



# Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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**Mark Secaur, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(631) 382-2006

August 31, 2023

Dear Smithtown School Community,

I hope that you and yours were able to enjoy the summer with your friends and family! As the summer comes to a close, and a new school year begins, we are very excited to meet our new families and welcome back our returning students. A great deal of effort goes into preparing for a school year and we very much look forward to our schools, once again, becoming the vibrant places of learning you have come to know and expect. Last year, it was wonderful to see the return of so many of our programs, events and activities that make the school experience special for our students and their families, and we certainly anticipate the same this year.

Our work this year will be guided by the goals set by our Board of Education found [HERE](#) as well as the [Smithtown 2027 Strategic Plan](#). As Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once said “A goal without a plan is just a wish.” With this quote in mind, we have sought to align our collective efforts via a goal setting process that allows us to both track progress and identify work that may need to be done as we seek to attain our goals. In addition, there will be a particular emphasis on promoting positive student behavior and decision making as the year progresses.

As you may know, the district made the decision last year to bolster our security detail by adding armed guards to the exterior perimeter of each of our schools to strengthen our ability to respond during a crisis, as well as to deter those who may seek to do harm. It is important to note that the addition of these highly trained guards will not interfere with the day-to-day activities and operations of our schools. While we understand that questions may arise, please understand that we will not be at liberty to comment on specific details such as guard deployments, locations, and working hours as this information may compromise their safety and effectiveness. This decision did not come lightly, but we believe that this was a necessary step to improve our approach to the safety and security of our students, faculty, staff, and community members.

As the new school year begins, please know that we are here and ready to assist your children on their journey to a future that is bright and full of promise. We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday, September 6 and hope you enjoy the final days of the summer season!

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.  
Superintendent