Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

Our first order of business for the new academic school year was our Board of Education’s reorganization meeting, which took place on July 1. Congratulations to Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr. and to Mrs. Jillian Villon who were sworn in as our Board of Education President (Jenkins) and Vice President (Villon) at the meeting! We thank our outgoing President, Mrs. Maria Pereira for her outstanding leadership and dedicated service, and look forward to Mrs. Pereira’s continued partnership as a Board trustee. Also at the meeting, our recently re-elected Board trustees, Ms. Branwen MacDonald and Mr. Sam North renewed their oaths of office as well. Together, we make a great team leading forward for our children.
This July, our summer work began with an administrative retreat. The annual event, which spans over two weeks, consisted of professional development for administrators, faculty and staff. This time was spent focusing on goal setting and planning for the 2020-21 school year. Participants also enjoyed numerous team building activities, workshops and breakout sessions. We focused on reopening of schools, culturally responsive education, restorative practices, curriculum and various other key topics.

Our Extended School Year (ESY) program is underway! Thank you to Director of Student Support Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace and Coordinator of Student Support Services Ms. Sadika Clarke, and their teams for helping to organize and run this program this summer.
The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) recently announced the members of the 2020-21 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). This year, 11 new members will join the SAAC, including Peekskill High School's own Afua Yeboah. Miss Yeboah will join her 10 newly elected SAAC peers to team with the 11 returning members who served as juniors last year. The SAAC is comprised of two student-athlete representatives from each of the 11 sections in New York State. This year the committee will continue to promote the NYSPHSAA’s mental health initiative. In addition, the SAAC will continue to provide feedback on Executive and Central Committee proposals. A total of 95 student-athletes applied to be members of this year’s SAAC. Congratulations, Afua!
Attention Woodside Elementary School families, we are inviting you to watch this virtual orientation video regarding our Kindergarten Dual Language program. This informational video will address all you want to know about our program. This virtual orientation is delivered bilingually. Thank you to Director of Multilingual Learner Programs Ms. Madeline Sanchez and Woodside Principal Mrs. Rebecca Aviles-Rodriguez for creating this video for our families.

Thank you to the 977 families that participated in our Parent Reopening Survey - we received input for more than 1,500 Peekskill students. This information will continue to be valuable as we move forward in our reopening planning. As many of you are aware, we expect the Governor to make a statement on the reopening of New York schools this upcoming week. Once the Governor makes his announcement, we will be sending out a Commitment Form for each family to indicate their educational decisions for the start of the school year (Hybrid or Full Virtual). The members of the Peekskill City School District Reopening Team have been working diligently to create a plan for the 2020-21 school year. On Friday, July 31, we submitted our plan to the State for approval. This plan is a living document and is subject to change. We have posted a copy on our reopening webpage. On July 21, our administrative team gave a detailed presentation to the Board of Education focusing on our options for September. If you missed the presentation, you can watch it here.
This week, our District received notification that Peekskill students will be eligible to receive Pandemic-EBT funds. Pandemic-EBT is a new crisis response nutrition program activated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will provide food benefits to 2.1 million New York students. More information on this program can be found here. These benefits will be issued automatically, and no application is needed.

**When & How Families Receive P-EBT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who: Families who receive SNAP or Public Assistance (PA)</th>
<th>Families who use Medicaid (but not SNAP) and do not need to complete an application to get free school meals</th>
<th>All other eligible children</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How: On your current EBT card</td>
<td>On your (or your oldest child’s) Medicaid card</td>
<td>On a new EBT card (one for each eligible child) mailed to your house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When: In two payments: $193 in early June $227 in late June</td>
<td>In one payment: $420 between late June and August</td>
<td>In one payment: $420 between late July and August</td>
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If you have not received a P-EBT card and/or benefit by mid-August, call NYSOTDA at 1-833-452-0696.

Healthy Kids is offering full day and half day summer programs at Uriah Hill Elementary. Please see the attached flyer for more information, or click here to register.
Remember, our Superintendent’s Communication Brief is published monthly during the summer months. Our next edition will arrive at the end of August. Until then, please continue to monitor our websites and social media accounts for regular updates.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, wear a mask, socially distance and stay healthy!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools