

Welcome to the start of another school year.

We are fortunate in education that we start fresh every September, with new students, new ideas for the upcoming year, new goals, new courses to teach, and a hope for a productive and successful year. I am always energized by this time of the year with the promise it holds for our students and it is a time of anticipation and excitement for staff. Last year we accomplished a great deal as we implemented our goals. These included:

- Implementation of a new elementary report card
- Piloting a new literacy program that we are going to adopt this year that teachers worked hard at learning and implementing
- Developing a new website with a new logo that reflects the excellence of Tenafly Public Schools.
- Re-registering each family in the district.
- Implementing a new attendance program which helps getting a substitute easier and helps to eliminate paper as we continue to go green.
- Accomplishing our goal of increasing revenue and decreasing expenses.
- Opening the lines of communication with the community
- Expanding the use of experiential learning for students on all levels so that students can put into practice the concepts they learned in the classroom.
- Actively engaging our students in learning on an everyday basis through the use of technology, simulations and interactive lessons.
- Continuing our excellent results on state assessments and on our AP tests through the work of teachers who guided each student toward success.
- Helping to direct students toward the colleges that best served their individual needs and their unique interests.
- Working with our most needy students so that they too found success and grew as learners from the start of the year.

The 2011-2012 school year will build on the projects and goals from last year as well as put in place several new ideas. This year we will focus on experiential, hands on learning; analytical and creative thinking; and data that will drive instruction as we implement district and school goals.

We are excited about the new programs and ideas that we will institute this school year which include:

- Starting two new special education programs in district so that some of our previous out of district students can attend school with their neighborhood peers.
- Implementing the elementary literacy program for all students.
- Exploring the new garden ideas at the middle school that involve hands on learning for students.
- Using the new web site which will be more user-friendly and hopefully be a good communication tool for all of us.
- Increasing parent accessibility to their child's progress by opening up another aspect of the parent portal for grades.

We will also continue our efforts to control costs and expand revenue sources to help keep taxes as low as possible. To this end we will have the district's first dinner dance on November 17. This will be a time for the community to come together for a great evening of fun while supporting programs in the schools. Details and invitations will be coming out soon, but in the meantime save the date.

I am very interested in your ideas and your input. On September 26 at 7:30 PM the district will host a Community Conversations with the Superintendent and members of the Board of Education. Details will be forthcoming.

I also encourage you to just stop by my office to talk at any time. Developing a solid and mutually respectful partnership with our community is a necessary ingredient of the success formula that will propel us even further in the future.

I am mindful of the fact that we will face several challenges in the next years, especially financial ones. I believe, however, that by working together, constructively and creatively, we can overcome anything. We have a great school district and it is my intention to continue pushing it forward, so that our students receive the best education possible to compete successfully in the 21st century.

I am looking forward to a great and rewarding year.

Lynn Trager