



## HILLSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*"Ready, Set, Excel"*

*Antoine L. Gayles, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools*

June 30, 2017

Dear Teachers, Staff and Hillside Community,

Congratulations on a successful school year! Each member of the school community, every crossing guard, security guard, parent, teacher, teacher's aide, secretary and administrator, is an integral part and plays a vital role in any success we attain. It is with heartfelt enthusiasm that I salute the tremendous efforts and accomplishments we have achieved this year. As I look back on my year as Superintendent, I want to recognize the entire school community for the warm reception to Hillside and the opportunity you have given me to lead, to serve and be a role model for your children. It is a responsibility that I embrace with pride, as it is the most important task we undertake as adults - that of shaping young minds to become the next generation of leaders in the community.

We have made progress on many fronts. A few highlights from this past year include: the new addition to George Washington School is near completion; student achievement on PARCC and Measures of Academic Progress (MAPs) are up in grades 3-8 (\*with fewer students needing summer school at WOK this year); students at A.P. Morris continue to improve their reading proficiency; we have established strong partnerships with NJIT and Kean University, with 5 students from WOK attending NJIT's summer program to study Engineering; Scholastic and Barnes & Noble have joined us as partners to promote literacy throughout our schools; "Ready, Set, Grow" mentoring was a tremendous success at WOK and Hillside High School; Hurden Looker staff continue to lead the way with coding; Hillside High School will offer its first dual enrollment course through NJIT and we sent our first ever team of Hillside High School students to Orlando, Florida to compete in a national Science, Technology, Engineering and Math competition.

As we continue to make strides in the learning environment, it is equally important to improve our infrastructure to ensure that students can learn in safe, clean and attractive environments. So over the summer you will see several renovation projects taking place, that represent the first phase of an

annual process to improve areas within our schools. Renovation projects include:

- 1) Replacing the front columns at George Washington School
- 2) Step replacement at Hillside High School
- 3) Security camera installation and upgrades throughout our schools
- 4) Sidewalk replacement and a fence in front of WOK
- 5) New window curtains at several school locations
- 6) Retiling floors at Hillside High School and Hurden Looker
- 7) Door and window replacements at Hurden Looker
- 8) Removal of the gray hallway floor paint at WOK
- 9) Milling and resurfacing at Calvin Coolidge and Woodfield Stadium
- 10) Installing playground equipment at A.P. Morris
- 11) New stage and auditorium roof at WOK

As you can see, we have begun to rewrite the story of what we expect from our schools and how we must prepare our children to be passionate about learning and compassionate towards each other. If we teach our children in the way they should go, as they grow older they will not depart from it. We will continue to grow, sharing our collective wisdom about the possibilities and how to achieve them. There is nothing insurmountable for a community that works together. Hillside is a wonderful community, bonded together with pride and love. Our bond is what will make us great!

I wish everyone a wonderful summer and again congratulations on a job well done!

Sincerely,

Antoine L. Gayles, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Hillside Public Schools