



Dear Tuckahoe Community,

As we enter the second quarter of the school year, I would like to update you on our progress towards several important and exciting initiatives promoting growth and continued improvement in our schools.

I am pleased to inform you that our district-wide needs assessment and strategic plan process is well underway. Our expert consultant, Ms. Judith Wilson, conducted small group forums with key stakeholders throughout our school community last month. This week, we will send out electronic surveys to students, staff and community members to complete. I strongly encourage you to share your thoughts and recommendations. Once surveys are completed, a core team will carefully consider our community's feedback, as well as other information obtained from the strategic planning process. We look forward to presenting our new strategic plan to the community in February 2019.

The planning phase of our district's \$9,987,000 capital project is moving forward on schedule. If you missed KG+D's capital project presentation at the October 15th Board of Education meeting, please click [here](#) to take a virtual tour of the new second story addition at the William E. Cottle Elementary School. To ensure safety and efficiency during the early stages of our project, the entire WEC building will be closed for the summer of 2019. All summer academic and camp programs will be relocated to our MS/HS building.

Over the past five months, our district implemented various safety and security recommendations generated from our June 2018 *Safety, Security, and Emergency Management Assessment Report*. The District and Building Safety Plans were updated and submitted to NYSED as well as to our emergency responders. We restructured the District and Building Safety Teams and Emergency Response Teams, and staff has participated in regular trainings and safety drills. We arranged for Eastchester PD to provide daily morning traffic supervision outside our schools, and three new monitors with extensive law enforcement backgrounds were hired to join our staff. I assure you that school safety and security will remain a high priority as we move forward with our long-term planning.

Another area of focus for our school district has been analyzing curricula and programs that support SEL (Social Emotional Learning) in grades K-12. Although we have done extensive work in this area, we are always striving for improvement. This year, we added mental, emotional and social units of study to our 6-12 health education program, and increased our emphasis on digital citizenship. We registered with the Sandy Hook Challenge Organization, and have begun integrating strategies from their *Start With Hello* program into all three schools. All K-12 teachers are completing the *Youth Mental Health First Aid Program*, which is an eight-hour course managed by the National Council for Behavioral Health and Missouri Department of Health. In addition, we have contracted with PNWBOCES to implement the *Anonymous Alerts Parent Anti-Bullying and Safety Reporting App*, which has an expected launch date on February 1, 2019.

In all, it has been a very positive and productive start to the school year. Thanks to our supportive community and exceptional staff, the future of the Tuckahoe School District is bright.

My sincerest wishes for a happy and joyous holiday season!

Very truly yours,

Carl L. Albano
Superintendent of Schools