



# Lewiston-Porter Central School District

*Aiming Higher*

Dear Students, Staff, and Families,

Welcome Back! We made it! Despite the obstacles that confronted our community through the Reopening planning process, we made it! The 2020-21 school year is off and running. While the start of this school year may look very different from any we've ever experienced before, the sense of anticipation and excitement hasn't changed. I have felt it on the morning of our virtual version of the annual welcome back for new staff and I certainly felt it over the first few days of student attendance both in-person and on-line. The eagerness of staff and students to get to work was palpable. I'm just so happy we're back and moving forward.

As we get ready to embark on this journey into our new-and-improved Hybrid learning environment, feeling some trepidation is understandable. As a District, though, we are committed to walking this path in partnership with you. We have amazing tour guides in our teachers and staff, and we are all focused on reaching a common destination: the very best possible education for every single one of our students.

To our staff members, a big THANK YOU for your commitment to your professional growth this summer. So many of you have spent the past weeks voluntarily participating in webinars, reading educational blogs, researching best practices in remote instruction, swapping ideas with other teachers, and so much more. You are devoted to giving our students your best, and I am confident that they are in good hands.

Students, please know that our first days of school will be focused first and foremost on helping you establish a sense of community and connection with your teachers and classes both here on campus and in the virtual learning environment. Not just our teachers but also our counselors, social workers, and psychologists know how challenging and isolating the Spring was for all of you. You are the reason we do what we do, and we are committed to providing not just stellar academic experiences but also making sure you have the social, emotional, and mental health support you need to succeed.

And finally, to our families: I am so grateful for you as we launch this new school year. Our community is fortunate to have parents and guardians who are as involved and deeply committed to their children's education as our Lancer family is. Thank you for your patience and support, and for entrusting your children to us.

In spite of the pandemic, this is an exciting time to be in education, full of new opportunities, and learning for all of us. We have a new [Strategic Plan](#) and a new Mission and Vision for the District and I am looking forward to a year when we all rise to this most unusual occasion to provide those things that are best for our students.

Have a great 2020-21 school year!

Go Lancers!

Paul J. Casseri

