

**Mrs. Kimberly Sigman***Chief School Administrator***Mr. William Sabo***Interim Business Administrator***Mr. RJ Baumgartner***Vice Principal*

Good evening Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for taking the time to read through this introductory letter. On Thursday, September 9th, we invite you to our in person Back to School Night. Each staff member or group will host two conference sessions in our classrooms:

- Session 1 (7:00-7:30 PM)
- Session 2 (7:35-8:05 PM)

During these sessions, the Hamburg Staff will provide an overview of your student's classroom procedures and an introduction to the grade appropriate curriculum resources. **We remind our parent community that Hamburg School adheres to Governor Murphy's Executive Order #251; therefore, all staff, students, and visitors within our school building must be masked.**

Outlined below are notes of gratitude, introductions, and announcements as we begin our school year.

### **Gratitude and Introductions**

- Board of Education - There are many people who play an essential role in getting our school year off to a great start: Mr. Jones, the President of the Hamburg Board of Education along with its 8 other members are to be thanked for their guidance. The Board of Education's continued support demonstrates the value and importance placed upon education in our community.
- Secretarial/Custodial Staff - I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our custodial staff under the guidance of Mr. Baumgartner and our secretarial staff who worked throughout the summer to prepare everything for the start of this school year.
- Staff - I would like to thank and commend our talented teachers, child study team, support staff and all our classroom aides who dedicate their time far beyond the hours of the school day to ensure your children are getting the best education possible. We have a truly amazing staff at Hamburg School!
- Vice Principal – Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our school's staff. I am Mr. Baumgartner, Vice Principal at Hamburg School. My career in education is well into its second decade. It has allowed me to hold many roles and titles;

substitute, coordinator, committee chairperson, coach, classroom teacher and teller of bad "dad jokes." I spent the majority of my career at Franklin Borough School. It was at Franklin School where I finished my degree in Educational Leadership / Administration. After graduating from Hamburg School more than 20 years ago, I returned home in October of 2019. Outside of school, I am usually with my wife, son (age 6) and daughter (age 4). We enjoy spending time engaged in a number of outdoor activities before moving inside for dinner and the nightly bedtime routine. On the rare occasion I'm not spending time with my family, it is very likely you would find me playing soccer with a local adult team. Thank you for taking the time to join us tonight, to learn a little more about me, and for sharing your children with us.

- Chief School Administrator - I have met and spoke to many of you on a professional level, but would like to introduce myself on a more personal note. As an educator, I have had the pleasure to work in a variety of positions in Warren County. I began as a paraprofessional working with special needs students. Soon afterwards I was assigned as part time Basic Skills teacher, and then transitioned to technology and gifted/talented teacher. I then served as a Grade 5 teacher for a number of years, before being appointed as the district's Curriculum and Technology Coordinator. During this time I also served as an independent consultant and wrote curriculum for 9 school districts in Warren County. These experiences (all in the same district, actually the same district in which I live and where my own children attended) spanned 23 years of my career. It was at this time that I joined the Hamburg School family serving the district as Vice Principal for three years and am now continuing my journey as Chief School Administrator. On a more personal note...I have been married for 34 years, and my husband and I have three "grown" children. Our oldest daughter is married and works for Merck Animal Health as a Drug Safety Specialist where she reports adverse reactions for Merck Animal Health products. Our son is a United States Marine currently stationed in Japan for the next year. His MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) is 62-51: Fixed wing air framer. In layman's terms, he works on the framing of F35 fighter jets. Like so many, my hope is to find a resolve for COVID 19 for it has been over 3 years since I have physically seen my son. Our youngest daughter is a senior in college majoring in nursing. Her ultimate plan is to continue medical schooling to become a physician's assistant.

Parents – I am so appreciative. Words cannot express the gratitude for our parent community and beyond. Our students and their families have experienced very difficult times. Hamburg, however, is resilient! Our school community and our parent community continue to partner together to initiate and follow practices that allow our students to come to school every day. To learn, to socialize, to grow. It feels so good to have our students back in school for a full day. Thank you!



