



**Depew Union Free School District**  
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## Superintendent's Weekly Message

11/04/2022

Community Members,

I wanted to take an opportunity to thank all of our coaches, athletic director, officials, booster club, supervisors and community members for their efforts, during the fall and upcoming sports seasons. Your collective support and participation has created opportunities for our young people to grow on many levels. The lessons learned will carry on long after graduation.

You may know that there is a significant shortage of officials who make certain our athletes are safe and that the competitions adhere to the rules and regulations of the game. I recently learned that a significant number of our new officials throughout the country leave prior to the end of their third year of officiating. Up to 80% chose not to continue, in part due to the abusive behaviors of coaches, athletes and spectators. We know that that is not part of the "Wildcat Way" and I ask that you please view a video that was shared with me this past week entitled "[Officially Human](#)" and share it with your children, family and friends.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank our long-time communication specialist Nicole Gugino, who will be leaving her position to pursue new opportunities. Nicole has been the person behind the District communications for several years. Whether a website post, newsletter, emergency correspondence or social media post, Nicole has, more often than not, been the creator, author and editor. Best of luck, Nicole.

Do not hesitate to pull me aside at a District or Community event and help me to better understand our schools and community. For those of you who may be interested, please consider following me on Twitter @DrStopinski where I will be sharing the good news of Depew.

Sincerely,

***Dr. Hank Stopinski***  
Superintendent of Schools

**"Inspiring, Challenging, Achieving"**