



SEPTEMBER 2021

The Sky's the Limit for Helendale Road School's New Principal

If you ask Sean D'Abreu what his dream job is, he doesn't skip a beat.

"I always wanted to be a fighter pilot."

While his dreams of the wild blue yonder might not have worked out, he is not disappointed at all that he finds himself as the new principal at Helendale Road Primary School.

One of the big reasons he wanted to come to East Irondequoit is the district's commitment to students.

"We're focused on the science of learning. We really hone in on what works best for people and what's best for children. Instead of just throwing things on the wall and hoping they stick, the district does a lot of research and I think that's important."

D'Abreu's appointment at Helendale comes as a result of Eric Daniels being appointed to the position of Director of Intervention and Enrichment. Daniels is in charge of newly added academic interventionists who are at all the district buildings to help bridge some of the learning gaps that have been created during the pandemic and provide support wherever they are needed.

"We know that many students are returning to school needing

varying amounts of extra support," says Mark Anson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. "At the same time we recognize that we continue to have students who are excelling and ready for additional challenges. The interventionists will collaborate with classroom teachers to support both scenarios."

D'Abreu isn't the only change at Helendale this year, as part of the capital improvement project the school is also getting a new library and a new play area. There may be some changes at the school, but the climate of caring will continue.

"I want to make sure everyone feels included, that they are in a safe environment, and that their individual story matters. We know that kids are more than just one test, one set of assessments, we want to focus on the whole child."

That approach means looking at more than just how a student does academically, it also means making



Sean D'Abreu, the new principal at Helendale Road formerly worked in Gates Chili.

sure they are not only being good students, but being good citizens as well.

"When we come back to school we know the academics are important, but we also know that the social and emotional learning for children is too so, developing those skills for the school year will be important for us."

Sean might not have the chance to realize his Top Gun aspirations, but as the "Top Guy" at Helendale, we see him and the school hitting new heights.





A Healthy and Safe Return to School



As excited as we were to have everyone back in school this fall, we knew it couldn't be business as usual. We had to have a plan that would ensure everyone was comfortable and that measures were in place that would reduce the risk of people getting sick. Unlike last year we do not have temperature screenings at the door for people entering our buildings. Instead, we are asking all students and staff to conduct a daily health screen at home. We still are requiring masks to be worn by everyone inside and also observing social distancing. We developed a re-opening plan over the summer that was based on recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the New York State Department of Health. We also gathered input from our stakeholder groups including staff and parents.

We are only about a month into the new school year but we are already encouraged to see the enthusiasm and positive attitudes in our schools.



Welcome Back Alumni!

This summer we were proud to welcome back a pair of class reunions to Eastridge High School.

The Class of 1980 and the Class of 1961 had a chance to see how their alma mater looks today. Although, it has changed so much many had a hard time believing it was the same school.

The class of '61 was actually the first to graduate from EHS!



A Correction

In the Spring Awards publication of *Lancer Pride*, Avalian Rios was identified as the recipient of the wrong scholarship.

She was presented with the Eliminating Racism and Seeking Equality Scholarship.

We apologize for the mistake.



Back to School and Back to Some “Normal”



Coming back to school in September meant more than just being back in class. It also meant the return of some of the things that make school in the fall so special. In addition to all the sporting events, the Lancer Marching Band hosted six other groups in the annual Rainbow of Stars competition. After so many delays and cancellations last year, it was great to see so much activity at Eastridge.

We look forward to homecoming on September 25 and all our senior night recognitions for athletes.



Want to get involved in your child's school? The PTA is a great place to start and they are always welcoming new members.

To reach out to a school's parent group, just head to our website to find the contact information you need:

<https://www.eastiron.org/Page/4226>



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LANCER PRIDE

East Irondequoit Board Corner

In each edition of this newsletter we will profile a member of the East Irondequoit Board of Education. The Board is comprised of nine district residents who volunteer their time to serve three year terms. In this issue we meet School Board President Kim Lasher.

Q. What is your greatest responsibility as a board member?



A. The greatest responsibility of a board member is to ensure all our students receive an excellent education that will make them successful throughout school and to continue being successful after graduation. We also want all our students to be model citizens and hopefully contribute positively to any community they live in.

Q. In terms of the challenges faced by schools recently, what are you proud of in East Irondequoit Schools?

A. I'm proud of our entire staff. They handled a very difficult time with grace, care and love for not only our students, but each other. As you know, there were times in the past school year that information and mandates would change almost daily and they did what they needed to do to continue to educate our students and assist each other. We were the only district to keep our elementary schools open five days a week, that was a huge accomplishment.

Q. Why would someone who has no kids in the district still want to be on the board?

A. I am a life long Lancer and very proud of that. I have volunteered in various capacities in the district over the last twenty-five years. As a board member I can really advocate for all students and staff. I consider it a privilege to volunteer and be a board member of the East Irondequoit School District. Being a board member is time well invested. If our schools succeed, we all succeed.

Q. What is it about East Irondequoit that makes it such a special school district?

A. East Irondequoit is such a special district because it is made up of a very diverse population of families, staff and community members who accept and embrace each other and our differences. We celebrate and support each other. I feel very fortunate to be a graduate of East Irondequoit and be part of this beautiful community.

Dates to Remember in October

October 5-Board of Education Meeting at Central Office

October 7-East Irondequoit Middle School Open House

October 8-School Improvement Day-No School for Students

October 11-Columbus Day-No School

October 13-Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Eastridge

October 14-ENL Parent Information Night 6 PM at EIMS

October 15-EIMS and Eastridge 1st Quarter Interim Reports

October 19-Board of Education Meeting at Eastridge

October 28-Career and College Night at Eastridge

October 31-Marching Band State Championships at Carrier Dome

