



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Rockaway Borough Parents and Families,

It is with great anticipation that I welcome you back for the 2018-19 school year and my second year as Superintendent of Rockaway Borough Schools. The first day for students, district wide, is Tuesday September 4, 2018. I look forward to seeing them as well as you and of course, the start of another successful academic year and educational partnership.

The past two months have been extremely busy here on the Rockaway Borough campus with a multitude of projects focusing on facilities as well as curriculum and instruction. Besides the routine cleaning and preparation of both Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson Schools, our maintenance staff has tackled a number of targeted physical upgrades to all buildings, necessary outside upkeep and the creation of some new instructional spaces to better support instruction and student engagement. In the line of curriculum, I am very happy to report that our 1:1 Initiative started last school year will be extended to all district students with 6th-8th graders taking Chromebook devices home, 4th-5th graders have designated devices and enough available devices for all students in kindergarten-3rd grade for everyday use. In addition to regular curricular updates across all content areas, teachers in kindergarten through 5th grade will be implementing a newly added EnVisions 2.0 math program to support our commitment to continued student success.

This coming year, the district will also be welcoming a number of new staff members to fill open, but also newly created positions such as a part time guidance counselor at Lincoln and an additional ESL teacher at Thomas Jefferson. Due to our recent award of additional state aid in July, we have also been fortunate to bring back our 4/5th art and music teachers as well as increase all other 4/5th teachers to full time status. Many thanks to the Board of Education for supporting this move for I believe it will help the district recruit and retain quality teachers and in turn foster and sustain a high level of instruction for our students. Also in collaboration with the Rockaway Borough Police Department, the district has hired a Class III Officer who will be shared by both schools and whose presence will help to secure and maintain a safer learning environment for all students and staff.

While three district goals have already been set involving (1)our commitment to providing a safe and viable climate for students, staff and the community, (2)our intention to embrace innovation and engage students through the expansion of technology initiatives and (3)the assembling of a "Future Ready" to access district capabilities, I will continue as last year with a number of my personal goals namely to increase overall communication with all stakeholders, increase knowledge of professional learning strategies for staff, and also become familiar with all aspects of our district facilities and upcoming referendum. To support all these goals, I will be creating a Superintendent's Blog online as well as hosting a number of "Superintendent's Coffees" to share information as well as receive your input on pertinent topics. The first Superintendent's Coffee will be held on Thursday September 13th in the Thomas Jefferson Library with focus on the district's upcoming referendum. I hope to see you there.

With that said, thank you in advance for your support and confidence and of course, best wishes for a wonderful school!

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Alpaugh
Superintendent