



## BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Office of the Superintendent

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Dear BPS Families and Partners:

The Buffalo Public Schools are built upon a foundation of great cultural richness and diversity. We believe in “Putting children and families first to ensure high academic achievement for all.” Within that mission, we hold dear the democratic principles of active citizenship, personal integrity, civility and respect for others, and a mutual desire to celebrate all that makes us unique. At this time of year, we are especially thankful for the lasting treasure of these core American values.

Whether we agree with one another doesn’t matter so much as our ability to listen to and seek to understand each other in the greater realm of learning. We are a microcosm of a larger world and reflective of its variances. Our diversity is a source of strength, a point of pride.

In the New Education Bargain with Students and Parents, we state that: “An equal and high-quality education is every child’s civil right; and, as educators, we must deliver on this essential democratic principle.” This has never been more true, nor our conviction to make it so - stronger.

As educators, we help make the world better by making it a perpetual learning laboratory and embracing teachable moments for the benefit of our children. We are in a moment in time when it is imperative that each child and family in this District feels how precious they are, how valued, how cared for, and how safe and protected they are – in our schools and in their communities.

As we visit our schools and speak with our students, we are inspired to help our amazing students reach their full potential. We have deep faith in them as scholars and as citizens of the City of Buffalo. Our homes, our schools, and our classrooms must be safe havens for our students.

Democracy is what leaders and ordinary people practice when they take responsibility for improving their communities. We must lead, not follow. We must stand, not fall. We must include, not isolate. We must develop the hearts and minds of our students so that they can take their rightful place and make their contribution in our global society.

We will continue to urge our teachers to engage students and each other in substantive, civil, and productive discourse about all matters educational. Buffalo Public Schools works together with all constituents to carry on the peaceful missions of humankind. During this season of giving thanks, let us all help lift our neighbors and heed the call to grow.

Dr. Kriner Cash  
Superintendent

Dr. Barbara Nevergold  
Board President

*“Putting Children and Families First to Ensure High Academic Achievement for All”*