

April 27, 2020

Dear Garrison School Community,

I hope this email finds you and your loved ones well. It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as Garrison's next Superintendent, effective July 1, 2020. I am very proud and honored that the Board of Education has entrusted me to lead The Garrison School in the years ahead. I look forward to partnering with the district's dedicated staff members and supportive families as we strive to provide the highest quality education for all Garrison students. While I have much to learn about your community and culture, I already know that yours is a district that believes in challenging its students in a nurturing environment. There is well-deserved pride in your school's unique history, as well as a deep commitment to not only rigorous academics, but also to music, art, theater, environmental education, and social emotional learning.

This is a very exciting time for the Garrison Union Free School. The Board of Education has shared with me its commitment to a collaborative strategic planning process that will build on the strengths of existing programs and create a coherent educational system focused on ensuring student success. I look forward to playing a key role in this strategic planning. I also look forward to providing leadership during the planning and implementation phases of the district's capital project. Of course, my highest priority will be providing stability and continuity of education until the current Covid-19 pandemic is behind us. I will establish a close working relationship with our neighboring school districts, PNWBOCES, and all public health and safety officials. In a time such as this one, I believe harnessing the collective knowledge and expertise of our community to ensure the health and safety of students and staff is more important than ever. I will be working closely with Dr. Debra Jackson and the Board of Education over the next two months to ensure a smooth transition of all responsibilities and initiatives.

It has been my joy to serve as a public school educator in New York for over 30 years. There has never been a single day when I have not felt deep appreciation for the privilege of serving children. Prior to my most recent experience as a superintendent of schools, I enjoyed the many challenges and rewards of working as an assistant superintendent, middle school principal, assistant principal, and fifth grade teacher. On a personal note, I live in Larchmont with my wife, Maria, who has been a middle school special education teacher in our home district for over twenty years. We have two wonderful children. My daughter, Ava, is a ninth grader who is a dedicated violinist and an avid reader. My son, Carl, is a sixth grader who loves everything about history, robotics, and birds. I look forward to sharing more about my experiences and goals for Garrison, as well as getting to know all of you and your hopes and desires for The Garrison School.

Upon my official start on July 1st, I will begin communicating regularly with staff and families. I will be accessible electronically and by phone to all community stakeholders and will maintain an open door policy. I welcome all questions, concerns and insights you may have. Once normalcy is restored, I look forward to meeting all of you in person at the various school functions and community events for which Garrison is known. In the meantime, please stay healthy and safe.

I am truly excited to join your wonderful school community.

Sincerely,

Carl L. Albano