



Superintendent Highlights February 2019

Dear Owego Apalachin School Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education and myself, I would like to thank you for the continued support of our school district by passing the Capital Project Vote on January 22, 2019. The school district is looking forward to the opportunity to improve our facilities and grow our academic programs. We recognize the importance that our school community plays in the success of our students, both now and in the years to come. We also recognize how our students will play a vital role in the advancement of the local community and surrounding region.

On January 25th, the Owego Apalachin Central School District held our first Collective Impact Team Meeting. The district met and worked in close collaboration with specific community partners to start the process in becoming a STEAM Town District. Our Collective Impact partners included our Village, Town & County departments, social service agencies, businesses, local organizations, and higher education institutions. Together, we are working on developing a strategic plan around academic excellence, where students encounter unique opportunities through community partnerships, which will lead to successful careers. We believe a strategic alliance with community partners will help our local economy.

At this meeting, we reviewed the vision behind the STEAM Town designation and the current work that has been completed over the past few years in regard to the implementation of our own STEAM program at OACSD.

Below you will find a few questions and answers to help further define the plans for our initiative.

What is STEAM?

STEAM is problem-based learning with a curriculum that focuses specifically on the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Agriculture and Mathematics.

Why is this focus so important for our students and community?

Right now, there are over 500,000 unfilled positions in STEAM fields within our country. New York has a shortage of qualified employees to fill these positions. This scenario presents a

crisis in the workforce that we must address. In order to best prepare our students for life after high school, while maintaining the viability of business and industry in our local economy, we must work together to provide career opportunities to our students.

What does a STEAM Town designation mean?

A STEAM Town designation provides us with an economic identity where we coordinate our efforts to increase student awareness and interest in STEAM fields before, during, and after school. We believe local businesses will reap the benefit of a STEAM Town designation through the commitment to our community partnerships. This identity will provide a shift in our mindset toward a deeper understanding of the many fields and industries in our community. In addition, by doing so, we believe this increased awareness in students will also impact families by focusing on the local opportunities that students have before them. We also hope that by putting forth publically that Owego Apalachin is a STEAM Town, future businesses looking to establish themselves in our community might do so because of our commitment to this mission.

Again, we sincerely thank our community for their support in our goal to not only prepare our students for the future workforce, but also show them how they can be great contributors to our local economy.

Best Regards,

Corey A. Green