



A Message from the Superintendent

The Board of Education and staff have been working to prepare the budget for the 2016-17 school year. During the months of March and April, the Board of Education will be holding budget workshops at their meetings. One of the largest challenges school districts face each year is to match the requirements from the state and federal governments with available resources. Although higher taxes create a burden for everyone, it is always our goal to present a budget that provides a high level of educational opportunities to our students for a cost that remains as affordable as possible.

The State Education Department will soon be reviewing the plans for Phase B of our capital project. With an anticipated date of completion for that review process in the spring, the construction phase should begin during the summer months.

Grades 4 through 8 New York State testing for ELA and math are scheduled for April. Although standardized testing has come under great scrutiny the past few years, we still believe that the data we gather on student achievement from these tests provides value to the instructional program. We use this information for planning, instructional programs delivery, staffing, and to guide curriculum review and revisions. Also, we believe that it helps our students to prepare for mandated testing that they will invariably face at the secondary level and beyond.

Some concerns regarding state testing at the 4-8 level are:

- Use of results in teacher evaluations
- Use of results in principal evaluations
- Length of tests
- Time constraints
- Age appropriateness

The State Education Department and lawmakers have reacted to the public outcry. The following changes have been made:

- Test results will not count toward teacher and principal evaluations until the 2019-2020 school year
- All tests will be shorter in length
- The tests will be untimed, reducing the stress on students

I strongly urge you to support the involvement with your child(ren) in the state mandated testing program. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dave Langone

Superintendent of Schools