

Welcome to spring!

As the days get longer and the temperatures rise, so do the distractions for our students. Please help us make sure that your students finish the year strong by asking to see their homework and ensuring that they study at least an hour every night. At this time of the year kids just want to run around outside, regardless of their age. Spring sports begin and the city starts to buzz with interest and excitement after a long, cold winter. This can be healthy, but it must be measured and balanced with what's important for success in school. We are half way through the 3rd quarter and now is the time to redouble our efforts to ensure a solid grade for the year. Parents, please help us to help your kids remain focused.

While we continue our work it is good to note that we are preparing for the end of the year. If your student is a Junior, now is the time to really start exploring options for after graduation. Start looking at prospective colleges online and try to make some visits so you and your students are ready when it comes time for early admissions. If you are the parent of a senior who is going away to college, you should begin preparing them for the changes that increased independence brings. For parents of Sophomores and incoming Freshmen, remind them that it is only four short years, and that these years count! There is a lot of competition for post-secondary opportunities, and if they want to live well as adults, they must work hard as students.

Finally, I am sure that most of the parents and students have heard that I will be resigning my post at the end of the year. This was a difficult choice for me, as I have come to love Peekskill and revere it as my home away from home. Unfortunately, this is what it is, however, and the dynamics of being the best I can be here and at home have become very challenging. While I finish out my tenure here, I promise to continue to provide for your students, the best that I can in terms of their educational needs. My staff and I will continue to work diligently to advance the school, as we have done over the last year and a half. We have managed to reduce the disciplinary rate by more than 700 instances since 2011, simply by letting the students know and understand that we are here, that we are paying attention, and that we care about their successes on a daily basis. We have introduced new learning opportunities for all our students through programs such as Distance Learning, and the Career and Technical Education courses provided on campus through the BOCES. We continue to research and explore the best methods for meeting each and every one of our student's needs...and we will continue to do this through the end of the year, when the staff will continue on as dedicated professionals committed to excellence - only under a new leader. The Peekskill High School has changed quite a bit for the better in a short period of time, and I have faith that the teachers will guarantee that it will continue to evolve by ensuring the highest expectations for all learners and showing an unwavering resolve to serve your children with the ethics, caring, and respect they deserve. I thank you for entrusting me with the education of your children; I can only hope that I have served you well, and promise to continue to serve you while I am still the Principal of this school.

Thank you,

Fred Hutchinson

