



REPORT CARD



Message from the Superintendent

I hope you have enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer. We have had a busy summer in the District working on curriculum projects, sprucing up our facilities and providing summer school services for many of our students. Our goal continues to be to provide a rich and robust

educational experience for your children and our students. The following items will serve as a road map for the District's work during the 2007-2008 school year:

Increase New York State Assessment scores

We are happy to share our Regents passage results with you: English 92%, Math A 100%, Math B 100%, Global Studies 90%, U.S. History 83%, Earth Science 100%, Living Environment 97%, Chemistry 92%, Physics 100%, French 86%, Spanish 91%. Our District's mastery on the New York State English Language Arts test at the grade 8 level rose almost 14% over 2005-2006.

In addition, the Alice E. Grady School was recognized by the New York State Education Department as one of the state's Title I "high performing/gap closing" public schools. We believe that our efforts in recent years to align our curriculum to New York State standards are bearing fruit. We are planning a "School Report Card" meeting on Nov. 6 to review all of our District's New York State assessment data in detail. This meeting will take place at 6 p.m. in the Grady library. Please mark your calendars.

Search for permanent principal for Hamilton

We will be working diligently to find a permanent principal for Alexander Hamilton Junior/Senior High School. Leonard Mecca retired after 20 years of service to the District, and Robert Hendrickson will serve as the interim principal during the 2007-2008 school year. Community and staff forums will take place during the coming months to develop a profile

for this new leader. More information about this will be forthcoming. In the meantime, if you have a child at Hamilton, feel free to contact Dr. Hendrickson at 592-7311 or via email at rhendrickson@elmsd.org.

Focus on literacy across the curriculum/Born to Read Program

We have been and will continue to focus on the development of reading, writing, listening and speaking for all of our students in all subject areas. Last year, Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs, a national literacy-across-the-curriculum expert, conducted two workshops for our staff, and we are pleased to welcome her back in December for an additional learning session.

We also want to work with our families to develop literacy skills during the preschool years. By using grant monies, we will continue with Born to Read, a nationally recognized program for our preschool students. Books will be distributed, and tips for literacy development will be shared with parents of children who live in our District aged 0-3 years. If you check our website at www.elmsd.org, you will find additional information about this innovative program.

Continue work in the areas of curriculum development and enhancements

I want to take this opportunity to welcome Peter Giarrizzo, the District's new Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services. Mr. Giarrizzo comes to Elmsford with a rich background in curriculum, instruction and special education. Under his leadership, the Instructional Services office will be focusing on analyzing data collected during the 2006-2007 school year. Our goal is to improve student outcomes and help us to better identify those students who are need of extra support as well as enrich the learning of those who are performing at or above the New York State Learning Standards. In addition, the district-wide Curriculum Council will be studying our current curriculum maps to further improve our ability to deliver the finest curriculum possible. Finally, we will be purchasing more SmartBoards for each of the buildings to continue to build upon the work we have done in helping all of our children to learn in the ways that they are most comfortable.

EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it!!

Interested in receiving an e-newsletter about activities and programs that take place in our schools? It comes directly from the Superintendent's desk. Please sign up on our District's website, www.elmsd.org.

Continue the work of the Professional Development/Shared Decision Making Committee

The Professional Development/Shared Decision Making Committee created the mission and vision statements for the District, as well as values statements that serve as the foundation for our work with our students. These statements can be found on our District's website and in the calendar. During the 2006-2007 school year, the committee identified building-specific goals to increase literacy development and social skills. Once goals were identified, committee members reported quarterly about progress relative to these goals. Our work in this regard is ongoing.

New Public Complaint Board Policy

The Board of Education and I welcome opportunities to discuss issues with parents, students and members of the community. We have put in place a specific policy that provides a structure for dealing with complaints that will enable anyone to address any issues or concerns to the appropriate parties. This policy was revised during the

spring of 2007 and can be found on our District's website at www.elmsd.org.

Enhance communication with the greater Elmsford community

Starting in October 2006, I created an e-newsletter to inform all interested parties about activities and programs that take place in our schools. The superintendent's e-newsletter has received rave reviews by parents, community members, staff and students. If you would like to receive this newsletter right on your computer desktop, please sign up on our District's website, www.elmsd.org.

Provide varied educational opportunities for capable students

Our District has worked hard to expand options for our capable students. Our pupils have the chance to partake in a variety of clubs, athletic events, music programs and special activities. Our senior research project program will continue this year, and we have instituted Lunch Plus at the Grady School, which is an in-house enrichment program that takes place during lunch and recess. Children can sign up for a variety of programs for a 10-week period. We will continue to encourage our students to participate in all extra-curricular offerings.

We believe that families, schools and communities must work collaboratively to enable our students to reach their full potential. We know that the 2007-2008 school year promises to be a busy and productive year for all of us. We will keep you posted about our activities, and we encourage you to be visible in our schools. Most importantly, we want to work with you to generate a collaborative spirit that will create literate, productive citizens.

Sincerely,

Carol Franks-Randall, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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