

Letter to the Team #1

September 2022

New Year, New Opportunity

It is with great excitement that we begin the 2022-2023 school year. One of the most unique opportunities that comes with a new school year is the chance for a fresh start for students, parents, faculty, staff, and the community. Every single student has the distinct possibility of creating a brand new legacy for themselves. On a personal level, this commences my 41st first day of school on September 1. Throughout the years of my career, I realize and accept the fact that sleep will be limited due to the excitement of day one and the anticipation of the first day for students. I believe that all students have a talent or a gift and that the education profession is a noble calling. I am extremely blessed for the opportunity to work with outstanding students, nurturing families, and a faculty and staff that care and strive to move all students forward with their learning.



This summer, my wife Jodi and I had the pleasure of meeting the United States Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, at an Institute for Education Innovation conference in Newport, Rhode Island. At the opening of Teacher Academy on August 29, I shared three of the Secretary of Education's overarching sentiments with faculty and staff:

1. "Lift up the stories of all students"
2. "Who better to lead and teach than you?"
3. "There are 50 million reasons why we should fight every day" (There are 50 million students in the United States that are counting on us)

The Air We Breathe

One silver lining moving forward from the pandemic to an endemic is the strategic usage of the federal funds that we have received to improve and update HVAC systems. The Vine Street School has received a complete heating and HVAC system upgrade, including the boilers. The Fruit Street School is currently under contract for the same improvements during the summer of 2023.

Three other schools are also under contract for HVAC improvements in the summer of 2023. Those schools include 14th Street School, Fairmount School, and Mary Snow School. Downeast School and Abraham Lincoln School will begin the bid process for

HVAC improvements for the summers of 2023 and 2024. William S. Cohen School, James F. Doughty School, and Bangor High School are currently in the design phase and will have HVAC work done during both the summers of 2023 and 2024.

Excellence



Congratulations to Ken Rautiola for earning his National Board Certification as a School Social Worker. Not only did Ken earn this impressive endorsement, it is also notable that he is the first to accomplish this feat in the State of Maine. Ken's dedication to the Bangor Regional Program and the Bangor School Department is a testament to his work ethic and collaborative skills.

Teacher of the Year by the Maine Department of Education



Congratulations to Geoff Wingard for being named "Teacher of the Year" by the Maine Department of Education in the area of History. Geoff teaches almost every History course offered at Bangor High School where he also serves as Department Head. Geoff has a passion for Geography which he teaches yearly, along with World History, but he also teaches specialized electives in Latin American studies, Asian studies, and Advanced Placement Research.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Preserve America, and the History Channel annually recognize outstanding American history teachers in each state and at the national level. State winners receive a \$1,000 prize and an archive of classroom resources.

Geoff exemplifies rich, engaged learning and teaching, and he expects and supports the same from his colleagues and from students, including and beyond his own. Geoff has led the creation of opportunities for students to engage in History beyond the classroom,

and he has seen to it that students are incentivized and rewarded for achieving at very high levels.

Enthusiastically yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Tager". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jim Tager
Superintendent
Bangor School Department