
Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

Dear Colleague



February 18, 2022

Dear Colleague:

This week brought another devastating event that was felt throughout our community. As you know, the fire at the Trinity co-op building left 17 of our students from four of our schools and two of our staff from the central office temporarily homeless. Thankfully, all the people living in the building made it out safely. Sadly, some families lost beloved pets, and others lost all their possessions. The fire illuminated once again how, when something happens to one of our school district family members, we all feel the impact in our own ways.

Immediately after receiving word of the fire, our Pupil and Personnel Services team sprang into action. Our staff was at the scene while the fire was still burning, at the ready to assist with both the physical and emotional needs of our staff and students who were displaced by the fire. After confirming that everyone was safely in temporary housing, the team worked to meet other immediate needs, going to community organizations to bring needed items to the families and replacing Chromebooks and chargers for students so they could return to class when they were ready.

Simultaneously, school staff and PTAs arranged donation and fund drives to help the families replace needed clothing, household items, and other needs. Central office staff launched a monetary and gift card donation. Many staff, students, and friends reached out to offer sympathy and support in helping fire victims to recover from the trauma of the tragedy.

And at Trinity Elementary, which had to go virtual for one day due to smoke inside the building, faculty and staff worked around the clock to get Chromebooks to students and communicate with families. Another example of going above and beyond.

This is the beauty of the interconnectedness of humanity and of the people who live, work, and learn in our school district and in our community. What you do is so much more than teach and support the education of students. Caring for the emotional, social, mental, and physical well-being of students, families, and neighbors is probably not in most of our job descriptions but is second nature in the school district community. These are the extraordinary contributions you make in the lives of others that uplift them.

Our commitment to the well-being of students and families is also evident in the partnerships we have established and the new partnerships we are forging with community organizations to bring them into the school to meet students and families where they are. Counselor Corners, My Brother's Keeper, mental health services for students and families provided through Westchester County, food pantries, youth sports and arts organizations, and support from the Boys and Girls Club and Public Library are just a few examples of how we educate and care for the Whole Child and the Whole Family.

We are all interwoven parts of the City of New Rochelle School District community. When all are supported, enriched, and nurtured, the entire community feels the impact. Thank you for all you do for our children, families, and community.

Sincerely,

Jonathan P. Raymond

New Rochelle High School • Albert Leonard Middle School • Isaac E. Young Middle School • Henry Barnard Early Childhood Center
Columbus Elementary School • Daniel Webster Elementary School • George M. Davis Jr. Elementary School • Jefferson Elementary School
Trinity Elementary School • William B. Ward Elementary School