

October 2015

Dear Residents, Parents and Friends,

As one looks at the façade of Malverne High School, there is a new, prominent reminder that this is no ordinary institution of learning. At both entry doors, there is a large replica of the National Gold Award for a School of Opportunity that signifies exceptional teaching and learning. Based upon an evaluation by the National Education Policy Center, the national criteria for student success were validated and then rewarded with the only Gold Opportunity Award given to a Long Island high school in 2015. (For details, see Spring 2015 PRIDE issue, "Striking Gold.") Several of the important criteria for excellence focused upon academic opportunities and achievement compared to national standards. The significant improvement in Advanced Placement courses, the record number of AP Scholars, Advanced Regents diplomas, higher grade point averages and honor roll achievement levels were all part of the winning formula. However, the evaluation committee was also impressed by the caring school climate, the evidence of family values, and the noticeable respect and support among the students, teachers, staff members, administrators and parents. When the announcement came that Malverne High School was No. 1, there was an overwhelming feeling of satisfaction and pride shared by all who contributed to this prestigious recognition.

As the vibrant fall colors, replete with gold, remind us of this accomplishment, we are imbued with determination to redouble our collective efforts in order to move forward and reach new heights of educational excellence. Based upon the school community's enthusiasm and active involvement in the recent homecoming festivities, we are certainly off to a rousing start. Also, the K-12 enrollments in student co-curricular clubs have been overwhelming. Our Pride of Malverne marching band has already impressed everyone with stellar performances as they look forward to their annual quest for another New York State championship. Our fall athletic teams and newly formed Athletic Booster Club are immersed in the finale of a successful fall season, with a new record for Scholar-Athlete Team awards anticipated.

At the October Board of Education meeting, students from each school traditionally present the Board members with something to remember regarding the education they have received. This year, 15 high school students individually thanked the Board using the language of their ancestral origin. It was so impressive to see our *diversity* unfold from so many countries around the world. The history, customs, beliefs, attitudes, values, experiences and modes of thinking all blending together to form the Malverne school family **IS** one of our major strengths. We are committed to nurturing this coveted asset through unity of purpose and resources, as one family, in the years ahead. With higher achievement, a strong work ethic, family values, mutual respect and energetic teamwork to overcome all obstacles, there is no limit to what we can accomplish!

Sincerely,

James H. Hunderfund, Ed.D.