



SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Huntington PK-8 School

Jaime Alicea, Superintendent of Schools

Joanne M. Harlow, Principal

August 2017

Dear Huntington Families,

Welcome all new and returning families to the 2017-2018 school year! We are excited to be starting a new year with you and look forward to working with you as a partner in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and we will do our very best to carry out those responsibilities. We are indeed a supportive and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, prepared to learn. Attendance matters!
- 2) Puts forth their best effort every day
- 3) Completes all classwork and homework assignments given by teachers
- 4) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 5) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 6) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject

***School for students in grades K-8 begins on Wednesday, September 6th, with free breakfast and lunch, and students in PK begin on Thursday, September 7th.**

- Kindergarten Orientation-August 29th at 12:00 noon in classrooms
- Back-to-School Barbeque/Open House for **all** families- Tuesday, Sept. 5th at 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- PreK Orientation- September 6th- 11:00 (Ms. Patrick); 10:00 and 1:00 (Ms. Appleton); in classrooms

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff, and we are delighted to welcome Dr. Jerome Watts as a new Vice Principal. Dr. Watts brings a solid skill set and a gentle, sensitive approach to meeting children's academic and emotional needs. Welcome Dr. Watts! We are also happy to welcome Mr. Grecco (4th grade), Ms. Recuparo (middle school interventionist and AVID teacher), Mrs. Yaus (middle school psychologist), Mr. Casavant (administrative intern), Mrs. Schuster (library media specialist), Mrs. Edmonds (ENL teacher), Ms. Dutcher (ENL teacher), and Mr. Netti (ARISE therapist).

Our staff have been busy all summer participating in professional development and planning, and we are eager to begin working with your child. This year we are implementing Positivity Project, a character ed initiative, which you will be hearing much more about. We are also continuing our Personalized Learning, and students will be engaged in setting and monitoring their own individual learning goals. At the middle school, all students will attend an added Tutorial block, during which time some students will receive extra academic assistance in math and ELA, if needed, from their teachers.

All summer we have been reflecting on our school climate, and identifying ways to ensure that all students learn in a safe, orderly environment. One very important change is students' use of **cell phones**. Electronic media which is not designated for classroom use are NOT PERMITTED in the classroom, hallways, cafeteria, playground, or restrooms. All electronic devices must remain out of sight (in backpacks, lockers, etc.) and turned off. If a student has repeated infractions against the cell phone policy, he/she will be

asked to hand over their device, and if necessary, it will be kept in the main office until a parent comes to retrieve it. The school may also assign additional appropriate consequences as per the SCSD Code of Conduct. (The school does not take responsibility for lost or stolen cell phones.) We ask for your support in this. Students are free to use the phones in the main office in case of an emergency.

Help us keep every child safe while riding or walking to school. Please be mindful of speed limits in the parking lot and remember to avoid parking along the sidewalks (which is unsafe for walkers and blocks other traffic). This year we are in the process of planning a building renovation, including the parking lot and bus loading areas, and hopefully this process will be much improved by next summer.

During the first week of school teachers will be sending home envelopes with important school communication. Please look this material over and return it back to school with your child ASAP. It is crucial that we have updated phone numbers and addresses. Please also make sure you have notified Transportation (435-4260) of any changes (i.e. home address, daycare, etc.) if your child rides a bus.

To stay informed throughout the year, please log onto our webpage at www.syracusecityschools.com, and follow us on Twitter [@HuntingtonSCSD](https://twitter.com/HuntingtonSCSD). Our PTO also has a website (www.huntingtonschoolpto.org) with a link to their Facebook page. Please consider joining or attending the PTO this year, which benefits ALL students at our school! Please also find the list for recommended school supplies on the Huntington School home page. We thank you so much for your contributions and donations.

Again, welcome! The staff and I are excited to begin the new school year with you and your child. We look forward to supporting all our students in their academic growth, and to building a strong partnership together. We hope to see everyone on September 5th at our annual barbeque and Open House!

Sincerely,

Joanne Harlow, Principal

***Huntington PK-8 School, where all school community members are learners, leaders,
and global citizens.***

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