

A Message from the Superintendent September 9, 2010

Welcome to a new school year in Rockland. There have been many changes since school ended in June. One unfortunate side effect of the construction has been the changed parking and traffic patterns, which coincided with the change in the middle school starting time. I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding. We are working closely with the Rockland Police Department to make the new circulation work as well as possible, but it is going to be difficult until the project is over. I would like to extend a special thanks to the Rockland Police Department and the Rockland Highway Department for their help in planning and implementing the changes at the high school, middle school and Memorial Park. They were true partners in this effort. On opening day I introduced a dozen new staff members to the district. I am pleased that we now have a social worker attached to the middle school and also a health teacher for the first time in many years. It is important that we have the resources to help our middle schoolers and their families at this critical stage and this can only help the achievement of these students. Our administrative team has changed with appointment of two new principals, Christine Pruitt at the Jefferson School and Elizabeth Bohn at the Rogers Middle School. I am excited to work with these skilled and enthusiastic educators. Also new is Mrs. Cheryl Schipper as Assistant Principal at the middle school. Mrs. Schipper was formally Dean of Students at Rockland High School. Construction got underway in August with completion of the temporary parking lot behind the middle school. The construction fence now surrounds the old high school parking lot. It will be quiet for a few weeks, but in early November, work will start on the foundations of the new middle school. Work on the interior of the high school will begin in January. We are on schedule for the new middle school to be completed by the summer of 2012 with students moving into the building in September 2012. The high school students will move into renovated space as it is completed. The high school project should be completed by January 2013.