



IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Office of the Superintendent

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*Dr. Ethel J. Hasty*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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August 30, 2011

Dear Staff:

As we prepare for the opening of school on September 7, 2011, please allow me to reiterate how important you are to achieving academic excellence in the Irvington Public Schools. Every employee - whether you work in teaching, in support services, or in an administrative position, is vital to the success of our district. Each of us has been given an enormous task and the Superintendent relies on your very best effort to help students succeed. Understandably, society expects us to educate its children. It is not an easy job, but it is a very important one. Doing it well requires commitment, expertise, and a level of public trust.

All of us must be committed to doing the best we can for the children of Irvington. To this end, we are using three basic questions to evaluate everything: Is it good for children? Is it educationally sound? Is it fiscally responsible? As each of you approaches your work this school year, I urge you to ask yourselves those three questions whenever you have decisions to make concerning students. They are the heart of what we do, and students should always come first. They are our *raison d'être* (reason for existing).

Unequivocally, we know that our students have the ability to excel, but they can do more, and so can we. Our teachers can do more. Our principals can do more. Our district administrators can do more. Our parents and our community can do more. We must commit to moving this district from good to great. Good just is not good enough any more!

**“Excellence is never an accident, it is always the result of sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution, and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities.”**

I look forward to working with each of you as we meet the standards of excellence that will hopefully result in **improvement of academic achievement** (IAA).

Sincerely,

Dr. Ethel J. Hasty  
Superintendent of Schools