

J. Francis Manning
District Superintendent
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01 August 12

Dear Colleagues and Boards of Education,

"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."
Gilbert K. Chesterton

As your new District Superintendent, I wish to let you know how honored I am to be selected for this position. My commitment to the position and your success will be uncompromising. I know through our combined efforts and dedicated and focused hard work, this will be an extraordinarily productive and satisfying school year for all of us.

I began my duties at OCM BOCES today, Wednesday, August 1. During the upcoming month, I plan to meet with faculty, staff, administration, and parents. I anticipate that we will share common aspirations - the welfare and intellectual, social and personal growth of students and communities. It is towards those ends that I have committed my life's work.

As I look ahead to my tenure, I recognize that I have much yet to learn. I acknowledge and join with you in celebrating the substantive work and the gains in student achievement experienced in recent years. I also see clearly that there is much yet to do to sustain those gains and to accelerate learning for all students. The better our students perform, the more difficult becomes the task of continuing to extend academic growth in significant and measurable ways. From the conversations I have had to date, I am confident that we are all up to that task. I know that each of our students is capable of enormous growth. Although we all contribute to the mission in different ways, it is our job, individually and collectively, to see that every student reaches his or her potential.

I am genuinely excited about working with all of you. Together we will advance the learning of our students. Some of us are directly involved in instruction. Others provide support to students, teachers, or families. Some of us work very much behind-the-scenes keeping our facilities operating, materials in supply, and addressing the needs of the public relative to its schools. Regardless of our roles, it is the quality of our collective action that generates the greatest benefit for our students and communities. I will always appreciate your high energy. Further, I encourage your best thinking and communications about how we can be more effective and efficient as we advance your goals and continue to build a pattern of success in this area that will be the envy of the State of New York and our nation.

Over the next year, I will be requesting the opportunity to meet with each superintendent individually, and to introduce myself at one of your board meetings. I welcome the opportunity to get to know you better and familiarize myself with your needs.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

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J. Francis Manning
District Superintendent

C: OCM BOCES Board of Education