



# OSSINING UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**DR. PHYLLIS GLASSMAN**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

1 August 2008

Dear Colleagues, Parents/Guardians, Families, Students, Neighbors, and Community Residents:

Happy Summer! I hope this letter finds you enjoying quality time with family and friends and with activities that bring you joy. In the Ossining School District, we have been blessed this summer to see so many of our students involved in many programs as well as involved in community related activities. This summer, we have been reflecting upon the previous school year and looking forward to an exciting 2008-2009 school year.

### **Banner Year: 2007-2008**

As you may be aware, the 2007-2008 school year had been a banner year for the Ossining School District on behalf of our students. As an outgrowth of everyone's best efforts, so many accomplishments had been attained. Did you remember that the Ossining School District earned the prestigious Arts Award from the Westchester Arts Council? Did you recall that the District earned the Good Sports Award once again? No doubt, everyone remembers the outstanding achievements of our students in the Science Research Program. Our numerous Advanced Placement Scholars and Scholar Athletes made us proud as well. With a member of the Board of Regents and the former Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education complimenting us, the Power of Preschool Conference was recognized throughout the region. Additionally, we were pleased to see so many students, staff members, and community residents enjoying our beautiful athletic fields and tracks during the year as well. Accolades from the Deputy Secretary of Education followed his visit to the Ossining School District last Fall. Did you know that many of our teachers and staff earned recognition as well? Several teachers earned National Board Certification during the year. In addition to the numerous awards recognizing our students, our youngsters also provided outstanding community service. During the year we also received very positive internal audit reports relative to our financial practices. The year concluded with truly amazing college acceptances among our graduating seniors. All of these accomplishments can be directly attributed to the support you provide and the efforts of our students, staff, and Board of Education. Certainly, we will use these accomplishments as catalysts for continued successes and enhanced improvements.

### **Facilities Improvements: Possibilities**

One of our important initiatives focuses upon developing plans for potential facilities improvements. We are proud and pleased to share that at our Board of Education meeting on 23 July 2008, an excellent cross section of staff members, parents, and community residents had been appointed to serve on a Facilities Advisory Committee during the 2008-2009 school year, following a year of exceptional community engagement. We are proud that last year we conducted numerous focus groups, open Board of Education meetings, feedback sessions, and other means of involving members of our educational community and soliciting suggestions pertaining to facilities improvements. On behalf of the Board of Education, we applaud the outstanding input provided by so many. It should be noted that the Board of Education reconfirmed our commitment to the concept of the Ossining Plan, regardless of whatever recommendations may emerge relative to facilities improvement. In the Spring, numerous options were presented by consultants for facilities improvement. Our newly formed Facilities Advisory Committee will examine such options and work diligently throughout the year.

### **Positive Achievements: 2008-2009**

As we look ahead to an exciting new school year, we will be extending numerous goals as appropriate and promoting achievements in all areas including but not limited to academics, athletics, and the arts, among other venues. With outstanding students, teachers, administrators, staff, family members, Board of Education Trustees, community residents, and a terrific school district and community, we look forward to continued positive achievements.

On behalf of the Board of Education and all of the wonderful students of the Ossining School District, we look forward to the new school year with optimism for continued as well as additional success and with a spirit that promotes caring and kindness for *all*. Please be sure to enjoy the remaining days of summer. We look forward to seeing everyone once again in September.

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Glassman  
Superintendent of Schools