



Dr. Adele V. Pecora • Superintendent of Schools

1600 Washington Avenue, Seaford, NY 11783 • Phone: (516) 592-4010 • Fax: (516) 592-4049

August 24, 2023

Dear Seaford Families,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer with family and friends. Welcome back to another exciting school year!

This summer has been a busy time. As you enter the buildings, there will be several new faces. It has been an unprecedented hiring season in the Human Resources Office. Dr. Sheena Jacob and Ms. Lori Umamo are commended for their determination to recruit and hire amazing new faculty and staff. This work could not have been done without parents, teachers and administrators who volunteered to serve on interview committees. I am grateful for the school administrators and clerical teams who have been preparing for the opening of our schools on September 5, 2023. Many of our initiatives for this coming school year are an extension of the outstanding work that we began over the last several years. A new point of focus will be to introduce the *Seaford Scholars Profile* which identifies traits that will make our students successful learners and the leaders of today and tomorrow.

Once again, our custodial/buildings and grounds staff have done a wonderful job preparing the facilities. Additional gratitude is extended to Mr. Costa, our Director of Facilities, for assisting with construction projects that include renovating and building new bathrooms at the Harbor and Manor Schools respectively, creating a new Electrical Shop Classroom at the High School, and repainting classrooms throughout the district. Also noteworthy is the replacement of sidewalks by the new fields at the high school.

The turf complex at the high school is nearly complete and it looks incredible! Our student athletes have already begun to use the new facilities in preparation for fall sports and the fields will be filled with physical education classes in September. This project is an endorsement of Seaford Pride and the commitment of our community to provide our students with a modern and competitive campus that enhances opportunities for all students. You are cordially invited to attend the official ribbon cutting ceremony that will take place on September 21, 2023, at 3:30 pm.

The personnel office has been hopping. Before the school year ended, we appointed new administrators. Ms. Amanda Barney is our new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Assessment. She most recently served as the Coordinator of English K-12 in the Syosset School District. Her prior experience includes being an English Department Coordinator in the Mattituck School District where she also taught for 18 years. A most interesting experience is that she was a Teaching Ambassador Fellow with the United States Department of Education; in this capacity she led a national initiative to improve academic achievement and student engagement using instructional technology.

Also joining the curriculum team is Ms. Debbie Langone, who is the Executive Director for Instructional Technology and STEAM. Throughout the summer Ms. Langone has been working with our Technology Department to ensure a smooth start to the school year. She has also been collaborating with several teachers on curriculum writing projects regarding the LIFT program, Elementary Science and Algebra I. Prior to joining our team, Ms. Langone was the Director of Science & Engineering Technology

K-12 in the West Islip School District. Her philosophy is that: "... Education should foster creative, inquisitive, independent thinkers who can observe, analyze, problem solve..." Rounding out the central office administration is Mr. Richard Cunningham who is serving as the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations. Rich has over 20 years' experience as a business official. He retired from the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District as the Assistant Superintendent for Business in 2022. More recently, he served as an interim business official in the Massapequa School District this past spring.

Two familiar faces promoted to new administrative positions are Ms. Jennifer Bisulca, Principal at Seaford Harbor Elementary School and Mr. Alex Mantay, Assistant Principal at Seaford High School. Ms. Bisulca has already met many of the students through meet and greet gatherings on the playgrounds. On August 26, 2023, she will be at the Seaford Chamber of Commerce, End-of-Summer Bash, to welcome students and meet community members. She and Ms. Stringer are eager to welcome students to the start of another wonderful school year. Mr. Mantay has also hit the ground running. He is a dynamic addition to the High School Administrative team having served Seaford students as an inspirational teacher and coach for the last six years.

It is also our pleasure to announce that Mr. Joseph Polite is the new Assistant Principal at Seaford Middle School. Most recently, he served as the Math Department Chairperson in the East Rockaway School District where he was also the Principal of the Twilight and Summer School Programs. Mr. Polite will be hosting a Popsicle with the Assistant Principal meet and greet event on August 25, 2023. As you may know, Dr. Kakalos accepted a Principal position in another district, and we wish her the best. Mr. Rich Schwartz is our new Assistant Principal at the Seaford Manor Elementary School. In Levittown Schools, he served as an elementary teacher and the Elementary Enrichment Director. Mr. Schwartz is already acclimating to the Manor culture. He met several students and parents at the Pickleball with the Principals event. If you have a moment, please take a few minutes to welcome these administrators to their new work homes.

Continuing with the Personalized Digital Learning (PDL) program this year, we will be distributing the 2nd generation of laptops to all seventh and eleventh grade students. Ms. Debbie Langone and our technicians have worked diligently to prepare for the start of the school year with over 1,200 devices being reimaged. Digital Literacy is a vital skill as we provide our students with access to innovative instructional technology opportunities.

One of our district goals is to continuously review and enhance our building security. Over the last year, landline phones replaced intercom phones in every classroom facilitating the ability for an individual to immediately dial 911. We have also added additional security guard coverage throughout the district as well as additional security cameras. This fall, teller-styled boxes will be installed in all main lobbies which will allow visitors to provide license identification before entering our schools. Once the teller boxes are installed, 3M Security Film will be installed on all Main Lobby Glass. Consistently, Nassau County Police have stated that locked doors and the wearing of ID badges is critical in securing the perimeters of our schools. Please know that the wearing of identification badges by students and staff will be enforced. Ensuring a safe and secure learning environment continues to be our overarching goal.

We are very excited to start the school year and look forward to seeing our students and families. Enjoy the remaining days of summer and ... **Go Vikings!**

Yours in Seaford Pride,



Adele V. Pecora, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools