



Tantasqua Regional Junior High School

BRIMFIELD – BROOKFIELD – HOLLAND – STURBRIDGE – W
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GREGORY P. STURGES
Principal

HEIDI PETERSON
Assistant Principal

Dear TRJHS Families,

It's unbelievable, but August is already upon us and a new school year is just around the corner. Don't panic yet, there's still plenty of time to enjoy the summer break! Around here at the Junior High School there has been a significant amount of work and preparation taking place to get ready for the 2018-2019 school year. We've been fortunate enough to have installed up to 60 computer stations in our school library. Other classrooms are being renovated to add more technology. Walls are being painted as classrooms and halls are being cleaned. Soon classes will be back in session and another year will be off and rolling!

Transitions for students can be stressful or anxiety inducing for some. For many of our kids, those entering 7th or those who just moved on to 9th, this summer is a time of worry about what the next chapter of their school lives entails. Adolescents and adults alike share in these fears of things that are new and often times seem daunting from the outside. Our school environment is one built around fostering a climate that is welcoming to all students from a variety of towns, cultures and backgrounds. With the unique dynamic of the Tantasqua & Union 61 School District, we'll be starting school in a month with students from five separate towns, and that's before we consider school choice. When all is said and done we will have students beginning their journey through 6 years of Tantasqua schools from fourteen different towns, having experienced fourteen different elementary schools (minimally) with a wide variety of strengths and contributions to bring to the table.

Since we have students coming from so many places with such a wide variety of experiences, we welcome each and every one of them to their new school family, their one school where they will be encouraged, and challenged, to dig deep and discover or expand upon their strengths. An American Poet, Henry Van Dyke once said "Use what talent you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best." Encourage your kids who may be worried, even if just a little bit, to get involved early in the year. Try different things and see if they discover a talent they possess. Encourage all kids that they don't have to be the best athlete to try a sport, or the best musical talent to get involved in band or chorus. Every student who enters this building has an active role in its overall success. Getting involved creates a sense of ownership of their school, eases the angst of transitioning to a new school and also builds Tantasqua pride! I hope everyone enjoys the rest of their summer and I look forward to the beginning of the new school year.

Please note, on Tuesday August 7th, I will be available for public "meet and greet" hours for anyone interested in coming in to meet the new principal. That Tuesday I will be in the TRJHS library for three separate hours: 7:30-8:30 a.m., 12:00-1:00p.m., and 3:00-4:00p.m. Feel free to drop in and say hello. I look forward to meeting members of this school community!

Please also note the following important dates for August:

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| August 22 | Open House 9am- 12pm for Incoming 7 th graders & new students |
| August 27 | First Day for Staff |
| August 28 | First Day for Students |

Yours Truly,

Greg Sturges
Principal

Tantasqua/Union 61 School Districts are committed to maintaining a work and learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, pregnancy, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital/civil union status, ancestry, place of birth, age, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation, genetic information or disability, as defined and required by state and federal laws. Additionally, we prohibit retaliation against individuals who oppose such discrimination and harassment or who participate in an equal opportunity investigation.