



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TIMOTHY A. OLDENBURG, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 16, 2023

Dear Tonawanda School Community:

I hope you have enjoyed the summer season and taken advantage of the many wonderful activities the WNY region offers. In the district, we have been working tremendously hard to transition into the new elementary school and prepare to welcome students back to school in September.

Many of our teachers, support staff, and other personnel have been preparing their classrooms/workspaces in the new Tonawanda Elementary School. The staff at the Middle/High School are preparing for a great start to the school year as well.

Our cleaners, custodians, engineers, mechanics, laborers, clerks, technicians, and others have provided excellent support and dedication to this project and every other area of the district. We closed two schools, transitioned items to a new building, opened a new school, and served the needs of the MS/HS and other associated district assets. None of this work could have been done without the concerted efforts of these people.

Additionally, our administrative team has worked tirelessly on this project from building design to operationalizing planning for students and staff to enter this new school. We know that every plan on paper may not function as we expected once we put these plans in action. We will evaluate, review, consider suggested improvements, and make changes to best serve our students and staff. Your patience and flexibility is recognized as we ALL work to make this an effective and efficient opening of the 2023-2024 school year.

Here are some important items for your information:

- **Our district WILL open on time, welcoming students in ALL grades on the first day of instruction on Wednesday, September 6.**
- Tonawanda Elementary School:
 - Our elementary principals and staff will host expanded school supply drop off events on August 30 and 31 for elementary students. These scheduled events are for students and parents/guardians to briefly visit the new school, meet teachers/staff, and drop off supplies necessary for the start of the school year.

- Please note that we will offer community open house events for all members of Tonawanda in early October. The planned school supply drop off event mentioned above is limited to the student(s) and their parents/guardians. Thank you for your understanding as we carefully plan for the welcoming of our students to this new school.
- Please look for future communication regarding transportation. We understand that some elementary students will be using the bus for the first time while other elementary students are no longer eligible for bus transportation. Please contact your principal or Transpo Bus Services if you have questions or concerns regarding transportation.
- Please look for future communication regarding processes for elementary student arrival and dismissal. We will be using specific doors/locations to accurately account for each student and maintain a safe school environment. There will be processes for parents/guardians that will be dropping off students to school and students that will be walking to school.
- It is possible that the opening days of school may involve delays or inconveniences as we all learn and execute the new procedures, operations, and processes in this new school. Your patience and support of our new procedures at the elementary school is appreciated. Caring for our students, staff, and visitors while maintaining a safe environment is our TOP priority.
- Our district continues to look for employees to serve in the following roles:
 - Clerk/Secretary – District Office
 - Substitute Teachers – All grades/buildings
 - Hall Monitors – Elementary School
 - Spanish Teacher – Middle/High School
 - Girls Soccer Coach – Grades 7, 8, 9
- If you have any questions or concerns regarding the start of the 2023-2024 school year, please contact the building principal for support:
 - Lyndsey Todaro, High School Principal (Renee Smith, Assistant HS Principal)
 - Michael Brown, Middle School Principal (Kristine Strible, Assistant MS Principal)
 - Claudia Panaro, Elementary Principal (Grades UPK – 2)
 - Robert Ross, Elementary Principal (Grades 3-5)

I wish each of you a great conclusion to the summer season and an exciting start to the school year. Thank you for your continued support and trust.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools