

The following is the daily communications briefing on behalf of Dr. Cash.

Dear Colleagues:

Today, we celebrated a fantastic start to the new school year, beginning at Leonardo daVinci High School #212. Principal Gregory Lodinsky, Board of Education President Dr. Barbara Nevergold, West District Board Member Jennifer Mecozzi and I were joined by Mayor Byron Brown, D'Youville President Dr. Lorrie Clemo, Senator Timothy Kennedy, Councilman David Rivera, and Student Board Member Mariya Sami, a student at daVinci High.



The narrative on the Buffalo Public Schools has changed. This year will bring proof that the trend is upward, and the success is evident in the data. We have won the confidence of civic and education leaders city-wide, and we are ready and extremely eager to make this school year one of the most productive, yielding high success that will carry on for years to come. In the Year of Instruction² (YOI²), we will be “inspecting what we expect” that is aligned, grade-appropriate assignments, strong teaching and learning, deep engagement in rigorous content, challenging homework, and high expectations for every student, every day, in every subject.



DaVinci's rich relationship with D'Youville College will include daVinci students participating in D'Youville's new "Medical Hub," which will transform the education and delivery of health services in the West Side community in which the college and school reside. The graduation rate at daVinci is 94%. Within that is the growth of the Advanced Designation Graduation Rate of over 40%, up by 10% in the past two years,

with 69 students taking 119 college courses, representing 293 credit hours. These courses include adjunct Allied Health inspired courses such as Perspectives on Professions, Competencies in Electronic Health Records, Macroeconomics and Social Problems.



Student Board Member and daVinci senior Mariya Sami

Next, Board President Nevergold, Vice President of Executive Affairs Sharon Belton-Cottman and I visited Principal Parette Walker at the Arthur O. Eve School of Distinction #61. A Gifted and Talented (GT) program will begin for select students in grades K and 1 with a GT specialist. Based on the School-wide Enrichment Model, all students will participate in exploratory GT activities throughout the year.



Teacher Sarah Malczewski, who is setting up her GT room for tomorrow's Kindergarten arrivals, points out the type of activities students will be engaged in, including coding and robotics building. Much to the credit of Principal Walker and her staff, school #61 is an example of how building aculture and mindset of excellence can influence the

success of all children. The state data on this “little school that can” is embargoed for now, but you will soon see the effect of mindset on student growth at #61 that can and will be another district-wide model for student success. Music and the arts, with plenty of push-in artists, field trips, and hands-on learning also play a big role at School #61. The correlation between overall achievement at #61 and a balanced blend of arts and academics reflects solid education practice.



Next, we visited Middle Early College High (MECH) #335 with Principal Susan Doyle, and Research Lab for Bioinformatics and Life Sciences #366 with Principal Angela Cullen on the Lewis J. Bennett Campus, joined by Councilman Rasheed Wyatt. When we arrived, MECH seniors were waiting for their Buffalo State shuttle to attend today's classes they began last week. Opened in Fall of 2003, Sue Doyle was the founding principal who saw her students reach a 93% graduation rate in August of 2017. Partnering with Buffalo State College and SUNY Erie Community College, students earn an average of 40-50 college credits by graduation. Students attending SUNY Erie Community College have the opportunity to earn an AA degree within five years. Known nationally as a lead Early College in graduating the most African American males since its inception, with an attendance rate well over 90%. The students are responsible and treat their relative autonomy with respect, making them college immersed and ready for their post-secondary options.



Principal Angela Cullen, is now in the 3rd year of the New Innovative High School, Research Lab for Bioinformatics and Life Sciences #366. The school's recently outfitted "Collaboration Space" is every high school student's dream, with the ability to work with other students in a laboratory environment through project and problem based learning experiences—a pedagogical practice that all of the Research Lab teachers have been trained in. This approach includes the presentation of an applied problem to a group of students who engage in discussion over several sessions, and this room will be utilized during these experiences, which is the same approach used in most medical and engineering schools.



In partnership with the University at Buffalo, Research Lab students receive science enrichment opportunities facilitated by UB graduate students, using the same lab equipment that is used by professionals on the BNMC. There are five (5) new science courses, with curriculum written specifically by Research Lab teachers in partnership with UB: Scientific Methods, Scientific Nomenclature, Genetics, Bioinformatics, and Bioethics. All 10th grade students will be taking AP Computer Science this year; next year this will expand to offer AP English Literature and Composition, AP Environmental, and AP US History.



The Collaboratorium

North Park Community School #50 Principal Carla Graves began her morning at 5:00 a.m., on WGRZ and Spectrum News' morning shows, doing live shots and telling the story of how she and her staff have been very busy during the summer to assist in transitioning the first floor from a Middle School into a primary school, housing grades Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. She was joined in welcoming her students by Senator Chris Jacobs and his wife, Martina.



The colorful Kindergarten classrooms have flexible seating rooms, which allow students to sit on furniture through choice, based on studies that have shown that physical comfort lends itself to higher achievement. With mindset as a guide, teachers have begun training so all students at School #50 will have Gifted & Talented teaching infused into their curriculum. Parents and community members have become familiarized with the school through Saturday Academies, the North Buffalo Farmers Market (hosted at #50), Movie on The Lawn Night, and a recent Buffalo Philharmonic performance on the lawn. Principal Graves' team is working to keep the momentum while building community, kindness, and involved, independent learners. The school

has taken its rightful place as the epicenter of this vibrant residential community with a dynamic leader and staff!



We are well prepared for this year in every way – operationally and academically. The plant department went above and beyond in preparing for opening day, and principals are feeling the excitement from their students, teachers, support staff, and parents. By all accounts, it's going to be a fabulous year!

Enjoy your evening!

Dr. Kriner Cash
Superintendent

About Discussion Announcements Photos Even

 Emily Burns Perryman 3 hrs · 📍

I admit it, I choked back a few tears this AM at drop off. Excited and optimistic about what's to come.

Community School #50 in North Buffalo!
Strong Community Schools build bridges between families and communities leading to improved student learning, increased parent engagement and healthier students. Now let's see the District work to ensure that ALL students, regardless of race, economic status or neighborhood receive the best education possible and the strongest, most effective resources available. Proud to support public education ❤️



We agree!