

July 16, 2026

City Honors Community,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the warmth and sunshine of our beautiful Buffalo summer.

I'm excited to announce that last night the Buffalo Board of Education appointed Jennie Billera, Ed.D. as an assistant principal at City Honors.

Dr. Billera will replace Ms. Hamilton, who is retiring after thirty years of service in the school district, and sixteen as an assistant principal at City Honors. We are grateful for Ms. Hamilton's tireless commitment to the mission of our school, and we wish her the very best in retirement.

Dr. Billera comes to us from Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts where she was a vocal and inclusive general music teacher, the department chairperson, and a musical director. She previously taught music at Futures Academy #37. During a Summer 2022 International Teacher Mentorship Fellow, she mentored four Nepali teachers and served as an instructional coach, and in 2023, City Honors benefited from her leadership as she served as the coordinator of our summer music camp.

Dr. Billera holds a Doctor of Education degree in teaching and learning from the University at Buffalo, a Master of Science in Education degree in inclusive childhood education with a specialization in autism from Nazareth University, and a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from SUNY Fredonia with a minor in Spanish. She holds a Certificate of Advanced Study in educational leadership from SUNY Fredonia as well. Most recently, Dr. Billera taught the spring semester with the University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education as an adjunct professor preparing preservice teachers.

Dr. Billera's work in the Buffalo Schools, as well as her research, has focused on promoting equity for all students, culturally responsive teaching practices, and social emotional learning. She has presented her work nationally.

Dr. Billera will begin her work at City Honors on August 10th. Please join me in providing her a warm Hilltop welcome!

Sincerely,



William A. Kresse, Ph.D.
Principal