



Vernon Township Public School District

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John B. Alfieri, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Linkenheimer, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
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July, 2009

Dear Vernon Township Community Member:

It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I welcome you to the Vernon Township Public Schools Website. One of our new initiatives will directly involve this website – using all of our talents and skills we already possess to make it an apt reflection of the compassionate, excellent, leading edge school district that is Vernon. We all hope that you will begin to find the site informative, interesting, and valuable. If there is anything you can suggest to make it more so, please let me know directly (jalfieri@vtsd.com) so that it can continue to evolve.

As your new superintendent, I have quickly become impressed with just about every aspect of the Vernon Township Public Schools. The Board of Education members are knowledgeable and caring – nine unique people, with one united purpose – meeting the needs of the students whom we serve. As busy professionals living in this hurried era, their willingness to give of their time is exceptional. We are all well served by your elected representatives.

The administrative team constitutes a great strength of our school district. Bright, focused and articulate, they reflect the kind of leadership needed to maintain the level of quality everyone has worked so hard to establish here. Highly competent individuals, they also work effectively as a team in approaching issues that transcend particular grade levels or subject areas. Vernon is not a system of schools; we are a school system, working together as a team.

At the heart of our schools, the teachers constitute a truly exceptional group of educators. Giving of their time and talent, they go far above the norm or even the expected. The only way to make a great school district is to form a collection of classrooms; fill those classrooms with great teachers and the right resources to be successful. Current educational belief states that the single, most important connection in any school is that 'teachable moment' between student and teacher.

The support staff does a wonderful job. They make sure that the infrastructure works seamlessly, from bus routes to flow of information to working toward making our schools safe, clean, and accessible to all. Instructional aides help to assure the

success of all students, in many ways, they have the most direct moment-to-moment interaction with the students.

In the Vernon Township School District, our top priority is our students – your children; therefore, all of our actions are directly focused on the growth of individual student achievement. The pinnacle of our achievement will be the creation of a comprehensive program of instruction for every child. Good enough is not enough.

Everyone I have encountered thus far, acts as if the quality of the students' education depends on them, which in an important way it does. My personal goal is to be visible, active, and involved on a daily basis. I am not the most important person in this district, in fact, if done right, my role as steward of the resources is to trust enough to be trusted. Who I am when no one is looking and the decisions I make have great impact in this community. Thus, I hope to meet and eventually exceed your expectations of a school superintendent.

None of the above could have come about without the constant and competent support that you, the community have afforded us. We are grateful for the students you send us, an impressive reflection of your own values about learning and schools. Please know that we will work to keep this trust.

I look forward to working with you as your new superintendent. As the parent of three elementary-age children, I know that a 'one size fits all' approach to any situation is no longer an option. I am confident that if we all work together, there is nothing which we can not achieve. Therefore, it is only the unvoiced concern which has no solution. Let us know what you are thinking – we pledge to do the same.

If I can be of assistance to you in any way, please let me know. Looking forward to meeting each of you personally...

Sincerely,

John B. Alfieri

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