

Island Trees Memorial Middle School

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June 16, 2017

Dear Island Trees Memorial Middle School Families,

It is with great excitement that I write to you today. Getting to know so many of you over the past two months has me energized and enthused to join such a warm and engaged school community and to serve you as Principal of Island Trees Memorial Middle School.

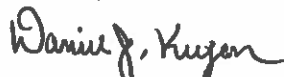
As Dr. Murphy shared in a recent IT-Gram, my Island Trees roots run deep: my parents raised twelve children on Ripple Lane; three of my sisters and one of my brothers attended Island Trees High School—with two honored in the Athletics Hall of Fame; I walked the same streets as your children, swam in the same Levittown pools, and marched in the same parades. My parents saw their twelve children graduate from college, with much credit given to a school community which promoted scholarship, critical thinking, and deep social bonds. Island Trees holds a special place in my heart, and the thought of serving this warm and caring community is exciting.

While fun to recount, my Levittown pedigree only partially explains my excitement. My teaching and school leadership experiences are closely aligned to vision of the Island Trees School District, and my understanding of the needs and characteristics of middle-level learners has been developed over the past two decades in Oceanside. I look forward to working alongside all of you to support your children and advocate for the whole-child needs of our students.

In her TED Talk “Every Kid Needs a Champion,” Rita Pierson implores educators to stand up for kids; to support our students even when they are pushing us away; to help students see the endless possibilities that exist outside our classroom doors. I am excited by the opportunity to lead Island Trees Memorial Middle School in so many areas, but I am most excited to help our students recognize the champions in themselves and in the teachers and staff who walk the halls with them each and every day.

I look forward to meeting all of you in the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,



Daniel Keegan