

September 2017

Dear Catskill CSD Community:

I am thrilled to begin my service as your Superintendent of Schools. It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to serve our children, parents and greater community as we strive to provide our students with the high quality educational experience they deserve. The Catskill Central School District enjoys a strong history of innovative and inclusive opportunities for each and every child. With the outstanding leadership of our Board of Education, we look forward to supporting our exceptional faculty and staff while working with our entire community as we continue to move forward.

Our mission is to "...provide all children with the opportunity to fully develop their academic and creative potential and to assist them in becoming mature, humane, responsible and productive members of society." These words articulate our shared commitment to our children and we are proud to keep our mission in the forefront of each and every decision that we make.

We have set clear, specific goals for achievement in the 2017-2018 school year and, as a team, we pledge to take purposeful, intentional steps with "deliberate excellence" to achieve these goals. Our goals for the 2017-2018 school year are:

Goal 1: Reduce Referrals, In and Out of School Suspension by 10%

Goal 2: Decrease Course Failures by 10% Each Quarter from Previous School Year

Goal 3: Increase the Graduation Rate of Grade 9 Cohorts from Previous Year

Goal 4: Increase by 5% Proficiency and Mastery on State Assessments

Goal 5: Increase K-2 Reading to at least 80% of students Reading At or Above Grade Level

The Catskill Central School District is devoted to the individualized educational experience of every child. With programmatic diversity to match our wonderfully diverse student body, the CCSD works to provide our students with a wide variety of academic, arts and extra-curricular activities that help to promote the healthy development of the whole child. Our advanced academic programs, enhanced technological offerings, socio-emotional character development programming, and community-based experiential opportunities further enhance the total educational program.

Community and civic engagement are core pillars in our educational program and the CCSD benefits from an extremely supportive parent/guardian community as well as the entire community of Catskill. All are welcome partners and the district benefits tremendously from a highly effective and engaged PTA and PTSO. All members of our educational community are strongly encouraged to take part in these organizations.

As we look toward the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year, the Board of Education, district administration, faculty and staff hope to capitalize on our past successes and continue to enhance our already outstanding educational program. Again, I am grateful for the warm welcome that I have

received from the entire community and I look forward to partnering with you in our commitment to the healthy development, well-being and academic achievement of each and every one of our students. Working together, we can rest assured that our children will have the best possible education and the most exciting opportunities available.

Respectfully,

Dr. Ronel Cook

Superintendent of Schools