



## CARMEL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**LOUIS RIOLO**  
*Principal*

**JOHN FINK**  
*Assistant Principal*

**LAUREN SANTABARBARA**  
*Assistant Principal*

**BRIAN PIAZZA**  
*Assistant Principal*

November 22, 2019

Dear Carmel Community,

As you are aware, Mr. Lou Riolo, principal of Carmel High School, accepted a new position with Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES as an Assistant Superintendent. We are saddened by his departure but we wish him the best of luck and know he will be a tremendous asset to their community and programs.

With this said, at the November 19<sup>th</sup> board of education meeting, I was appointed as Interim Principal of Carmel High School and will serve starting Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. I am extremely excited about this opportunity. I am both honored and proud of the appointment to this distinguished position and I look forward to assisting with the transition. I am currently serving in my ninth year as Assistant Principal at Carmel High School, and these years have been challenging, rewarding and fun. I love Carmel High School and the Carmel community! Prior to coming to Carmel, I worked as an Assistant Principal at Irvington High School in lower Westchester. I was also the Dean of Students and a math teacher at Ossining High School, also in lower Westchester. All of these experiences have helped develop leadership skills, formulated my educational philosophy, and foster my relationships with students, staff, parents and community members. Working in high school communities has helped me fully understand the need to educate students holistically. I have lived in Patterson for the past 10 years with my wife, Tina, and our two children who attend Carmel Schools. We are thrilled to call the Carmel community our home.

Additionally, at the November 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting, Mr. Lou Valesey was appointed Substitute Administrator. Mr. Valesey will assume the duties of Assistant Principal at the high school in my absence from the position. He joins us with a wealth of experience and knowledge. He retired from the Carmel Central School District in 2017 with over 38 years of experience; 12 of which were in Carmel. During his retirement, he has served in various short-term roles in Carmel and other school districts to include CSE Chairperson and Assistant Principal. I am particularly excited to have him join our team of administrators because he is a champion for students.

Together with Mrs. Lauren Santabarbara and Mr. Brian Piazza, I am confident that our team will continue to thrive at Carmel High School, remaining steadfast in the mission of Carmel High School and the Carmel Central School District – students first. We are looking forward to another superior year in Carmel.

As always, if there is anything that the administrative team can do for you, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

John P. Fink  
Interim Principal

*Cultivating Opportunities*

