



## NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 4, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year. We look forward to seeing our students in-person as well as our remote-only students. I want to begin by thanking our entire school community for everyone's efforts in the opening of schools this year. Many decisions needed to be made this summer on a district level, from a school-based perspective, and on an individual basis for our students and staff. Our collective decisions have now been made, and we are ready to begin what I hope to be one of our most prideful years as a school community. I am truly excited to see our mutual creativity.

As I have reflected on the past six months, I have acknowledged several things:

1. If we work together, we can accomplish a great deal.
2. The perceived boundaries of the past can be modified or expanded.
3. New traditions are acceptable.
4. An individual can inspire their peers and colleagues.
5. There is more than one way to accomplish a task.
6. We have a very supportive and caring school community.
7. Patience, flexibility, creativity, and enthusiasm will carry the day.
8. The ability to adapt is paramount.

As I indicated to you in my last letter, the health and well-being of our students and staff will be critical to our success. I recognize that we have shared a tremendous amount of information with you this month, and I want to reiterate how now, more so than ever before, your attention to these details is very important. Please review all of the documents so that you become knowledgeable of the expectations for in-person instruction this year. As a reminder, all of the communication regarding the District Reopening Plan is located on the [district website homepage](#) for easy referral.

I want to commend our staff for their return to our schools. Without their commitment, we would not be able to open our school doors. Two weeks ago, we had our new teacher orientation, and this past week all of our teachers returned for three days of professional learning in order to be prepared for our students' arrival in our hybrid environment. We have also been very busy on the personnel front, and I want to provide you with an update on all of the personnel changes that have occurred throughout the district. If you have the opportunity, please congratulate the following members of our team on their new positions:

Mrs. Lauren Zirpoli, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services  
Mr. Brian Henry, High/Middle School Principal  
Mrs. Robyn Greenwald, Allen W. Roberts Principal  
Mrs. Stephanie Kwiatkowski, Acting High School Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Michelle Testa, Mathematics Department Head K-6  
Mrs. Jennifer Johnson-Tiongson, Visual and Practical Arts Department Head K-12  
Mr. Laura DiNicola, World Language Department Head K-12

In addition, we hired 22 new teachers and 2 new support staff members. I'm very pleased with all of the promotions and new staff and look forward to their many contributions in the future.

As many of you know, the district participated in the Strategic Planning Process last year. Thank you to everyone who participated in our planning sessions. The Board of Education was very pleased with the contributions from parents, staff, and community members. With the onset of the pandemic, we were unable to complete the review of outcomes and goal-setting process. We plan to resume our project this fall, begin to share outcomes with the community, and conclude with new five-year long-range goals. Please be on the lookout for updates and meetings in the near future.

Once again, welcome back to the new year, and I look forward to witnessing our student and staff accomplishments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Minko, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Superintendent of Schools