August 1, 2018

Dear Rush-Henrietta families:

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday, September 4. My name is Bo Wright and I have the pleasure of serving as your new superintendent of schools. I am looking forward to meeting you this year! First, I’d like to share some important information to help you and your student prepare for a successful school experience.

SCHOOL CALENDAR
The printed version of the 2018-2019 School Calendar will be mailed in August to homes of all children enrolled in the district. The calendar is available on the district website at www.rhnet.org. Please refer to it often to find opportunities for parent and family involvement. The online version of the calendar will reflect scheduling changes that occur throughout the year and can be customized to reflect your interests.

DISTRICT WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE
Please visit our new district website at www.rhnet.org to stay up-to-date with our schools! The new website offers a modern appearance and functions much more efficiently than our previous site. It also displays appropriately on mobile devices, making finding information on the go easier than ever. Because of this, the district no longer offers the Rush-Henrietta mobile app. After you have visited the website, please make sure to “like” our district Facebook page for news and information! You can find our thriving page at www.facebook.com/rhschools.

BLUE CARDS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
Rush-Henrietta uses an automated phone notification system to record, schedule, and send personalized voice messages to thousands of families within minutes. To make this system as efficient as possible, we will ask you at the beginning of the school year to enter accurate contact information on your student’s blue card. Please include home, work, and cell numbers. It is imperative that we have correct contact information in the event of an emergency, such as a child illness. In addition, the district posts special alerts on its website as needed. Visit www.rhnet.org regularly for this and other school information. The district continues to offer its popular E-News listservs, which provide communication from the superintendent and principals. Sign up – or unsubscribe – for the lists of your choice by visiting www.rhnet.org/enews.

SCHOOL MEALS
Families can prepare for the new school year by making payments to a child’s meal account quickly and securely using an automated pre-payment system called MyPaymentsPlus. The system offers round-the-clock access, eliminates the possibility of lost meal money, and allows families to prepay for meals with a credit or debit card or E-Check. A 4.75 percent convenience fee is charged by MyPaymentsPlus, but the fee is waived if charging more than $100 (even if among multiple children). Just visit www.mypaymentsplus.com, register your child in the K-12 school lunch system, and make a prepayment using the secure website. Or, call 866-727-3053 and prepay on the phone. You will need your child’s student ID number to register. For students in grades K-6, the ID is on the placement letter included in this packet. For students in grades 7-12, it is on student schedules. The number also can be obtained by calling Food Service at 359-5388. Even if you choose not to prepay, sign up for low-account-balance e-mail notification and review meal purchases for free! Breakfast is available for a fee to students every morning school is in session.
SCHOOLTOOL PARENT PORTAL
Rush-Henrietta offers online access to teacher gradebooks for parents of students enrolled in grades K-12. Using SchoolTool, parents and students can access information regarding schedules, attendance, and grades. The tool is geared toward students (and parents) in grades 7-12, but is available for all students. You can access your child’s tentative schedule for the upcoming school year. Changes to student schedules may occur as we refine our class rosters late into August. If you have questions about logging in once school has started, contact the main office in your child’s school.

TRANSPORTATION
Transportation policies are in place to help ensure the safety of each student, and we ask for your continued support. If you have not requested bus transportation to or from a babysitter’s house or child care center, the April 1 deadline – set by state law – has passed for established students. Families new to the district should visit www.rhnet.org/busing to download the appropriate form, which should be completed and returned to your child’s school as soon as possible. The transportation department will do its best at this late date to accommodate your request. Once school begins, please remember that parents and guardians are responsible for assisting students in traveling safely to and from bus stops. Students should be at their bus stop five minutes before their scheduled pick-up time, waiting in a safe location on the sidewalk or at least 15 feet from the edge of the road. As the bus slows down to stop, students should be in plain view of the driver to help ensure a safe pick-up for your child.

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES (DIGITAL ETIQUETTE)
Cell phones, personal computing devices (iPads, tablets, etc.), personal music devices (iPods, MP3s), video game systems and other sound and/or recording equipment used in the general setting of the school can be disruptive to the learning process. Appropriate use of permissible devices is required at all times. Students found using an electronic device during times when they are prohibited, will have their device confiscated. In the event a device is confiscated, it will be given to a building administrator. The device may be retrieved at the end of the school day in accordance with school building procedures. Students at the high school level are permitted to use their cell phones (and text messaging features), personal computing devices and personal music devices during non-instructional times of the day. Non-instructional time refers to passing times between blocks and other settings as deemed appropriate by the high school administrators. Students may also use these devices during instructional time as deemed appropriate by the teachers for instructional purposes only. Students who inappropriately utilize a cell phone, personal computing device, or personal music device may have their use restricted further, as determined by the administrative team. The production, possession, transmission and/or distribution, by any means, of text material including but not limited to sexually suggestive images, nude or partially nude images, or sexually explicit text in any media is strictly prohibited. Any student receiving such images is required to immediately report it to a building administrator, and/or staff member. Students violating district policy relating to digital etiquette may be subject to all district forms of discipline, including police involvement/arrest.

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE
We ask for your support in ensuring appropriate school attire. A basic guideline is for students to wear school clothing that is not distracting, including revealing or tight-fitting clothing. Appropriate dress for K-12 students includes no headgear while in school except for religious or medical purposes; this includes, but is not limited to, hats, scarves, hoods, hairnets, and bandannas; some hats and headgear may be allowed at the Senior High School. Inappropriately dressed students will be required to change clothes before attending class. See www.rhnet.org/conduct for more.

I look forward to learning more about this outstanding community and working with you and our staff to help your child succeed. Feel free to follow me on Twitter @LawrenceBoWrig1. On behalf of the entire school district, we look forward to a year full of academic and personal growth!

Sincerely,

Mr. Lawrence Bo Wright
Superintendent of Schools