



August 2014

Dear Colleagues,

We have had another nice summer (although it was one of the shorter ones) in Central New York and therefore, it has flown by. Our K-6 summer school and our driver's education program went well. Even with the activity, as you visit any of our buildings, you will find them in excellent shape for you and your students to begin in September.

As is tradition in Homer, our opening day with all staff is September 2, 2014. The agenda for the day is attached.

We continue to face significant challenges as a result of State Reform Implementation. With year one of full K-12 Implementation of APPR under our belt, we can focus on student learning. The APPR Committee did make some significant changes to our APPR plan in order to remove some assessment as requested by staff. The Principals will be sharing changes that will impact you at their opening faculty meetings. However, regardless of APPR, our primary mission must be improved teaching and learning for all students.

We have several new faculty and staff to meet and welcome into our fold. We are very excited about what they will bring to Homer. Several exciting changes have occurred with summer planning. We have increased co-teaching classrooms for 2014-15 as well as added seventeen additional Chromebook classrooms. We received state approval for our Business CTE sequence at the high school. Project Lead The Way through RIT will offer students a pre-engineering sequence.

Summer curriculum writing has occurred in Science, Social Studies, ELA, Math and Special Education. The district has an RtI team, as part of a state grant, attending training in Albany. In addition, several of us participated in Project Based Learning Training.

Our technology team has worked diligently with BOCES on our new district website and our District Facility Project will be in full swing this spring.

Our continued implementation of the Common Core is successfully reaping improved learning for our students. Yes, we still have areas of growth, but we are making tremendous strides.

I look forward to seeing you all in September. Enjoy what's left of the summer days before returning and rolling up our sleeves for another great school year!

Yours in Education,  
Nancy S. Ruscio, Superintendent of Schools



# AGENDA

***Tuesday, September 2, 2014***

Location: Bonné Auditorium-Intermediate/Junior High School

---

**7:30-8:00 am**-*Coffee and Refreshments, Intermediate Café*

**8:00-9:10 am**-*All District Faculty & Staff Meeting, Bonné Auditorium*

**8:00-8:10 am**-*Welcome*

- Superintendent Ruscio
- Vice President of the Board of Education-Luke Morenus

**8:10-9:10 am**-*Homer-Where are we? Where are we going?*

**9:10-9:40 am**

- Homer Teachers' Association-Robert Nasiatka
- Homer Aides/Assistants Association-Candie Ostrander

**10:00-11:00 am**-Building Faculty Meetings

**11:00-12:00 pm**-Department Level Meetings, K-5 and 6-12 ELA & Grade Level Meetings, All other Support Staff-Per their Supervisor

**12:00 pm**-*Lunch...Intermediate Café*

**12:45 pm**-Preparation for September 3, 2014

***~ Have a great 2014-15 ~***