



Huntington Union Free School District

"A Tradition of Excellence since 1657"

James W. Polansky

Superintendent of Schools

June 26, 2017

Dear Huntington Students, Staff and Community Members,

Another busy, but very productive school year has drawn to a close. As you launch into summer mode, I ask that you take a moment to reflect on how far we have come and where we are headed as a district.

This year, administrators, faculty and staff worked diligently to address a broad range of goals related to student growth and achievement, instructional differentiation, K-12 STEM/STEAM opportunities, long-range fiscal planning, energy and cost savings initiatives, infrastructure and technological upgrades, parent engagement and the home-school connection, universal pre-kindergarten, and educational advocacy. In spite of federal and state challenges that continue to impact education on the local level, we have maintained our focus on what matters most – ensuring that our children are learning and that we continue to grow as a district.

Over the past year, we have designed and upgraded curricula across the grade levels and in numerous disciplines. Administrators and teachers have engaged in meaningful professional development. Student growth has been evident not only in core and special areas, but also in their social and emotional development. Extracurricular, enrichment and support opportunities have also expanded and will continue to do so.

Huntington students have shined in the classroom throughout the year. We have continued to enhance our elementary, middle and high school STEM programs. Our dual language program continues to thrive, with the majority of our sixth grade students coming from the program achieving mastery on the Regents-level Spanish exam. Secondary elective programs, once again, offered something for students of all interests. We can boast of among the finest visual/performing arts and interscholastic athletic programs offered by a school district. Huntington High School graduates have, once again, been admitted to many of the finest colleges and universities across the country.

As a district, we continue to progress in terms of our 1:1 computing device initiative. While the initiative will reach through grade 12 in the year to come, we will not lose

sight of the fact that technology represents a resource used toward achieving a goal, as opposed to the goal itself. We have focused and will continue to focus on students' social and emotional well-being through the provision of ongoing programs and supports, and, more importantly, through serving as active listeners.

To better engage our external stakeholders, we have worked toward building stronger relationships with key state educational leaders, community leaders and others to advocate for legislation in support of strategies to support student opportunities and sustainable funding for schools. Thanks to the Huntington community, a responsible budget has, once again, been approved, which will allow us to maintain or enhance programs and instructional resources across the district, as well as improve the district's infrastructure through critical capital work.

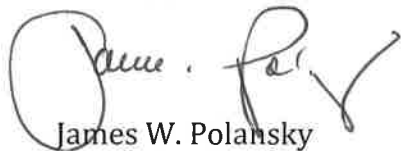
I'd like to thank all of Huntington's staff members for the individual contributions, dedication, talent, energy, care and collegiality that they bring to their work. Additionally, I'd like to express my gratitude to building PTA and PTA Council members, as well as all parents and family members throughout the district, for contributing to the very important home-school partnership. Together, we are making a visible difference for our students, families and community.

I hope that you have routinely visited Huntington's top-notch website and have connected with us regularly via social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube). Each and every day in Huntington, there are so many occurrences and accomplishments in which we can all take great pride.

Educating our children and preparing them for a successful future is important and influential work. In ways large and small, every member of our school community has made a positive difference for our kids this year. If I haven't had an occasion to thank you in person, please know that I deeply value your efforts and your commitment.

I sincerely hope that you have an opportunity to rest and re-energize over the summer. Once again, I'd like to wish the very best to those who are retiring after serving our district's children and families for many years. I'd also like to reiterate my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to an outstanding group – the Huntington High School Class of 2017!

With appreciation and sincere admiration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Polansky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "P".

James W. Polansky
Superintendent of Schools