

TUTTLE AVENUE SCHOOL

1 Tuttle Avenue · Eastport, New York 11941 · (631) 801-3057 · Fax (631) 325-1952 · www.esmonline.org

JOSEPH A. STEIMEL
Superintendent of Schools



REBECCA L. BELLEZZA
Principal

August 2025

Dear Tuttle Avenue School Families,

I look forward to being your new principal at Tuttle Avenue School and to being a part of a community dedicated to the growth, success, and well-being of our students. My goal is to work alongside students, families, and staff to create a nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

My journey in education began in the classroom, where I had the privilege of teaching students across many grade levels in General Education, Special Education, and English Language Learner programs. Working with a diverse group of learners has made me appreciate each child's unique strengths as well as the challenges they face. I also served as an assistant principal for six years, supporting teachers, fostering collaboration, and helping to create classrooms where students felt valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, I hope you are enjoying these final days of summer. We are all looking forward to welcoming our students back on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, including our new kindergarteners.

At Tuttle Avenue, our top priority is ensuring every child feels safe, happy, and inspired to grow academically and personally. We aim to cultivate a school culture rooted in connection, creativity, and continuous growth where students gain knowledge while developing as problem solvers and compassionate community members. Through the *Leader in Me* program, we empower students to take ownership of their learning, set and achieve meaningful goals, practice personal responsibility, collaborate effectively, and develop the leadership and life skills needed to succeed academically and socially. This year, every student will create a Leadership Journal to track their progress in reading, writing, and leadership, with families invited to celebrate their achievements at the end of the school year.

Class placements will be posted on the Parent Portal beginning Friday, August 22, 2025. If you need assistance accessing the portal, please complete the Technical Support Form under "Parent Resources" on the website. Once finalized, bus routes will also be available on our website under the "Transportation" link. For additional information, our "Nuts and Bolts of Tuttle Avenue School" document, along with our Virtual Backpack, are helpful resources.

I am excited to meet each of you, hear about the adventures you enjoyed this summer, and begin a year full of learning, growth, and memorable experiences together. My door is always open, and I encourage you to share your questions, ideas, and thoughts at any time. You can contact me at 631-801-3057 or bellezzar@esmonline.org.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I look forward to seeing you very soon for an exciting new school year.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Bellezza
Principal

Eastport-South Manor Central School District

149 Dayton Avenue · Manorville, New York 11949 · (631) 801-3000 · Fax (631) 874-6750 · www.esmonline.org