



Dear Sachem Community,

We hope this letter finds you and your families well during these very uncertain times. On behalf of the Sachem Central Teachers' Association we would like to thank you for the support and patience you've shown our educators as we pivoted from a traditional classroom to a virtual one. We know how difficult it is for many of you balancing work, school, families and all the issues surrounding this pandemic.

It has been amazing to witness the selfless acts across our community by all of our students, parents and educators to support our schools, and to help our Health Care workers and first responders. The members of the Sachem Central Teachers' Association have joined this movement and we've seen the joy on the students' faces during the parades and sign deliveries. We are proud to have also made contributions and donations to food banks in our community and sent food to hospitals as a thank you to all our frontline workers. Sachem is truly a special place and it shows time and time again.

The SCTA would like to also thank you for always supporting us. Each and every year we strive to continue building upon our valued relationship with the community. What is a school district without dedicated and caring community members and educators coming together to support our children? After all, our children are our future! As educators in the Sachem School District we couldn't be more proud to share in the academic, athletic and emotional journey with the children of the Sachem Community.

The 2020-2021 school year and beyond is going to present a variety of new challenges and we will need to all work together to address these issues and help preserve and strengthen this wonderful school environment for our children. We are asking that you strongly consider supporting the 2020-2021 school budget. The proposed budget is a 1.87% increase and is within the 2% Tax Cap. This percentage increase will only need a simple majority vote to pass. We are proud of the work our District has done to create a responsible budget that positively impacts our schools and supports our students. The budget presented will maintain student programs, continue infrastructure projects, and funding towards technology and athletic improvements. As presented by Deputy Superintendent John O'Keefe, we are still awaiting any changes to our State Aid from the Governor and this could potentially impact budgetary decisions. It was wonderful seeing the Sachem Board of Education unanimously support this budget with a 9-0 vote on May 20, 2020.

The SCTA represents 1,348 dedicated teachers, teaching assistants and aides. We are proud to say that 440 of our nearly 1,400 members are Sachem residents. It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to teach, coach and nurture the children of the Sachem community. As your teachers, we have always been and still continue to be strong advocates for public education and the professionals who are face to face with your children every day. We believe that our voices and experiences have tremendous value to add to the conversation.

We want to wish all of the candidates running for the Sachem School Board best of luck! We truly believe that it takes a special person to pursue a position on the Board of Education because they're choosing to give up their own time for the betterment of our School District and community. **We believe it takes a village to raise a child and the Sachem Central Teachers' Association is proud to endorse Matthew Baumann, James Mancaruso and Robert Scavo for their range of backgrounds, experiences, skills and their commitment to our children.** If you would like to learn more about these wonderful candidates, we have posted a variety of Meet the Candidate posts on our Facebook (SCTA), Instagram (wearethescta) and our Twitter (SachemCTA).

We hope you have a wonderful and restful Memorial Day Weekend. This holiday is a reminder of all of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect and preserve our freedoms. Please stay safe, and take care of your families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Barbera".

Philip Barbera
Sachem Science Teacher
Sachem Central Teachers' Association
President
NYSUT & NYSTRS Delegate