

Superintendent's Message of June 27, 2019

Dear Students, Families, Staff and, Community:

As the 2018 - 2019 school year comes to a close, I would like to congratulate our 30,000 students and their families on their many accomplishments.

We just finished a demanding but productive school year. Before we breathe a huge sigh of relief and launch into summer plans, it is fitting to take a moment to reflect on how far we have come and where we are headed.

First, I want to recognize the staff for the dedication, talent, energy and care they bring to their work. Together, we are making a visible difference for our students, families, and community.

Educating our children, for a successful future, is important and influential work. I want to recognize your daily contributions in providing the richest experience possible for our students. Despite the constraints and challenges caused by our financial situation, we continue to focus on improvement and we continue to find ways to leverage our resources—people, time, dollars and relationships—toward boosting success for students and creating a system of strong and excellent schools.

Every staff member contributes to the students' success. This includes the administrators, teachers, para-professionals, security guard, clerks, custodians, maintenance workers, transportation, and food service.

I would also like to recognize and thank our dedicated Board Members under the leadership of President Thomas, and Vice-President Richardson for supporting the vision of "Doing What is Best for Our Children"

I would also like to provide you with an accurate update on the developments that our district experienced this past year. As you know, State funding was severely reduced and in combination with rising costs, it made it necessary for the district to review all of our practices and it became apparent that the

possibility of retaining all of our staff was impossible. Then, we received additional funding from the City, which allowed us to recall most of the staff. Fortunately, all classrooms will have a highly qualified teacher. There will be music programs, art programs, physical education, all the mandated resources and instruction for students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and athletic programs. We will not be closing any schools and we will be working on creating a vocational/technical middle school. At this time, the staff that has not been recalled is in excess due to the efficiency audit.

On another note, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that June is designated **LGBTQ Pride Month**. As a result, many **pride** events are held during the **month** to recognize the impact the **LGBTQ** community has made in our society. It is about standing up against sexual discrimination and violence. The Jcps acknowledges the LGBTQ community and is committed to the human right of empowering all of our stakeholders, young and old, to be productive citizens with courage and pride.

Thank you, students, staff, families, and community for your ongoing support of the Jersey City Public Schools. Together we do great work to serve children and help them reach their educational goals.

Have a wonderful safe summer.

Franklin Walker,
Acting Superintendent