

# Superintendent Highlights

April 2018



It's been a long winter and we are starting to see a glimpse of spring and summer right around the corner. I hope everyone was able to enjoy some family time during spring break. I look forward to this time of year as we come down the home stretch. I hope to see many of you at our end of the year events as we celebrate our students for the great work they have accomplished.

## ❖ **Owego Free Academy Named Reward School 2016-2017**

We are very proud of this district accomplishment. This places OFA in the top ten percent in growth for ELA and Math in New York State. The students, staff and administration have worked very hard to reach this prestigious level. There were 73 upstate school districts recognized out of 700 plus districts statewide.

## ❖ **Budget**

This has been a challenging budget year due to some significant increases in Health Insurance and Teacher Retirement System. We initially began with a 1.7 million dollar deficit. We have been analyzing all areas of the budget and were able to reduce that down to \$331,000. Recently, we received our state budget numbers which include a \$277,848 increase to foundation aid and have made some other adjustments to balance the budget. This budget does include a proposed reduction of 8 support staff positions across the district. However, we were able to avoid teacher layoffs for the 2018-2019 school year. The district is currently looking at an allowable tax cap levy of 1.96%. The board will vote on the final budget proposal at the April 16th meeting. We thank you for the communities continued support of our schools as we continue to grow programs and improve student achievement for all students of the Owego Apalachin Central School District.

## ❖ **Facilities Thought Exchange going out in the beginning of May**

You will soon see another Thought Exchange survey that will go out to all stakeholders of the community. As you are aware, it is important that we continue to keep our facilities maintained and upgraded to meet the needs of our 21st century learners. It is our hope to address needs at Owego Free Academy and Apalachin Elementary School in a future construction project. We truly appreciate your feedback as we plan for the future.

## ❖ **Christy J. Valvo Stadium is closed as the final stages of our FEMA projects are being completed**

If you have been by OFA you will see that the stadium construction has begun. We are thankful that we have some remaining FEMA funds to address the much needed updates to our stadium. The goal is to have the stadium ready for the fall season. Thank you in advance for your patience as we make this upgrade to the campus.

### ❖ **District & Community Group Tours of STEAM ACADEMY**

I've had the great pleasure to take a number of community groups through our OA STEAM Academy this winter. Meeting with these groups have opened the lines of communication between the district and our community. I would like to thank the OA Board of Education, Owego Rotary Club, Tioga County Chamber of Commerce, Tioga County Realtors, Tioga County IDA and the 2018 Leadership Tioga Class for visiting and taking time to see our new STEAM ACADEMY as well as talk about future Pathways and service learning opportunities in the future.

### ❖ **District Communication**

You will soon see two new ways that the district will be increasing communication out to our stakeholders. We will be adding the option for parents/guardians and staff members to receive SMS (text messages) beginning on May 1st. We will also be updating our website and adding a district mobile App over the next few months. This will allow us to increase our levels of communication and keep you up to date on the most recent information. More information regarding both of these items will be sent via DATELINE emails.

### ❖ **Year-End Activities**

Please visit our website at [www.oacsd.org](http://www.oacsd.org) to follow any year-end activities. This time of year is very busy and we look forward to the community visiting our schools for events.

Best Regards,

***Corey A. Green***