



Welcome Back! A Letter from Dr. Ratesic

August 29, 2024

Dear Irvington Families and Students,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year!

As an educator, I have always felt very fortunate to celebrate the New Year twice, once with the traditional hats and noisemakers that leads to the start of a new calendar year, and again when we ring in the new school year with sharpened pencils, fresh notebooks and possibly a stiff, new backpack. Both “New Years” offer the opportunity for resolutions, with the latter including making new friends, doing my homework immediately when I get home from school, joining a new club or team, and fostering more independence in my child. Whatever one’s resolutions, we celebrate the opportunity to ring in the new school year in partnership. We look forward to welcoming the students of Irvington with open hearts on Tuesday, September 3rd. The first day of school is indeed a joyous occasion for administrators, teachers, faculty, parents and students alike!

In my career, I have had the pleasure of serving as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, the principal of an elementary school, the assistant principal of a K-8 school, and a classroom teacher. This year will mark my 22nd first day of school, and, as your new Superintendent, I promise to put forth my best effort to support our students in achieving all of their goals during this school year..

This summer, I have begun the work outlined in my [Entry Plan](#) which starts with listening and learning. Since July 1, I have conducted nearly 20 interviews and reviewed multiple prior surveys and planning documents. As part of my Entry Plan, I look forward to being a highly visible Superintendent by visiting classrooms frequently, getting to know the students, and regularly attending the many school related events that make Irvington such a special place.

As such, I will be scheduling Parent Coffees at each of the schools, to take place in the next few weeks. These coffees will be an informal opportunity for me to meet and greet parents and learn more about your children and your experiences at IUFSD. Please look for a communication from me as to the dates and times and how to register.

I look forward to the days ahead and the start of what I know will be a fabulous new year!

Go Bulldogs!

Best,
Dr. Mara Ratesic
Superintendent of Schools



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