



Huntington Union Free School District

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1657"

James W. Polansky

Superintendent of Schools

August 2013

Dear Students, Parents and Community Members,

Welcome back!! The opening of a new school year is always filled with anticipation and excitement about the days and months ahead. Last year was distinguished by the ongoing achievements of our students in the classroom, on stage, on the field and in the community. We are fortunate in Huntington to maintain a high quality, broad ranging and rigorous curricular program at all levels, supplemented by extensive extracurricular options that have also promoted considerable success in the arts, athletics and service-oriented activities.

During 2012-13, student participation and performance in college-level coursework increased by over 30% from the prior year. Huntington students earned numerous honors and recognition in all disciplines, and logged thousands of hours in community service. We, as a school community, overcame the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy, while reaching out to provide needed assistance to those in neighboring coastal areas that were hit even harder by the storm. We concluded the year with a moving graduation ceremony under a bright blue sky – well deserved by class of 2013 members and their families. Our graduates will attend prestigious colleges and universities throughout the country, many with substantial scholarship monies in hand.

This year, we look forward to the continued academic and personal accomplishments of our students and staff. Many of the challenges we face as a district are similar to those faced by districts throughout New York State and the nation. We are currently working through the opening stages of a standards-based transition. This transition will continue at all grade levels during the 2013-14 school year and beyond. We will continue in our efforts toward facilitating relevant and meaningful curricular modifications and professional development opportunities, while also encouraging faculty members to promote authentic and engaging learning experiences for our students. At the same time, we will remain mindful of the fact that funding for new resources and additional services is scarce as we move more deeply into the age of the tax levy limit.

Additionally, we are delighted to open the doors of the Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School. The school will house students in grades three through five to start. Teachers will deliver a curriculum that centers upon the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), with a focus on interdisciplinary strategies, balanced literacy, inquiry-based instruction and project based learning. We would like to thank those who worked with us to prepare for the school's inauguration and secure the needed financial, curricular and technological resources.

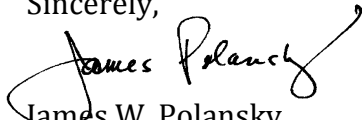
The summer has been a busy time, during which academic enrichment, art and athletic programs were enjoyed by many. I have appreciated meeting with many kindergarten students and parents who are excited to enter our doors for the first time, as well as with many seniors who are eagerly awaiting the start of their final high school year and future doors that will be open to them as a

result of their efforts in Huntington. Thanks to our dedicated staff, our buildings are sparkling and well equipped. Summer facility projects and technological upgrades have been completed as scheduled and with fidelity.

With the continued hard work and commitment of our students, staff, parents and community members, the Huntington School District will continue to progress and prepare students for 21st century society as productive and compassionate citizens. A quality education is not a luxury. It is an absolute essential and our students deserve no less.

Again, please accept my gratitude for your continued partnership and for helping us to provide an ideal climate for teaching and learning in our schools, as well as an environment in which our students are safe, respected, encouraged, motivated and appreciated. I am eagerly looking forward to another fine year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Polansky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

James W. Polansky
Superintendent of Schools