



## FORT EDWARD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

220 BROADWAY  
FORT EDWARD, NEW YORK 12828  
(518) 747-4529

November 26, 2024

Dear Forts Families,

It is with extremely mixed emotions that I am sharing this news with you. On December 3, I expect to be approved by the board of education at Ichabod Crane Central School District as the new middle school assistant principal. My last day in the district will be January 2.

There are great things and not great things about this announcement. While I am looking forward to a new challenge, I will miss many things about The Fort.

I will say to you what I said to the interview committees at Ichabod: I am not fleeing The Fort. There are 2 specific reasons that make me want to work at Ichabod. The first reason is practicality. As you may know, I have been renting various places to live near Fort Edward for 2 and a half years. Taking the position at Ichabod eliminates the need for me to do that, as I live 15 minutes from the school. The second reason is professional; I will be able to laser focus on one grade band, and really become an expert. Working here at The Fort, I've learned that it's not the number of students you are in charge of that makes the job hard, it's the range of responsibilities. Being the middle school assistant principal at ICC will allow me to become an expert in grades 4-8, and feel less like I'm playing Whack-a-Mole.

What will I miss about The Fort? The people. I truly love our students, and think that they are the most special kids I've met in my career. They come to school each day with such open hearts...there truly isn't anything like it. I will miss them desperately. I will miss the families of Fort Edward, who support their children and the school. I will also miss my colleagues. I value them all greatly. They welcomed me into the Forts Family, allowed me to learn, and trusted me in my very first leadership role. I will always feel a deep sense of gratitude for the experiences I've had and the relationships I've formed here at The Fort.

I know our leadership team will find a suitable replacement. Whoever takes my place will be competent and caring, I am sure. They will learn the ways of Fort Edward, and they will do a good job. One person leaving does not change this place...you as a whole are the heart and soul of The Fort, and you are the ones who make this place what it is.

Wishing you all the best,

Erin Russo  
PK-12 principal