PTA - Involvement is one of the many keys to a successful school experience, and this applies to both students and parents. There are many great activities available to students and their parents throughout the year, many of which are sponsored by our PTA. Membership packets are available on our school website and are posted under the "Digital Backpack." Our goal continues to be 100% participation in our school's PTA. This group of dedicated individuals do an immense amount of work to support programs within the school with everything from school dances and movie nights, to assembly programs and guest speakers for our children. You are encouraged to reach out to the executive members of the PTA in the event you would like to donate time, participate in an event, or simply have a question. The PTA can be reached via email at [hamburgpta@gmail.com](mailto:hamburgpta@gmail.com)

### **Announcements:**

- Hamburg School is proud to announce that we now offer **FREE preschool to any 3- or 4-year-old Hamburg resident**. Please contact the main office for a registration packet at 973.827.7570 ext. 500.
- ***Hamburg School will be seeking a referendum on the November ballot. This referendum works to address a number of facility updates for our students. There are three remaining open forum meetings to discuss this referendum as well as a tour of the facility. Please join us on any of the following dates at 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria - September 13, October 5, and October 27.***
- Thursday evening, you will have an opportunity to learn the paths your children follow every day, and you will meet the teachers who will help guide your children through the year. The purpose of Back-to-School Night is to get an overview of the school year.
- In the event of an issue or question about your student's education, please do not hesitate to reach out to the teacher through email, a note to school or a phone call.
- **Parking – Please do not park in any of the marked fire lanes. Hamburg police patrol the school frequently and will issue tickets to cars that are illegally parked.**
- Morning drop-off – Children should not be dropped off prior to 7:55 AM (with the exception of breakfast students who may arrive at 7:45 AM and go directly into the cafeteria). When dropping children off, all children should exit from the passenger side of the vehicle, along the red bollards at the top of the hill by the cafeteria. Children can also be dropped off at the curb on Linwood Ave. Our custodial staff supervise the crosswalk in the morning to ensure all children cross safely. For safety reasons, all students and parents are being routed to the sidewalk in order to access the lower parking lot. Staff continue to assist in monitoring this practice.



- Our teachers, under the direction of our guidance counselor, Ms. Garris will again be focusing throughout the school year on the 6 Pillars of good Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. The Pillars of Good Character are also being reinforced in our day to day instructional lessons.
- Cafeteria – Mrs. Michelle Bifano is once again our cafeteria manager for Maschio's. Each day a breakfast and lunch are available at no cost. Menus are posted on the district web site. Please contact the cafeteria or the main office if you have any questions.
- In the event of inclement weather or a school emergency, the school will utilize School Messenger to notify you of school closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals. The contact information that you provide the school, cell numbers, home phone, email address are the contacts that will be used to send you alerts.
- Please view our website and Facebook page for information about the school district. These platforms of communication are updated often and contain a great deal of vital information about the school. In addition, this is where you can find the links to the web pages for your child's teachers and the homework that is posted each night. This is also a great source of information about activities and events taking place in our community.
- The school website is also where you can link to the Parent Portal for OnCourse – your pathway to see your child's academic information such as grades and attendance.
- The Calendar & Handbook for 2021-2022 school year will be distributed soon. There are many important dates listed on the calendar and valuable information listed within the handbook.
- I am extremely excited to announce that Hamburg School continues to implement an RTI program (Response to Intervention). This program will be led by Mr. Baumgartner and instructed by Mrs. Danko (Mathematics) and Mrs. Decker (Reading). This program is data driven and has been designed to assist students in need of a tiered system of support.
- Safety drills will be practiced twice monthly at our school. As a new practice, families will receive a School Messenger alert at the conclusion of a school safety drill. This will allow for proactive conversations when your student arrives home from school.
- Our School Messenger system will also be utilized to send weekly announcements to our Hamburg families. We will continue to send a personalized message each Sunday evening with a "Week Ahead" of the many happenings here at Hamburg School.
- Finally, some **Health announcements:** Mrs. Brady has asked that I remind all kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents that updated immunization records must



be on file ASAP, otherwise your child will not be able to attend school until the immunizations are completed. Also, please remind your children of

- The basics of keeping healthy like frequent hand-washing for 20 seconds and eating breakfast each morning.
- Also, if your child does not feel well, please keep them home. There are a number of state and local health mandates that our school is following for the safety of all.
- Students who have been out of school for a period of time due to a prolonged illness must return to school with a doctor's note.

### **In Closing**

Childhood is a journey not a race. The staff and I look forward to partnering with you on your child's journey over the next 10 months.

- Please refer to the second attachment on this eblast for direct links to your student's classroom Back to School presentation.
- Your presence Thursday evening shows your commitment to your child's education and is an essential component to helping your child succeed in school this year.

With Hamburg Pride,

*Kimberly Sigman*

Kimberly Sigman

Chief School Administrator

