



# Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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Dear Hastings Families and Staff,

We are back – fully in person and with immense spirit. Many students and staff have stopped me to say, “good start!” I have learned to listen to others on the quality of school openings, not to insert my singular perspective.

This first Friday Letter for 2022-23 opens with a free-verse from author Margaret Wheatley, which sets a vital tone for us as an educational community. I then turn to a shout out for in-person Back-to-School Nights and the fast approaching HHS Homecoming. I shift gears to convey our understanding about new transportation patterns in the Village. I close with a link to *The Buzz*, a new communications tool.

## ***Turning to One Another***

Margaret Wheatley, 2002

*There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.  
Ask, “What’s possible?” not “What’s wrong?” Keep asking.*

*Notice what you care about.  
Assume that many others share your dreams.*

*Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.  
Talk to people you know.  
Talk to people you don’t know.  
Talk to people you never talk to.*

*Be intrigued by the differences you hear.  
Expect to be surprised.  
Treasure curiosity more than certainty.*

*Invite in everybody who cares to work on what’s possible.  
Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something.  
Know that creative solutions come from new connections.*

*Remember, you don’t fear people whose story you know.  
Real listening always brings people closer together.*

*Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.  
Rely on human goodness. Stay together.*

### **Back-to-School Nights – Back In Person**

Hillside families and staff gathered last evening for Back-to-School Night. I was among district and community leaders welcoming families, and giving early thanks to the Hillside staff and administration for their excellent work. From what I saw and heard, it was an evening filled with promise for a year of Success, Meaning and Joy (my watchwords for the school year).

Back-to-School Night for Hastings High School is Thursday, September 15. Farragut Middle School steps up with Back-to-School Night one week later on Thursday, September 22. Each school is communicating with families about the respective programs.

### **Homecoming – Arrives Early This Year**

Families should mark their calendars for HHS Homecoming, which has events on Saturday, September 17 for students of all ages. Please check the district website for the schedule of the [athletic contests](#). During the Varsity Football Game on Reynolds Field (1:30 p.m. Kickoff), the Student Union hosts games, activities and food on the hillside overlooking the field. Proceeds from the fair support student clubs and a scholarship fund sponsored by the Student Union.

### **New Traffic Patterns in Hastings**

As you know, the Village made substantial renovations to Farragut Avenue this summer, including resurfacing, the addition of bike lanes, modifications of parking spaces, added cross-walks, and more directional markings for cars. We understand that this has affected travel times for drop off and pick up at the Farragut Complex. We appreciate the much-needed improvements to Farragut Avenue, and thank you for your patience as we adjust to the new traffic flow. Please take a moment to watch a [PSA from the Hastings Police Department on the new Farragut Traffic Pattern](#).

### **A New Communications Tool – *The Buzz***

Thanks to the creativity of Jackie Saviano, our new Communications Associate, today we launched the first segment of *The Buzz*, a biweekly video series featuring news and updates on the district's top priorities. I will host the series. [Click here](#) to watch the first segment. Please let me know if you have suggested topics or features for the series, especially if they will foster "Turning to One Another."

Be well.

*Bill*

William S. McKersie, Ph.D.  
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