



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.

Mary Keenan Foster, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

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Dear Peekskill Community,

It doesn't seem possible that the school year is officially half over. There are five months left of the 2017-2018 school year. Students will receive their 2nd quarter report cards in grades 1-12 and we ask that you reach out to teachers and administrators if your child is not making the kind of progress you hoped for or expected. There is time to accelerate growth and to build supports toward the students' goals.

February is a special month because it is a month dedicated as Black History Month. It is a time to acknowledge the history of our country that is divisive and unsettling. It is critically important that we teach the difficult truth to our students so that history can never be repeated. It is imperative that every student knows that the inhumane treatment of African Americans in this country's early history served to lay a foundation of racism and inequity that still exists today.

It is also a time of hope. Our district and schools join the City this month celebrating the accomplishments of Black Americans past and present. It is a time to recognize the Black American musicians, artists, writers, athletes, inventors, teachers, government officials, and the numerous other careers and professions where Black Americans have made and continue to make significant contributions to the country and to our lives. Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Our district is committed to using education to close the achievement and opportunity gap. We are committed to using education to dismantle the remnants of institutional racism. We are committed to using education to seek to understand so our efforts to teach and learn in a culturally responsive environment are realized.

Thank you to the City and community at large for continuing to partner with the school district.

Educationally yours,

Mary Keenan Foster
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