

Friends,

It is my privilege to welcome you to Ann Arbor Open for our 2018-2019 season.

If you are new to our class, I look forward to meeting you in the weeks ahead, and if you are returning, please know how very happy I am at the thought that soon I will see you again.

September possesses this certain singular bittersweet quality, evoking both the hopeful anticipation that accompanies our annual return to school, and the subtle pang of loss that attends our wistful last look at the fading rays of the summer sun, that last day on the beach, that glorious home run hit into the deepening shadows of summer twilight.

September is change and continuity, new beginnings and cherished memories, and it is above all our great season of opportunity.

For it is opportunity which draws us together in this noble enterprise of public education; that collective belief bequeathed to us by our mothers and fathers that all people, no matter their circumstances, deserve a fighting chance to bring the best out in themselves, and in whatever they hope to build, yearn to accomplish, or dare to say.

This is no simple business; this is the idea that built a nation. It can save a nation, too.

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity we have, here and now, this year - teachers, students, parents - to share and build our dreams together.

In the days and weeks to come we will have many opportunities to discuss matters specific to curriculum and practice. For now, since I know it is an immediate concern, let me address the issue of school supplies. Students in Room 243 are not required to bring anything with them aside from an active mind. If families are interested in donating items to our room, we always need the following: facial tissue and baseball mitts. We also really could use a vacuum cleaner, if anyone has one they no longer need.

Let me also say that the door of our room is always open, and I will always be happy at any time to listen, to talk, to address concerns, to answer questions, to discuss ideas.

Thank you.

Joe