



(609) 399-4161
oceancityschools.org
Ocean City School District
501 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 1
Ocean City, NJ 08226

December 1, 2023

Dear Ocean City School District Family,

Good day to all and let me first say **thank you** for the opportunity to serve this community as Interim Superintendent over the last six months. It has been a pleasure to meet your children, our talented administration, faculty and staff, and many of you.

Last month, right before Thanksgiving, I had the wonderful opportunity to join our community as we recognized our National Honor Society inductees. I remember feeling such pride for their accomplishment. I shared with the students and the audience that one of the things I have enjoyed during my career in education is the sense of hope and encouragement that comes from working with students and a younger generation. In today's world, when I say I work in the education field, I am often confronted with the statement "kids today..." and that is usually followed by some negative perceptions. I typically respond with "Let me tell you about some of the kids I meet each day!" Ocean City has a lot to be proud of in this regard – we have some exceptional children.

I also shared with the students and the audience that success does not often come from an individual effort. It takes a team, a "family" to pour into our students with love, care and a commitment to excellence. That family includes parents/guardians and extended family, friends and neighbors, Board of Education members and administrators, teachers and advisors/coaches, faith organizations and service programs, and so many others in our community. Ocean City has a lot to be proud of in this regard – we have some exceptional people and opportunities for our children.

Lastly, I shared with them that the four pillars for acceptance into this honored group are principles that we must carry into life moving forward. With characteristics like Scholarship and lifelong learning we continue to grow. With Service we provide help for others and in a world that sometimes is so focused on self, service gives us the gift to see others. With Leadership we learn how to influence others to serve a greater good. With Character we can truly develop into the people who will change the world. Ocean City has a lot to be proud of in this regard – we have great potential and can help our children make our world better.

As parents, school personnel, and as the larger school community we too have a great responsibility to model these characteristics in all we do. Let's always remember to embody the spirit of this Holiday Season each day of the year! Thank you again – whatever you celebrate, I hope it is filled with much peace, happiness and love. Happy New Year! 2024 is a year of great promise!

Sincerely,

Scott P. McCartney

Scott P. McCartney, Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent