



SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Huntington PK-8 School
400 Sunnycrest Road · Syracuse, NY 13206
Phone 315·435·4565

Jaime Alicea
Superintendent of Schools

June, 2017

Dear Huntington Families,

As we near the end of the 2016-17 school year, our entire staff are busy wrapping up, but already have begun planning for next year. Staff are finishing out the year reflecting on and identifying strategies for improving instruction and student achievement, via Personalized Learning, data-driven, collaborative planning, Professional Learning Communities, AVID, and more. We are busy scheduling time during the summer months to continue our learning, especially making time to revisit our building-wide plan for addressing social-emotional-behavioral issues and improving our school culture and climate.

A major initiative successfully launched this year was, and continues to be, aimed at ensuring that all students are successful, no matter race or ethnicity. At Huntington, building-wide and classroom culturally responsive practices support the achievement of all students. We are excited to be embarking upon a unique collaboration with our ENL families by establishing a parent advisory group that meets monthly and engages in on-going dialogue and reciprocal communication. The Huntington school community will continue to promote cultural responsiveness and appropriate responses to individuality and differences, as reflected in our policies, programs, and practices.

Throughout the year staff engaged in on-going data analysis and planning. While we still have much work to do, the process highlights the school's strengths and accomplishments. For example, the rate of achievement of our ENL students surpassed that of our non-ENL students in several grades; the number of referrals and suspensions decreased significantly compared to last year for all sub-groups, especially for our students with disabilities. Our systems such as PBIS, Class DOJO, and BIC (Behavior Intervention Center) have helped make this happen, and we are integrating Restorative Practices into our student discipline process. Our year-end assessments showed tremendous growth in math and ELA at several grades, and the initial results from the Math and ELA NYS Assessments look promising. Our technology inventory doubled this year, and currently all classrooms have iPads or laptops and a large choice of digital tools for Personalized Learning, interventions, and progress monitoring. Our students are highly engaged in this classroom model that meets the specific needs of students through differentiated support and learner-centered instruction.

We are also in the process of planning our 21st Century After-School Program, and thankful to be partnering again with the Boys' & Girls' Club for the 2017-2018 school year.

As always, we greatly appreciate your commitment to your child's education at Huntington. We are partners and collaborators, and your child's success depends on your involvement and support. Our annual Back-to-School Barbeque and Orientation is planned for September 5th, and we hope to see everyone there.

School starts on September 6th for grades K-8. We look forward to next year with excitement and hopes for even greater success. Have a safe and happy summer, and watch for our August newsletter, follow us on Twitter, and check out the PTO website for important information and dates as we prepare for the 2017-2018 school year!

Respectfully,

Joanne Harlow, Principal