



Croton-Harmon Union Free School District
10 Gerstein Street
Croton-on-Hudson, New York 10520

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 2019

Greetings Croton-Harmon Students, Parents, Staff and Community,

Happy March!

Croton-Harmon is an exciting place to be as each day students are presented with exciting learning opportunities. Recently I was in Mr. Lindner's high school math class where students were given "\$100,000" to invest in the stock market. This required students to research their chosen stocks, make predictions, and monitor their stock growth over time. The unit culminated with each team presenting their work to a community panel. I had the good fortune to serve on the panel. It was an incredible experience watching students field questions from the panel which included a retired financial analyst. This was a solid example of our work surrounding the attributes of a Croton-Harmon Graduate. Our Croton-Harmon Profile of a Graduate supports the skills of critical thinking/problem solving, flexibility/adaptability, creativity/innovation, communication/collaboration, initiative/self-direction AND empathy. One student team spoke of how they "needed to believe" in their company in order to invest, even though they didn't think it would produce a high yield at this point. It was very clear that each team fully researched their companies prior to investing. Kudos to Mr. Lindner and his class! I just may stop by again for some investment advice.

March is a busy month as we gear up for Budget Saturday. Developing a school budget is certainly a year-long process that culminates in May with a community vote. Here in Croton-Harmon we have spent our time wisely, balancing the development of a budget that continues our long history of presenting a quality educational program to our students with a budget that remains within the allowable tax levy cap calculation. I hope you will be able to join us on **March 9th** as we dive more deeply into the developing budget.

We see our vision and mission being supported in our classrooms and schools each week when students are given opportunities to demonstrate their learning.

You will soon be receiving our Winter newsletter, *Reflections*, which focuses on a number of our programs and initiatives, including:

- Project Lead the Way at PVC
- A new social-emotional skills class at Croton-Harmon High School

THINK. CREATE. REFLECT. RESPECT

Challenging All Students to be Critical and Creative Thinkers



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And you may have seen our recent coverage of the joyous Global Day of Play enjoyed by our students at CET. Our newsletter also identifies which of our programs concentrate on the attributes identified in our Profile of a Graduate.

As the winter weather continues, a reminder that during and after a storm, our buildings and grounds staff work tirelessly to ready our campuses for school while our supervisor of transportation assesses road and sidewalk conditions. Our Safe Routes to School campaign reminds us how important it is to have sidewalks cleared so our **walkers** have a safe route, too. We thank you in advance for helping our students get to school. As the saying goes, "It takes a village..."

In closing, when we build a budget, build learning environments, build confidence, build a future, our central theme and goal surrounds the attributes of our Croton-Harmon Profile of a Graduate. Giving students the tools of taking initiative and self-direction reminds me of Dr. Seuss' quote about learning, "You can get help from teachers, but you are going to have to learn a lot by yourself, sitting alone in a room." I am so proud of our Croton-Harmon students and all that they accomplish each day. I can't wait to see what their future holds.

Yours in Mission Possible,

Dr. Deborah O'Connell

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