



# Superintendent's Column

## *Our sights are set on today and beyond*

I hope this edition of *The Focus* finds our school families settled into the school year and able to point to many new things your children have learned since September. As you know, we are always mindful of our daily mission of assuring that each student has a great learning experience every day, but we have recently spent a lot of time focusing on the future of the Hamburg Central School District (HCSD). This year's kindergarten class is the Hamburg High School Class of 2030. While we focus on making sure that our youngest learners learn to read, write, think, cooperate with others, and love school today, we must also consider what, and how, they will learn when they reach high school. Only in doing that can we help them be prepared for success in 2030, or in 2050, when many of our students will work in industries and occupations that do not exist today.

Both tasks are critically important, with the former laying the foundation for the latter, and we have been deliberate in addressing both. Since 2015, we have worked closely with our outstanding educators to optimize the current state of teaching and learning, including:

- K-12 curriculum updates to address the learning needs of our students
- Implementing high quality balanced literacy in elementary grades
- Training all staff in Mental Health First Aid by September 2018
- Emphasizing modern learning that requires all students to make their learning visible in more meaningful ways
- Establishing a culture of leadership that is inclusive and focused on learning for all



**Michael Cornell**  
Superintendent

• This summer we will complete the 2016 Capital Project, highlighted by the total renovation of the Middle School and High School Library Media Centers.

On Nov. 7, our Strategic Planning Committee of 50 members met to reaffirm our shared sense of purpose, as well as to engage in structured dialogue around our shared vision for the school district into the future. In particular, the current District's mission statement was crafted prior to 2004. Modern learning requires a modern sense of purpose. A working group comprising 12 members of this committee will work through the winter

to draft a revised Mission Statement, Belief Statements and a new Vision Statement for the District, which they will present to the entire Strategic Planning Committee in March. These statements will be included in the 2018-2019 HCSD Strategic Plan that we will present to the Board in June of 2018.

Finally, the Board of Education took the first step in their preparation for our 2021 Capital Project at our October Board meeting. Starting this spring, we will begin collecting input from stakeholder groups as we begin the work of assuring that our learning spaces are able to support this community's shared vision for how our students will experience learning in the middle of this century. As the stewards of this community's schools, the Board and I take seriously our obligation to provide the next generation of people who will learn, work or visit our schools, with outstanding facilities.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be your partners in the learning and growth of your children. I hope you will reach out to the staff at your child's school any time you feel that we can further assist.

## Enrollment begins Feb. 1 for district's 2018-19 PreKindergarten program

Enrollment begins Feb. 1 for the district's PreKindergarten (PreK) 2018-19 program at Charlotte Avenue Elementary School.

The program is available to children who will be four years old on or before Dec. 1, 2018. There is no cost to families who reside in the Hamburg Central School District. There also are no income eligibility restrictions for families.

The program provides meals and transportation to students Monday-Friday.

PreK provides children with opportunities for experiential

learning, exploration, discovery, challenge and interaction. It helps them become independent, self-confident, enthusiastic learners through spontaneous activity, play, carefully prepared materials and guided experiences.

The PreK registration form will be available at the end of January in the student registration section of the school district website: [hamburgschools.org](http://hamburgschools.org). To enroll a child, contact the Central Registration Office for an appointment at 646-3200, ext. 7218 or

email [centralreg@hamburgschools.org](mailto:centralreg@hamburgschools.org).

