

A new year brings new energy to new goals and, often, renewed purpose. I am so very fortunate to have the promise of all these possibilities as the new Principal of Gordon Creek Elementary School. Having been a prior member of the school district, in another capacity, I have an understanding of and respect for the strength of the greater school community. The Ballston Spa Central School District is a safe, academically challenging, and socially supportive environment with a rich tradition of high academic achievement. The greater school community is committed to educating the whole child -"*Educating Everyone Takes Everyone.*"

Gordon Creek has its own rich history of success. I am genuinely excited to become part of this school's history. Talented, dedicated and passionate staff members make Gordon Creek a place where exceptional teaching and learning is the norm. Hard working students and supportive parents make the work rewarding. These combined energies give Gordon Creek its identity and make it exceptional. I accept, as principal, the honor and responsibility of a leadership role. It is my personal mission to promote a learning community characterized by child centered instruction and decisions, academic excellence, trust, respect, community involvement and recognition of both student and staff achievement.

I am very much a believer in the power of collaboration. We all accomplish more, and feel more connected to success, when we set common goals and work together toward realizing them. There is a role for us all in motivating, challenging, and inspiring your child to become his or her best. Consistent, open communication between school and home is one way to get and stay connected. Becoming involved in school events is another. There are wonderful things happening at Gordon Creek every day. I invite you to become a part of the mission of our school community.

I have had the great pleasure of spending time with students and staff, working with and getting to know them. I look forward to the opportunity to meet the families of Gordon Creek.

The best to you in 2015.

Kent Baker

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