Yorktown Central School District

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Dear Yorktown School Community,

I hope this letter finds you well. I extend my most heartfelt gratitude to our community for their overwhelming support of the school budget. We have an amazing community in so many regards. It is an honor to be part of such an extraordinary community, both as the Superintendent of Schools and as a resident. We look forward to continuing the excellent work that is happening in our school district and working tirelessly in service of the children of Yorktown.

With regard to the excellent work happening in Yorktown, the month of May has been extraordinarily busy. Our students are doing fantastic things in the classroom, and their academic growth during the course of this school year has been nothing short of remarkable. I have visited many classrooms in recent weeks, especially at the elementary level, and the teaching and learning that I have observed is inspiring.

Our students have also been receiving state, national, and international recognition in recent weeks. I am absolutely amazed by our students each day, and the prestigious accolades they are receiving are well deserved. Below is a sampling of recognitions that our students have received <u>in only the last few weeks</u>.

- Two students not only qualified for the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), but were also award-winners for their science research. In fact, one of our students took home the top prize at the fair in her category. With students from all over the globe participating, I am proud to say one of **the top research projects in the world came out of Yorktown!**
- We had two National Merit Scholarship winners. **With only 2,500 winners in America, two are from our district.**
- Both YHS Aeronautics Club teams qualified for the UAS4STEM National Competition in Oshkosh, Wisconsin this summer. **This is their third consecutive**

appearance in the national competition, and our aeronautics team won the National Championship last year!

- Our students are thriving athletically as well!
  - We had had 16 students commit to collegiate athletics in the spring alone!
  - Many of our spring athletic teams are in postseason play, with our Boys Baseball, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Boys Lacrosse, and Boys Tennis teams all winning their respective League Championships.
  - Both our Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams won the prized Murphy Cup this spring and our baseball team won the Sorrentino Cup.
- From the music education perspective, our students are performing incredibly well! Concert season is underway, and our students are performing brilliantly at all levels and across all areas of music. I am especially pleased to share that our district was recently recognized on the national level as a **2025 "Best Community for Music Education."** We have been recognized for academic excellence many times over the past several years, including Yorktown High School's designation as a National Blue Ribbon School, its consistent placement among U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools in America, and its recognition on Newsweek's list of Best STEM High Schools. At the district level, we have been named a National District of Character, and our nationally recognized ESTEAM approach was honored by Character.org as a Promising Practice. Several of our schools have also received the New York State Reward School designation, and we continue to be ranked among Niche's Best School Districts in America. However, this is the first time in our district's history that we are being nationally recognized as one of the best communities for music education! Music is thriving in Yorktown, and I owe a special thanks to the entire music faculty for their dedication to music education. I am also thankful to our students for their commitment to music as well as the families of our community for their unwavering support of music education in Yorktown.

We are so deeply grateful to the amazing Yorktown community for your continued and unwavering support of our excellent school district! I wish you and your family an enjoyable remainder of the week.

Sincerely,



Dr. Hattar