



## Huntington Union Free School District

*"A Tradition of Excellence since 1657"*

James W. Polansky

Superintendent of Schools

September 5, 2017

Dear Huntington Students, Staff, Parents and Community Members:

The start of a new school year creates opportunities for each of us to renew our commitment to education and to the students who arrive at our classroom doors ready to learn. At the same time, we can, once again, reflect and take pride in the accomplishments of members of Huntington High School's Class of 2017 and celebrate a successful past year for students across the district in the classroom, on stage, on the athletic field and in the community.

We are truly fortunate in Huntington to offer an outstanding curricular program at all levels, as well as extensive and broad ranging extracurricular opportunities. Last year, student participation and performance in advanced coursework continued an increasing trend. Huntington students earned numerous honors and recognition in all disciplines and logged thousands of community service hours. Class of 2017 graduates will attend prestigious colleges and universities throughout the country, many with substantial scholarship monies in hand. We expect all of this to continue during the coming year and beyond!

As educators, this time of year generates the same excitement for us as it does for our students. The butterflies we feel on opening day serve as a subtle reminder as to what inspired us to pursue such a noble career. Sure, we could have selected another profession. But instead, we answer a call that has enriched our lives and the lives of others immeasurably. We continue to dedicate ourselves so that every child we teach has the opportunities and tools to be successful despite life's hurdles, so he or she can pursue his or her dreams.

There is no doubt that external influences have made our jobs more challenging. We have done our best to play by the rapidly changing rules of public education, absorbing every new acronym conjured up by state and federal lawmakers. The political agendas, media opportunists and constant friction of competing interests is exhausting and often leaves us to question our own values.

With that said, the Huntington School District continues to take great pride in its longstanding 'tradition of excellence.' We look forward to continuing that tradition in 2017-18 with vigor. As the new school year begins, we will continue to promote a sense of collaboration within the school community in an effort to help each of our students realize his or her full potential. The successes we have achieved in the past and those we will surely achieve in the future can often be attributed directly to the home-school-community connection.

Huntington is an extraordinary place made up of exceptional people, and it continues to be a privilege to serve as your superintendent. Allow me to extend my welcome back wishes and an emphatic welcome to members of the Huntington High School Class of 2030! We assuredly have a great school year ahead of us.

Sincerely,

James W. Polansky  
Superintendent of Schools