JUNE 24, 2013

Office of Curriculum & Instruction

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Verona Public Schools, the center of an engaged and supportive community, is to empower students to achieve their potential as active learners and productive citizens through rigorous curricula and meaningful, enriching experiences."

Dear Community Members of Verona,

My name is Charles Miller, and I have been appointed as the new Director of Curriculum for the Verona Public Schools. It is indeed an honor to be a part of the leadership team for the beautiful community of Verona. I am a child-centered, democratic educational leader who loves learning, listening, and sharing ideas with students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

I began my educational career in 1996 as a teacher of mathematics and was fortunate to be able to coach soccer, winter track, and spring track for an amazing nine years at Bordentown Regional High School. Teaching is one of the most rewarding professions that a person can experience in life. I enjoyed working with students of all abilities and watched them grow using a nurturing and caring approach. During my fifth year of teaching, I started my master's work in Educational Leadership at Rider University. After three years of working and learning from gifted superintendents and professors, I graduated with honors and became even more skilled with differentiation, lesson and unit planning, and creating alternate assessments.

After nine years of teaching, my wife and I decided that I should apply for an administrative position. I was fortunate enough to become an assistant principal in the Rutherford School district and worked under a fabulous middle school educator Mr. Richard Curci. My experiences working with teachers and assisting them with their instructional delivery and planning grew daily. I truly enjoyed working with students in each classroom and had discussions with them about what they learned during the lesson and if they could teach what

they learned to another student? I was looking for clarity, understanding, and transference. It supports the famous quote from Mr. Edgar Dale, entitled "We Remember", and the last line states that "We remember 95% of what we teach other (people)."

The last five years I have been a middle school principal in the towns Watchung and Montclair. I led each staff with energy, motivation, passion, and a vision for learning. My motto was students come first and that it was our duty to make each lesson lasting and memorable. I encouraged teachers to differentiate their lessons and to make them hands-on, incorporate technology, use flexible grouping, and always make each one interactive and exciting! I asked students to give one hundred percent every day, to always try their best, and to do their homework each night. Finally, I requested that parents provide a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment for their children to read, study, and practice their learning.

There have been many new initiatives from the state this past year. We will continue to practice Dr. Robert Marzano's Casual Teacher Evaluation Model for our teachers and use his Leadership Model for our administrators. As a district, we will continue to improve student learning and teacher instruction by writing our Student Growth Objectives together as departments and grade levels. We will also analyze our Student Growth Percentiles from the NJASK and HSPA in order to provide meaningful, targeted instruction for all students. We will continue to provide quality teaching and do what is best for the learners in our community. If you have any questions about these learning initiatives, please let me know at cmiller@veronaschools.org.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the future, and I want to let you know that my office door is always open. Enjoy the summer break with your family and loved ones!

Your partner in education,

Charles R. Miller

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