



ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

400 Lake Street • P.O. Box 549 • Ithaca, New York • 14851-0549

Lily Talcott

Principal, Northeast Elementary

Tel: (607) 257-2121

Fax: (607) 257-8157

E-mail: lily.talcott@icsd.k12.ny.us

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Dearest Northeast community,

It is a bittersweet day as I write to announce that as of July 1, I will be leaving as principal of Northeast Elementary School to serve as Deputy Superintendent for the Ithaca City School District, pending Board approval this evening. Being a part of this outstanding community has been a true honor and joy - both professionally and personally. This place is something special. I thank you for welcoming me with open arms, and for pushing me to be a better leader for the sake of our children.

I'm going to miss our creative, hard-working, curious, problem-solving and caring kids. Greeting one another each morning, watching them learn and grow in their classrooms, and engaging with kids out on the playground have allowed us to connect in meaningful ways. I'm grateful for those relationships and what our students have taught me. I'm going to miss our remarkably talented and equally hard-working staff, who keep this school focused on true inclusion for all, academic excellence, social justice, productive struggle, and kindness first. They've inspired me beyond measure. And I'm going to miss all of our families, who provide constant support both within and outside of our school walls, and bring such passion and love.

The good news is that in my role as Deputy Superintendent, I'll still have many opportunities to connect with our Northeast family. Furthering our district's mission and vision of Engage, Educate, Empower and 6000+ thinkers means being present within, and learning from, our 12 unique schools. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to work under the incredible leadership of Dr. Brown, and serve this school district's children, staff, families and community throughout our wider Ithaca area, as we work to provide inclusive, culturally-responsive and innovative learning experiences for all of our children.

It brings me joy to know that you will be in extremely capable hands with Ms. Liddy Coyle, who will now serve as principal here. Liddy and I have known and worked closely together for years, and I honestly can't think of anyone I trust more to take over this post. She's joining the Northeast community after most recently serving as the Chief Academic Officer for the Ithaca City School District, and her now grown children attended Northeast when they were young. She will continue to keep this place special.

I am truly grateful to have had the chance to learn and lead at this beautiful school. Thank you all, and I'll see you soon!

With gratitude,

Lily Talcott