

February 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to February as our students begin their second semester. We hope that you are pleased with what your children have accomplished and learned in the first semester. Please continue to encourage them to take advantage of all that our schools have to offer, including our extracurricular and athletic programs. Remember, if you have questions about your child's performance and involvement, our administrators, teachers, counselors, coaches and advisors can be reached at each of our buildings.

For many reasons, February continues to be a special month in the Sewanhaka District. On Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m., the 58th Annual District Music Festival & Art Exhibit will be held at the newly renovated Floral Park Memorial High School auditorium. Over 350 students from each of our five high schools, selected by audition, will perform as members of a district orchestra, band, and choir under the direction of three prestigious guest conductors. Artwork of over 250 students will be on display in the lobby. I am honored to have been chosen to be recognized at this wonderful event. It means so much to me that our students will be performing at an event that honors the work that I have done in the District during the past eight years. I will truly miss this event as it has been one of my favorite performances to attend over the years. Tickets are available through the Music Departments of our schools for \$8.00 each.

Another outstanding event that is planned for the near future is our District Sports Night, an annual showcase of school spirit and athletic competitiveness. On Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., our 32nd Annual District Sports Night will be held at H. Frank Carey High School. Over 250 students from all five high schools will compete in various events before a gymnasium packed with the guests of our student participants.

Also of importance to our school communities is the development of a budget proposal which serves to provide for the District's fiscal stability and educational future of our children. The Sewanhaka Central High School Board of Education and Central Administration will conduct a budget meeting on February 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. and will continue to discuss the 2019-20 budget at a second budget meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 7:00 p. m. A third review and adoption of the budget will take place on April 9, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. All of these meetings will take place at Sewanhaka High School in the Board Room. The public is welcome to attend all of these meetings. In addition, we will continue to conduct public presentations of our proposed budget that will be scheduled this spring at a variety of times and locations. The final budget hearing is scheduled for May 8, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.

The District has completed all of the bond referendum work. Again, I would like to thank the residents of all four component communities for supporting these outstanding additions and renovations to the school District. The facilities that our students, staff and public are now enjoying are recognized as the finest in the area.

As you know, our District is continuing to face a substantial challenge as related to the implementation of the State legislation regarding the tax cap levy that will continue to have an impact on the education that our students receive in the upcoming school year. The constraints placed upon the District continue to impact each and every decision we make. We will do our very best to develop a budget that minimizes the effect on the services and programs provided by our five district schools.

I remain appreciative to continue to serve as your Superintendent of Schools and look forward to the dialogue that we will have during the upcoming months regarding the District's budgetary challenges.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph P. Ferrie, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools