



Ocean Township High School

Office of the Principal

The 2014-2015 school year marks the 49th year of Ocean Township High School. Every August I find myself reflecting on our history, our traditions, and our legacy. I ask myself, "Where have we been, and where are we headed?" It is so imperative to take stock of how far we have come but even more important to set a clear vision for the future. That vision must combine what is crucial in learning today with the necessary skills to ensure our students are competitive and high functioning in the future.

The Home of the Spartans is thriving academically. The *Star Ledger's* magazine, *Inside Jersey* lists OTHS in the top third of the Best High Schools for Academic & the Arts. *NJ Monthly Magazine* lists OTHS on its list of the Top 100 High Schools in the state. Block scheduling has changed the learning environment at OTHS, and our faculty and students adjusted well. Now that the transition is behind us, our focus this year must be on doing it better. We must improve teaching and learning in the block format. Teachers are aligning pacing guides and lesson plans to increase student engagement in high level inquiry and learning throughout the block period.

Year two of block scheduling will allow students to realize the new opportunities available to them. I am delighted with the number of students that opted to double up on mathematics courses. Other students increased their rigor by electing other academic based electives. Still other students decided to increase their participation in Advanced Placement courses. Spartans have made good use of the additional period afforded to them in the block schedule. As students move more quickly through math and world language requirements, Year Three of block will necessitate the development of additional high level courses. We will also explore senior options, partnerships with higher education institutions, and community based projects taking our upperclassmen off campus to extend their learning. Block scheduling has allowed for tremendous growth and development to our academic offerings. The future is bright at OTHS.

I have never been more proud to be part of this Spartan team - the tremendous faculty, this incredible school community, and this great township. In Ocean, we are never satisfied with the status quo. We are never content with good enough. We are most critical of ourselves, and we look for innovative ways to improve. I encourage each of you to stand with me. Let's build our legacy together - one mindful of our traditions yet rich with growth and progress.

Best wishes for a fruitful school year, Spartans!

Kelly E. Weldon
Principal

Home of the Spartans!

