



Peekskill City School District A System Focused on Every Student; Every Day

The Mission of the Peekskill City School District is to educate students in a caring, inspiring environment characterized by a spirit of excellence and high expectations; prepare graduates to meet or exceed standards; graduate students who respect and appreciate cultural diversity; and prepare students to pursue adult lives as contributing citizens of our local and global community.

Dr. David Fine,
Superintendent of Schools

Administration Center, 1031 Elm Street • Peekskill, NY 10566-3499
(914) 737-3300, ext. 302 - FAX: (914) 737-3912
E-mail: dfine@peekskillcsd.org

Superintendent's E-Corner, September, 2016

"There is No Substitute for Hard Work." Thomas Edison

"Peekskill Pride in Full Effect." PCSD Theme, 2016-2017

It was wonderful to see many friends and colleagues last week as we began our 2016-2017 school year. The children watch, listen, and model our actions. It is important that they witness positive relationships, collaborative work, and aligned expectations. I am proud of the focus our building leaders brought to our PD with respect to their organization, use of time, summer planning, SLT input, and explicit conversations. As our theme is, "Peekskill Pride in Full Effect" we continuously celebrate who we are and what we do in a transparent fashion.

In this month's Educational Leadership, Rick Wormeli talks about the importance of building relationships with self, colleagues, and our learners. The article indicates that building a positive relationship throughout the school year, specifically during the first weeks of school is crucial. "It sets the tone and conditions for the year ahead, creating a more effective teaching and learning enterprise for everyone." In 1998, Scherer talks about "famous people" and many times when they are asked, "how did you get to be who you are? Often the answer begins with, "there was this teacher." Thank you for making a difference every moment in a child's life. You can make or break the day. As Gandhi references, "be the change you wish to see in the world" and be that educators that our graduates talk of when they make their first million. ☺

Dad's Day: On September 20th all "dads and father figures" will be invited to walk their child/family/friend to school. Once they arrive to school each building will have a "volunteer sign-up table, which will support our open-door with respect to community support and volunteers throughout the school year. We will invite the dads/father figures to a small breakfast and informal chat about school, children, adolescent development, and being a dad/father figure.

Tac-D: Our work with Tac-D continues, slightly different with a sense of building a CORE team and capacity within. Our partnership with Tac-D was triggered by a disproportionate amount of students with color and our SPED youngsters with respect to out of school suspensions. The work this year will be as follows:

1. A CORE team is being formed and finalized by this Friday. It will consist of about 25030 individuals (staff/faculty, teachers, BOE, Administrators, and community members).
2. The CORE team will attend two regional conferences (BOTH hosted in Peekskill on 9/20 and 9/27 in Central Office).
3. Thereafter and throughout the year Tac-D folks will come into district for mini-conferences to work directly with the CORE team and discuss strategies of PD and turn-keying this information/mindset/process. We will keep all informed of the team, timelines, and next steps.

Amazing: There is much to celebrate as we move into the 16-17 school year. These celebrations include but are not limited to our community partnerships, performing arts programs, academic improvements, ENL alignment, APPR collaborative work, individual students accomplishments (both athletic and academic), graduation improvements, college/career mindset of all stakeholders, and more. Continue to highlight all our

students and districts accomplishments as you remain focused on our challenges and needs; but consistent with your mindset, growth, and positive recognitions throughout. If not us, then who!

Buildings: Thank you to our maintenance/custodial teams and Carmine for their fine work in and out of our schools. The grounds, walls, halls, classrooms, and facilities look great! Keep up the good work and thank you for making a difference for our students, staff, and community.

Brain Aligned Research: A great article on brain research and classroom discipline. Enjoy <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/brain-aligned-school-classroom-discipline-michael-McKnight>

Excited: He is very excited to start the 4th grade. A wonderful video by a 1st year teacher. Enjoy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBLcuGunRxU>

Content/Language Objectives: An aligned approach to what our students will learn each day as well as the language process (speak, read, write, listen, etc) is paramount with regard to our planning and collaborative approaches forward. Nice work systemically speaking with regard to the PD discussions last week. Have a great school year; making each day better than the next in a respectful, transparent, and progressive manner.

5k Fun-Run: Our 5k fun-run is set for Saturday, October 15th. Sign up on our website soon. It is a great day with our students, colleagues, and community. All proceeds go back into the schools with the collaborative support of our PEF, SEPTO and PTO. On our homepage: <http://www.peakskillcsd.org/domain/794>

Community Eligibility Program (CEP): Peekskill is one of the only districts in this area to have embarked on this opportunity to support our families, community, and students. The buildings will discuss the process with regard to free breakfast/lunch for all.

“Nothing always works but something will.”
“Leadership is not a position or title, it is action and example”

Features of schools which achieve, sustain and share excellence, drawn from the 12 outstanding schools

Achieving excellence	Sustaining excellence	Sharing excellence
Having vision, values and high expectations	Continuity of leadership	System leadership
Attracting, recruiting, retaining and developing staff	Maintaining a strong team culture	Partnering another school facing difficulties and improving it
Establishing disciplined learning and consistent staff behaviour	Continually developing teaching and learning	Acting as community leader to broker relationships across other schools
Assuring the quality of teaching and learning	Developing leaders	Developing and leading a successful school improvement partnership
Leading, and building leadership capacity	Enriching the curriculum	Working as a change agent or expert leader: National Leaders of Education
Providing a relevant and attractive curriculum	Improving literacy	
Assessment, progress-tracking and target-setting	Building relationships with students, parents and the community	
Inclusion: students as individuals	No student left behind	