

This video was produced to honor former Hamburg Superintendent Mike Cornell, who retired on December 31, 2024 after serving the Hamburg Central School District for nearly 10 years. Mike's influence on the HCSD is vast and impacted many people including past and present Hamburg staff, students, families, and community members. His emphasis on mental health and focusing on our student's wellbeing ahead of academics led our district to great success during his tenure. He set up an environment where there was something more important to care about than grades or a test. He led our district with the mantra of "Joy, Value and Connection," something he believed every student should experience at school. His impact on the Western New York region was also great, serving as the President of the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association for the past several years. He reinvented the way superintendents think about communication and relationships with community partners and media. He led the region's schools through COVID-19 with his advocacy and messaging. We wanted to capture his impact on both through interviews with a regional colleague, a Hamburg teacher, and Mike himself. This video was featured on social media and shared with the community just before his retirement in December and received excellent feedback, many saying it was the perfect way to honor his tenure here in Hamburg. Mike's Superintendent legacy not only reflects on him as a leader, but also the strength of our school community in its ability to take the message and make it happen every day in our schools. Mike would never alone take credit for his success, saying it is truly a group effort, and our community demonstrates that perfectly. This video also showed that these efforts would not stop when Mike was no longer in the Superintendent role, but rather will continue to flourish due to the messaging being part of the fabric of who we are. Mike Cornell made a tremendous impact on the community, and this is our thank you to him.