

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is the time of year for New Year's resolutions and many of us make them in an attempt to improve ourselves in all aspects of our lives. In education, we set goals and do everything in our power to help students achieve academic success and personal happiness. I can personally assure all of our families that in this New Year, we will continue to assist Lancaster High School students in pursuing their academic goals and achieving success in whatever their school interests might be. As we begin 2019, I would like to review some of the attempts Lancaster High School has put forth in an effort to accomplish these goals.

We are currently examining our efforts at preparing students for the future. Our Building Planning Team is in the process of identifying skills students need to be successful in the next decade. We will then audit our program to make sure we are delivering instruction to satisfy these needs. For returning students, the scheduling season for next year is upon us and your son or daughter will be making decisions about course offerings in the coming months. Please watch the counseling website for information and we implore you to be a part of your child's future educational decisions.

In the area of academics, we continue to examine options to make students more college and career ready. We are in discussions with Erie Community College regarding increasing our dual enrollment possibilities for some of our courses. We have courses that provide students the option to pay a reduced tuition rate and have SUNY transferrable credits upon successful completion of course. Mathematics is one area where we are trying to increase these options and better prepare our college bound students for the next level.

2019 will bring more structural improvements as we see the old Java Gym demolished and redesigned to include an activity room, a Black Box Theatre, and music practice suites. The media center will be remodeled to resemble their counterparts at the university level. The nurse's office will also be improved with space and efficiency. Of course, there will be some inconvenience as students, staff and community share space with contractors. We will continue to do our best to keep the instructional impact of these improvements to a minimum. The look of the building when completed, I'm sure, will make it worth all the flexibility needed.

Our next Parent/Principal forum is on Wednesday March 13th at 7:00pm in the conference room. We welcome your attendance. If unable to attend, please email the coordinators at the email listed on the Parent Information Group link under "Our School" with concerns.

I am sure you have noticed many of the fundraisers that have been carried out here at school. As always, clubs and organizations demonstrate dedication and community outreach as students and advisors donate their time and energy to help people who are less fortunate. In the area of music, I'm sure many of you have enjoyed hearing band, orchestra, and chorus students in action during their holiday concerts. The quality of the music at these events continues to be a reflection of the skill and dedication of both the students and the teachers in the Lancaster Music Program. The multitude of opportunities available to students is a huge testament to this community and its undying support for education. The winter sports season is off to a very successful start. I appreciate all of the support I have seen parents and community members give to our student athletes. Lancaster continues to field some of the most accomplished and successful sports teams in the area, demonstrated by student athletes receiving scholarship offers from prestigious universities.

The beginning of a New Year is always a time to reflect and set goals. However, it is also time to appreciate what we know to be good and positive. On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish all of our families a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,
Cesar Marchioli
Principal