic pressures during unforeseen closures.

Your support as partners in education is invaluable. Establishing consistent study routines and fostering a positive learning environment at home will help your child maintain focus and organization throughout the winter months.

Our dedicated faculty and staff are committed to providing a supportive, engaging, and enriching environment for all students as we continue navigating the remainder of the school year together.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Let's work together to make this transition back to school a smooth and successful one.

Here's to finishing the 2024-2025 school year strong, Spartans!

Warm regards,

Dr. Kelly Linkenhoker

Principal, Salem High School

