

Principal Eley Looks Forward To Great Year

Editor , Thomas Lark

WEST LINCOLN––“Summers fly, and winters walk.”

That’s how Linus put it to his friend, Charlie Brown, in Charles Schulz’s immortal “Peanuts” comic strip. And so it must seem to the countless local administrators, teachers and students returning to school in Lincoln County tomorrow (Aug. 14).

Among them is Tracy Eley, principal of West Lincoln High School. Eley shared her thoughts with us on Tuesday.

“As the new school year starts at West Lincoln High School, I am filled with excitement and optimism as I start my second year as its principal,” she said. “With an enrollment of around 750 students, our school continues to grow in academic excellence, dedicated staff and a supportive community. This year promises to be especially remarkable as we build on our successes and embrace new opportunities for growth.

“West Lincoln High has implemented a range of initiatives designed to elevate our educational standards and support student achievement,” Eley added. “Through targeted programs and innovative teaching strategies, we aim to foster a learning environment where all students can excel and reach their full potential.”

She continued that this year brings a new position with a familiar face. John Markley will be the dean of academic success, helping the new assistant principal, Jenny Robinson, to lead instruction schoolwide.

“At the heart of our success is our exceptional staff,” said Eley. “Our educators are not only highly qualified but also

deeply invested in the growth and well-being of each student. Their dedication and passion are reflected in their innovative teaching methods, personalized support and commitment to academic excellence. This year, we look forward to continued collaboration and professional development to ensure that our teaching practices remain at the forefront of educational excellence."

Plus, as Eley informed, there are four new staffers this year. Broderick Steele, Caroline Jenkins, Carlie Varner and Seth Baxter have all joined the West Lincoln school family.

"All of these new hires are former Rebels and know firsthand what a great school we have," Eley revealed. "I look forward to seeing all the great ideas they bring that can push us even higher."

Rebel pride

Eley spoke further about her students' enthusiasm and more.

"The students at West Lincoln High are truly our pride and joy," she said. "Their enthusiasm for learning, dedication to their studies and active participation in school activities contribute significantly to our school community. As we embark on this academic year, we are eager to see our students continue to thrive, both academically and personally, as they take on new challenges and opportunities. Our Rebel pride runs deep, and our students represent us well in all extracurricular activities."

Eley also praised West Lincoln's strong sense of community: a key component of the school's success.

"The support from parents, local businesses and community organizations plays a crucial role in enriching our school environment," she said. "This year, we are excited to continue building these relationships and working together to support our students' growth and success. I am so thankful for a community that supports the administration and our teachers. Together, we will continue to grow a community that anyone would be proud to live in.

"We are particularly thrilled to begin our second year with the 'Leader in Me' program," she added. "This initiative, which integrates *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens and Highly Effective People* (a famous self-help book) into our curriculum, is designed to equip students with essential leadership skills and personal development tools. By focusing on these habits, we aim to prepare our students not just for academic success but for a well-rounded life beyond high school."

These good habits are invaluable as students plan their futures, whether they are heading to college, enlisting in the military or entering the work force.

"This program is more than just a set of principles," said Eley. "It is a framework for fostering responsible, self-reliant and effective individuals.

"As we look forward to the upcoming year, we are filled with anticipation and enthusiasm," she added. "At West Lincoln High, we are dedicated to creating an environment where academic growth, personal development and community support come together to foster success. Together with our outstanding staff, brilliant students and supportive community, we are confident that this school year will be a truly exceptional one."

(BELOW): This classic "Peanuts" comic strip says it all. Summer vacations are all too brief!