

**Peekskill City School District**  
*Academic Excellence for 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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January, 2018

Dear Peekskill Community,

Happy New Year 2018! We are fortunate as educators to have two fresh starts in every school year. We are the only profession that I can think of that has two official “New Year” opportunities. The first, of course, is in September with the commencement of the new school year. We begin energized and renewed from our summer vacations. Our school goals are clear and our action plans are written and we begin the work to implement them. We then have the Gregorian calendar New Year on January 1<sup>st</sup>. This second opportunity provides our district with the chance to reexamine our goals, analyze the data we have collected and make mid-year course corrections if necessary. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.” We are committed to teaching the “whole child,” academics and social/emotional skills.

This year is especially exciting for Peekskill as we are not only revisiting our goals and action plans; we are revisiting our mission statement. This month we will be working with our district consultant, Dr. Lorenzo Licopoli, and a team that represents our wonderful school and community to make certain that our current mission statement (on the top of this letterhead), truly captures our core beliefs and that subscribing to it moves our district forward in our goal of academic excellence for every student. We are committed to becoming a district of excellence. We are committed to every child in our care. Members of the team that craft our revised or new vision statement will participate in the process to select our new Superintendent of Schools. We will continue to share our work and our progress for the future on our website, at Board of Education meetings, and through communications like this one.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I will be hosting a morning coffee at the administration building on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and I welcome any suggestions to help improve our district practices. Please check out our newly designed website and join us at our many winter sporting, academic and theatrical events.

I wish each and every member of the Peekskill community a healthy and happy 2018 filled with love and laughter. Be kind to yourselves and to each other.

Educationally yours,

*Mary Keenan Foster, Ed. D.*