



**Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda
Union Free School District**

Office of the Superintendent

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Dear Kindergarten Parents & Families,

On behalf of the Ken-Ton School District, I wish to extend the warmest welcome to all of our incoming kindergarten students and families for the 2021-22 school year. We are looking forward to meeting your child and partnering as you embark on your K-12 educational journey. The first day of kindergarten has always been a tremendous milestone. As any parent can attest, there are few moments more significant than when you first say goodbye at your child's bus stop or school. However, for those entering kindergarten in September of 2021, this will be a unique experience as they begin this journey following the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The children entering kindergarten next year, our future Class of 2034, will be the first generation whose entire K-12 education will be in our post-COVID future. Throughout American history, preceding generations have been shaped by challenges of their time, and there have been few times where our daily lives have been so profoundly impacted by current events. This has been an extremely difficult time for our families and communities, but history has shown that these challenges only make us stronger.

Although the last nine months have been a time of struggle, anxiety, and uncertainty, they have also been marked by determination, innovation, and perseverance. Schools have been confronted with perhaps the greatest challenges they have ever had to face: educating students remotely, reopening during a pandemic, and engaging students at home and in the classroom simultaneously. This experience has made us more resourceful and adaptable, yielding more flexible and dynamic classroom instruction.

There is a great deal of optimism about the next nine months leading up to your child's first day of school. It will not happen overnight, but we will soon begin to witness the end of the pandemic. Treatments have been enhanced, understanding of the virus has improved, and a vaccine is about to be distributed nationwide. Our exceptional staff will continue to do whatever it takes to be even more strategic and effective in their practice. The health and safety of your child will always be our highest priority.

We are very excited to welcome the future members of our Ken-Ton family and watch them grow as individual learners. We know they will exemplify Ken-Ton pride and strength and continue the district's long history of distinction and excellence. Their future is filled with opportunity and promise, and we hope everyone shares our excitement as we begin this new chapter together.

Sincerely,

Sabatino Cimato
Superintendent of Schools

The Ken-Ton school community will provide our students with the supports, tools and diverse opportunities needed to meet the challenges of an ever changing world.