

Dear Whitney Point Community,

It is hard to believe that we are heading into the last quarter of the school year. This is an exciting time of year for everyone, especially our seniors who are planning for their futures after graduation.

State Assessments have begun for our students in grades 3-8. Certainly, there are a broad range of views regarding the pros and cons associated with standardized student assessments, especially for students in elementary school. The standardized assessments used in New York schools are a required part of the school curriculum. They are included as part of the program requirements for students in Grades 3 – 8 under Section 100 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education as well as the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

State assessments in ELA and Math for Grades 4 and 8 have been in use since 1999. In 2005, in response to the No Child Left Behind Act, the assessments were expanded to Grades 3 through 8. The results provide valuable information related to a student's mastery of content and skills and help shape future instruction for individual students and the overall district.

Parents can help relieve test stress by encouraging and praising their children for just doing their best. Please

visit <http://bethlehemschools.org/Academics/CommonCore/PDF/DontStressAbouttheTest.pdf> for more information about the Common Core Learning Standards and testing.

I have continued to work with the Board of Education to create a budget that accomplishes the following goals:

- 1. Develop a REASONABLE TAX LEVY INCREASE*
- 2. Maintain FOCUS ON EDUCATION*
- 3. Build a SUSTAINABLE budget*

The Budget Newsletter will be sent out soon and I am confident you will see the impact of these goals on the 2013-2014 budget. I hope you will join us at our Budget Hearing on May 7th and come out to vote on May 21st.

Sincerely,

Patricia Follette
Superintendent