



**THREE VILLAGE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

August 2017

The mission of the Three Village Central School District, in concert with its families and community, is to provide an educational environment which will enable each student to achieve a high level of academic proficiency and to become a well-rounded individual who is an involved, responsible citizen.

**Alan L. Baum, Principal
Ward Melville High School**

Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

I hope you and your family are enjoying the summer and that you have had some quality time to enjoy the many offerings that summertime brings into our lives. At Ward Melville High School, we have been busy readying the building for the upcoming school year. We still have much work to do, but I am hopeful that everything will be in place for the start of school.

Whether you are returning to us or joining the Ward Melville community for the first time, I extend to you a warm welcome and hope that the upcoming school year will be rewarding and fulfilling. Mrs. Connolly, Mrs. DiBella, Mr. Finnerty and I are looking forward to another great year here at Ward Melville. Among their many responsibilities, Mrs. DiBella will be the 10th Grade Assistant Principal, Mrs. Connolly will be the 11th Grade Assistant Principal, and Mr. Finnerty will work closely with our senior class.

I have said this many times over the years, so please forgive me, but next to the quest for good health and peace, our nation's most important goal is the development of a high-quality educational system that will prepare all youngsters for life in a fast-changing and complex world. With this thought in mind, the philosophy and the attitude of district officials become rather important. A number of years ago, I was reminded of this during a visit to a store. While waiting in line with my wife, I noticed an interesting philosophy posted on a wall. It was especially stimulating because the employees obviously subscribed to the message. I believe the philosophy is as appropriate to schools as it is to businesses, and I have chosen to substitute the word student for customer and school for business.

- A student is the most important person in any school.
- A student is not an interruption of our work—he or she is the purpose of it.
- A student is not just a statistic. He or she is a flesh-and-blood human being with feelings and emotions like ourselves.
- A student is one who comes to us with needs and/or wants. It is our job, within resource limitations and within reason, to try to fill them.
- A student is deserving of the most courteous and attentive treatment that we can provide.
- A student is the lifeblood of this and every other school. Without him or her, we would have to close our doors.

The focus of the future should be on service and excellence. We are pleased, as employees of Ward Melville High School, to have the opportunity to serve and work with your children. The importance of teaching and

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Cheryl Pedisich, **Superintendent of Schools**
Kevin Scanlon, **Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services**
Jeffrey Carlson, **Assistant Superintendent for Business Services**
Gary B. Dabrusky, Ed.D., **Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources**

learning cannot be overstated. Although we live in very difficult financial and political times, it is our privilege and our challenge as educators to strive continually to provide quality education in our classrooms.

In order to assist us on our mission to educate our children and to assist our students in meeting our expectations and their challenges, we will be providing all students with agenda/handbooks. This book not only contains our handbook of pertinent policies and regulations, but also a comprehensive agenda book for students to record and track their assignments and ongoing obligations. I *strongly* encourage you and your child to actively use and refer to the book throughout the school year.

I must remind everyone that we have an attendance for credit policy. At Ward Melville High School, we believe that attendance in class is an integral part of a student's total educational experience. Student attendance and participation in each of their scheduled classes is *critical to success*. We urge you to stress the importance of punctuality and good attendance throughout the school year. We would appreciate your assistance in enforcing high standards of self-discipline, attendance, and punctuality with your child, and to remind your child of the school's attendance policy. Relevant excerpts from the Board of Education's Attendance for Credit policy can be found online as well as in the Student Handbook.

Complementing our academic program are our *strong extracurricular activities* and *athletic offerings*. It is just as important for success and well-roundedness that each of our students *gets involved* somehow in the many opportunities that present themselves throughout the school year. An *involved student* is more likely to be a *successful student*. Please look for our Club & Activity Guide for a comprehensive guide to all of our clubs. It will be posted online.

Instructional time is valuable time in the classroom. Interruptions to instruction hurt all students. In order to minimize interruptions, unless it is a true emergency, please do not ask us to interrupt class time to deliver a message, money, or lunch to your child. If your child forgets lunch at home, he or she can always buy lunch in the cafeteria, or if you choose, you may bring a bag lunch and leave it at the security desk adjacent to the Main Office. If you choose to bring it to school, we will not be able to deliver a message that it is here. Please note we will NOT accept any open containers or cups from fast food restaurants or delis.

Involvement is key to our success. I urge each of you to get involved in the lives of our students and your children. While they are young adults and need their space to "find their own way," make their own mistakes, and take on additional responsibilities, they still need your guidance, encouragement, support, and leadership. One of the ways you can be involved in your child's life here at school is to join the umbrella organization for parents – the Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) of Ward Melville. I strongly urge you to join and get involved. I know that I will, and I will be encouraging our entire staff to join this important organization. In addition, if your child is involved in athletics or our music program, I encourage you to join the respective booster clubs.

As the year progresses, we encourage you to call the school and talk with those who might be able to further inform you. If your interests or questions relate to in-class events, programs or assignments, please ask to speak with the teacher. If it pertains to overall programs, curricula or activities, please contact the appropriate department chairperson.

Another way for you to be involved is to regularly check the Campus Portal for information on attendance, assignments, assessments and due dates. Also, other information is regularly posted to Ward Melville's website and our Naviance Family Connection page. I will continue to use the practice of including information under Ward Melville "Backpack Information" on our school's website. In addition, periodic mailings, School Messenger telephone contact system, and emails will be utilized. Of course, we will make daily announcements over the school's public address system for students with timely information.

Please download the material posted to our website under the heading, “Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year!” as it contains important information concerning the start of the school year, schedule changes, lockers, valuable items, military opt-out, as well as other items of importance. Please periodically check the website and Campus Portal for updated information. To ensure that we have current emergency contacts and related information, please make sure your contact information is current in Campus, and, *please*, for the health and safety of our students, it is important that we have current and accurate information. Please also consider providing your cell number for calls from school. Bus assignments can be found on the Campus Portal under Transportation. We will no longer be mailing bus assignments as this information is readily available on the Portal.

Once again, welcome to Ward Melville. The entire administrative team is looking forward to a rewarding year working with the entire Three Village community. In the meantime, enjoy the remaining days of summer.

Educationally Yours,

Alan L. Baum

Alan L. Baum, J.D.

Principal