ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Richard R. Corbett, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Administration Building
16 School Road, P.O. Box 500
Hibernia, NJ 07842
Phone: 973-627-8200
RCorbett@rocktwp.net

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Dear Families & Members of the CMS Community:

I am excited to share some wonderful news about the future of Copeland Middle School. Following a thorough and collaborative search, a dedicated committee of teachers, parents, board members, and administrators has successfully identified our next leader.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Ellen Gianakis, who will officially take the reins as our new Principal on August 24. Since 2024, Dr. Gianakis has done phenomenal work as the Assistant Principal and Supervisor of World Languages for Holmdel Township Public Schools. She brings a wealth of passion, experience, and leadership that will undoubtedly inspire our students and staff alike.

I am equally proud to announce that Penny Zitomer, a beloved math teacher right here at Copeland, will be stepping up as our new Vice Principal, effective July 16. Penny has been an invaluable pillar of our district since 2008—first as a substitute and then as a full-time math teacher since 2009. Her deep commitment to our students and familiarity with our community make her the perfect fit for this role.

Both Dr. Gianakis and Ms. Zitomer will be on the Board of Education agenda for official approval at the upcoming meeting on July 13.

We are incredibly fortunate to welcome these two exceptionally talented and dedicated leaders to our administrative team. I am confident that this new chapter for Copeland Middle School is the beginning of many proud accomplishments for students and staff.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Corbett, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools