



Peekskill City School District
A System Focused on Every Student; Every Day

The Mission of the Peekskill City School District is to educate students in a caring, inspiring environment characterized by a spirit of excellence and high expectations; prepare graduates to meet or exceed standards; graduate students who respect and appreciate cultural diversity; and prepare students to pursue adult lives as contributing citizens of our local and global community.

*Dr. David Fine,
 Superintendent of Schools*

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Dear Faculty and Staff,

I hope that each of you had a peaceful and restful summer with family and friends. We are excited about the new school year as it relates to working with our students, staff, and community. Our theme for the 2015-2016 school year is, “*A System Focused on Every Student; Every Day.*” Our fundamental focus as an educational organization is the success of our learners with respect to their academic, social, and emotional growth. Providing optimal opportunities regardless of challenge for all stakeholders within our teaching/learning system is paramount. *Pursuing excellence requires an ability to avoid distractions that may come from political opposition or competing priorities* (Noguera and Blankstein, 2015). Our work and goals set forth require a village of passionate, competent, dedicated, and courageous individuals.

Our journey together thus far continues to remain focused on targeted principles relative to our pedagogical expectations, which include, but are not limited to; individual accommodations and celebrations; an aligned curricula across all grades articulated in an equitable fashion; instructional focus utilizing the Danielson Framework; consistent-assessment measurements across all grade levels; an operational expectation to utilize relevant data to drive instruction; nurturing a collaborative, professional, and transparent teaching/learning environment; enhancement of the Summit and Freshman Academies, implementation of newcomer and transitional programs, performing arts expansion, 21st century courses, increased equity between intervention and enrichment programs, lighthouse classrooms, professional walkthrough protocols, residency programs, aligned PD/PLA schedule, community partnerships, and more.

Malcolm Gladwell explains the correlation between consistent practice and expertise. He indicates that extreme success and mastery take sustainable and focused work. This philosophy holds true to what we do, say, and implement into our educational system. Our work is guided by our expertise and willingness to be lifelong learners. We continue to focus on the interests/needs of our students and staff, remaining collaborative/transparent, and building upon our successes in an operational and targeted manner.

Thank you for making a difference each and every day. Please see below for a basic timeline of activities for September 1st and 2nd. The SLT/building agenda will be out shortly via building leadership.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Fine, Superintendent of Schools

Tuesday, September 1, 2015	Wednesday, September 2, 2015
7:45am-8:15am: <i>Breakfast, PKMS Cafeteria (8:15am-8:27am, transition into auditorium and seated by 8:30am)</i>	8:00am-3:20pm: <i>Building/SLT work (Lunch 12-1) Agendas TBD/TBA via buildings</i>
8:30am-10:00am: <i>Opening Remarks and Staff Development, PKMS Auditorium</i>	
10:00am-11:00am: <i>Travel and Union Meetings</i> (*teacher aides; youth workshop, TBA) PFA : Auditorium Teacher Aides: Rm. 224 PAA: Rm. 121 Clerical: Rm. 322 Security: Rm. 120 Cust.-Maint.: Rm. 220	
11:00am-3:20pm: <i>Building SLT Work, (Lunch 12-1)</i>	
*Please Note: Professional Work day for PD days: 8:00am-3:20pm	