



# East Ramapo Central School District

105 South Madison Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977

A Unified Community Educating the Whole Child ...

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September 4, 2021

Dear East Ramapo Central School District Family,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! As I begin my tenure as Superintendent of Schools, I am humbled and honored to have been chosen to lead this amazing organization. The East Ramapo Central School District community possesses dedicated, passionate and effervescent individuals, who have demonstrated an unwavering resolve to provide our students with high-leverage learning opportunities in the midst of unprecedented times. Our theme this year is, **#ResilientTogether**. Through these challenging times we have remained resilient. More so, we have met the demands set before us by working together. Through shared efforts, we demonstrated that we are a healthy, safe, supportive, engaging and challenging learning environment.

As the late Nelson Mandela stated, “It always seems impossible until it’s done!” I am confident that as we continue to forge forward we will establish new pathways for learning that address the *seemingly impossible* and cultivate the genius within our students.

In line with the [United States Department of Education \(USDOE\)](#) and [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#) guidance, we have organized our efforts into three commitments (Academics/Instruction, Social Emotional Learning, and Operations) to meet the priorities set forth in our 2020-2025 Strategic Academic and Fiscal Plan that are implemented annually through our District Comprehensive Improvement Plan.



**Academic/Instructional**  
*Accelerate Academic Achievement*

- All students will be in-person beginning on Friday, September 10, 2021
- Movement to a district-wide 3-tiered bell schedule
- District attention to literacy and writing as well as attention to educational strategies that support our SWDs and ELLs populations



**Social Emotional Learning**  
*Social, Emotional and Mental Health*

- Emphasis on mindfulness, social emotional learning and the well-being of both staff and students (Resiliency)
- Professional development for all around restorative practices and conscious inclusion



**Operations**  
*Prioritize the Health and safety of students, staff and families*

- The district is led by the [NYSDOH guidance](#) issued on September 2, 2021
- We encourage our community to consider the COVID-19 vaccination if you have not already. The district will continue to offer FREE vaccination clinics monthly at selected schools, with information posted on the district site.

As a unified community, the East Ramapo Central School District is committed to educating the whole child by providing a healthy, safe, supportive, engaging and challenging learning environment.

With a heart towards forward movement, and being mindful of the preparation and planning time needed, Superintendent's Conference Day will be held on **Thursday, September 9, 2021** at each building site from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please report to your building on that date to receive the Superintendent's message at 8:30 a.m. Each building will communicate the day's schedule that will allow time to prepare classrooms and other learning environments to receive students in-person on Friday, September 10, 2021. Continue to *wear* a mask and *watch* your distance.

**#ERCSD Resilient Together!**

Regards,  
Dr. Clarence G. Ellis, Superintendent  
East Ramapo Central School District