

Dear Arlington High School Students and Families,

I write this letter to you with tremendous enthusiasm to introduce myself as the next Executive Principal of Arlington High School. I hope that you are all safe and well, and that you are managing to find joy in every day. When I began the process of applying to be the Executive Principal, I was impressed by the remarkable achievements of the greater Arlington High School community. The music, theater, art, academic, extracurricular clubs, and sports programs have all achieved tremendous success, and I am excited to recognize and celebrate these achievements with you in the coming years.

Some brief notes about my prior experiences: I began my career as a social studies teacher at New Paltz High School before transitioning into an administrative role at the Duzine and Lenape Elementary Schools in the same district. I left New Paltz nine years ago to become an administrator at White Plains High School. While at White Plains I have worked to support the daily operations of a building of over 2,100 students and nearly 200 teachers. My experiences have shaped my philosophy that successful schools are built on a foundation of collaboration and positive relationships in order to foster a safe and engaging learning environment for students, and that belief will be at the core of my interactions within the Arlington High School community.

These are unprecedented and challenging times, and I am aware that the disruption to this current school year may be only one of the many hardships that our community is facing. Please, know that I am committed to maintaining the social, emotional, and academic well-being of the Arlington High School community. My primary goal as the Executive Principal is to continue the traditions of excellence established by my predecessors, while working to foster a climate focused on equity, inclusivity, and engagement for all students.

Although my family and I currently live just outside of the Hudson Valley, coming to work in Arlington feels like I am returning home after nearly a decade away. I cannot wait to see you in the building, and my wife and children, ages 2 and 6, are as excited as I am about attending events at the high school. They are also over the moon about Arlington High School's proximity to their favorite ice cream shop.

We will meet each other in person soon, and I am excited to get to know you. If you would like to connect, you can find me on Twitter @JohnOrcutt\_2 or by email at John.G.Orcutt2@gmail.com until my Arlington email address goes live this summer. I look forward to seeing you in the coming months, and I am proud to call myself an Arlington Admiral!

Take good care,

John Orcutt