



Dear Community Members:

I am looking forward to welcoming students and staff members back to school in September, and to kicking off my first school year as your Superintendent.

Since assuming my new post on July 1, I have been grateful for the tremendous welcome I have received from the entire Saugerties community.

I have also been impressed by just how busy our schools are, even during the summer break. Maintenance and work crews have been shining floors, painting walls, and installing new ceiling tiles; teachers have been taking professional development courses to increase their mastery; students have been sharpening their academic skills during summer school, and student-athletes are preparing for the fall sports season during open gym sessions. It's been a whirlwind of activity.

In addition, I have been regularly meeting with building administrators to help me create a roadmap for the future. Building on the District's existing strengths, our plans include:

- **Focusing on student success.** We aim to help every student succeed to the best of their abilities.
- **Promoting greater transparency.** When we make decisions, we want everyone to know why those decisions were made and how they will be carried out.
- **Practicing shared decision-making.** The best decisions, we believe, typically emerge from a collaborative process.
- **Cultivating grass-roots input.** We encourage feedback from everyone in our school community, including students, parents, and senior citizens. These are *your* schools, and we want to hear from you.
- **Improving alignment and continuity between buildings.** We aim to ensure that our school curriculums are well aligned, so that children in specific grade levels are learning similar things, whatever the school they attend, and that all students are equally prepared for their transitions to Junior and Senior High School.
- **Enhanced communication between community members and staff.** We want our community members to be more aware of the many great things that are happening in our classrooms. By the same token, if there is a problem occurring in your child's classroom, we want to hear about that so we can help solve it.
- **Creating a school culture to prepare all students for the 21st century.** As a District, we need to help our children acquire the skills and knowledge that will prepare them for careers in an increasingly competitive job market.

In closing, I want you to know that I plan to have an open door policy. I hope that when you see me at a school function, in the supermarket, or at a community event, you will feel free to share your comments and concerns—as well as any positive feedback you may have. We not only want to hear what we're doing wrong—we'd love to hear what we're getting right!

Sincerely,  
Kirk Reinhardt