

Press Release: 9/8/2020

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For Immediate Release

New Food Services Director Joins New Paltz Central School District

New Paltz — The New Paltz Central School District (NPCSD) has appointed Joe Papp to serve as its new director of food services. Papp replaces Michael Robinson who retired in 2020 after serving as Food Services Director for 25 years.

Papp will be overseeing the daily operations of the school breakfast and lunch programs in Duzine, Lenape, New Paltz Middle School, and New Paltz High School. He will be responsible for the menu planning, training and supervising food service staff, coordinating serving schedules, ordering supplies, and maintaining food preparation equipment.

Papp is no stranger to preparing food for school-age children and has almost two decades of food services experience. Papp previously served as the Roscoe Central School District's food services director for six years. Papp also served as the head chef at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office in the county jail for 10 years, as well as chef at various restaurants and hotels.

Papp attended the Professional Chef program at Sullivan County Community College. He explained he initially pursued a career in professional cooking because he felt comfortable in a hospitality setting. He later sought work in school districts for the ability to be on a comparable schedule as his children.

Papp said he has no initial changes planned for the District's food services, explaining that he is still meeting faculty and staff and learning the routines and building schedules. "I have received an extremely warm welcome from all the staff here," he said. "It is a very uplifting environment to work in." Papp added that he believes that the pandemic has thrust everyone into "the same boat of uncertainty," emphasizing the importance of working together. Papp cited the implementation providing meal service in the classroom as a significant challenge in his new role, requiring an abundance of communication and teamwork.

He and his wife live in Neversink with their two elementary school-aged children and two rescue dogs.

"We are very fortunate to have someone with Mr. Papp's vast experience join our District team," said Superintendent Angela Urbina-Medina. "Mr. Robinson leaves big shoes to fill and we wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement."

Urbina-Medina adds that preparing healthy and nutritious food that meets the state and federal regulations within the budget available is vitally important to our District's mission. "Children need to be nourished to be prepared to learn."

School meal distribution will be available to students on school days beginning Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Breakfast and lunch are available for delivery. Students who qualify for either free or reduced-price meals will receive both meals free of charge. The cost for

all other students is \$5.00 per day for elementary students and \$5.50 per day for secondary students. This charge covers both meals and their delivery.

Families who qualify for free and reduced meals are encouraged to complete an application, which can be found at <https://bit.ly/2QqucFg>, and return it to 196 Main Street, New Paltz, NY 12561. For those who received this benefit last year, last year's application will remain in effect until October 22. This application can also be completed at any time during the year if circumstances change.

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