



July 9, 2019

A Message from our New Superintendent

Greetings Hackensack Public Schools Community:

I am thrilled and honored to be joining the outstanding Hackensack School District as your new superintendent. Hackensack Public Schools have always been recognized for academic excellence and cultural diversity. Honoring this District's long proud tradition of excellence in education, while being cognizant of its cultural diversity, is of the utmost importance to me. My intention from my first day forward is to continue and build upon the tradition of "Excellence in Education" that Hackensack has come to represent. Through an unwavering commitment to students, collaboration with all District stakeholders, transparent communication, as well as a high level of honesty and integrity, you have my word that all my decisions will always be made with our students' best interests at heart.

As an educator with almost 28 years of experience, I am confident that I am prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. Rest assured that I am committed to providing each student with the best education and school experience possible. This will be accomplished by empowering educators to deepen student learning and understanding using technology and best practices. A great education and school experience, however, is only possible when we address each student's social emotional learning as well. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children learn to understand and manage emotions, feel and show empathy for others, and make responsible decisions. We will foster social emotional learning while ensuring that students learn to make responsible decisions when using technology.

Because we live in a digital age, we must ensure that our schools provide students with the technology-rich environments they need to be prepared for a digital society and workforce while fostering digital citizenship. It is critically important that we prepare our students with the 21st Century skills they will need to succeed in this ever-evolving global society. We must teach our students to become active participants in their learning while we cultivate their communication, collaboration, critical thinking skills, and creativity. Hackensack School District's existing commitment to the Future Ready Initiative supports this vision. Moving forward, I hope to expand upon the innovation and best practices currently going on in the classroom using STEAM, an educational approach that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking.

While classroom practices are important, I also know that we cannot succeed in our mission to prepare students for their future in this ever-changing world without the support of our parents

and school community at large as they are essential partners in education. Get involved! I am very proud to be able to serve the communities and families of Hackensack Public Schools, and I look forward to meeting you all. In fact, I plan on meeting with all parent associations within our schools regularly.

Last, but certainly not least, providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff is paramount to everything that we do. I aim to take a fresh look at school security, seeking new ways to effectively make improvements. I plan on working closely with local law enforcement and school administrators to review our current security measures and protocols to ensure that we are on the right path. I am committed to creating the safest possible learning environment for our students and staff.

In summation, I look forward to building on this District's strong foundation and many accomplishments. Working together, we will have many more accolades awaiting us in the future. In the meantime, I urge you to reach out to any staff member or me if you have any concerns regarding our District. Our lines of communication are open, and we look forward to hearing from you. On behalf of the teachers, support staff, and administrators in the Hackensack School District, we thank you for your ongoing support of our schools. GO COMETS!

Sincerely,

Robert Sanchez
Superintendent of Schools