



**MINEOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
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**AJ Hepworth**

**Math Science Technology Instructional Leader**

Michael P. Nagler Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** Dowling College  
**FROM:** AJ Hepworth  
**DATE:** January 28, 2011  
**RE:** Application for Admission to Doctoral Program in Educational Administration

Document ones own commitment to the education and growth of student educators.

As an educator I am constantly seeking opportunities for professional growth through meetings, readings, conferences and colleagues. As the Instructional Leader of Mineola Middle School I serve on many committees both building and district wide. Some of the committees include: District Coordinators Leadership Team (DCLT), Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (CIA), Science Resource Teachers-elementary (SRT's), Professional Development Planning (PDP), Math Specialist/Lead Teacher Committee and Professional Learning Community (PLC).

Membership on one of these committees requires willingness to speak about what is successful and requires attention for the needs of our students and teachers alike. I value these meetings also a source for me to learn more about what is influencing the decisions and pedagogy in our district and beyond. I am regularly engaged in a conversation with my colleagues about how we can meet the needs required for student improvement and teacher satisfaction. It is vital to all institutions to support positive modeling and positive teacher engagement.

I participate in several regional organizations including SAANYS and LISELA as an executive board member. These organizations are established to further education and pedagogy amongst the leaders of New York State in various positions of administration.

As both an administrator and a teacher I have the luxury of working with veteran teachers, new teachers and those just beginning to pursue their career aspiration. In this unique position I always aim for the same goal, how can help them be a better facilitator for the children. As one of the Instructional Leaders of the Mineola Middle School for the last six years I have observed numerous teachers. Working with a veteran teacher can be a challenging opportunity to support their experience while providing opportunities for new and differentiated approaches to their successful routines. Additionally, a veteran teacher has the greater opportunity to allow themselves the chance to focus on new methodology since they are more experienced in daily routines such as classroom management and curriculum related matters. Work with a new teacher is also equally inspiring for molding a new mind since they are seeking ways to share their limited experience with their students but also seeking to incorporate best pedagogy.





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As an administrator I constantly seek opportunities to invite staff to professional development opportunities. Most recently I encouraged my math department to go as a cohort to two full day conferences to learn best practices. Upon completion of the conferences they each shared something from one of their workshops they found to be most rewarding and helpful to their colleagues. It is this form of professional growth that I aspire to lead and help with.

Identify one professional goals and how this program will help attain those goals.

Throughout my career I have worked with many teachers and administrators who have motivated me to further reach my educational goals of influencing education. I have also met many educators with whom I question what their goal in education actually is, as professional, economic, social or personal. I hope through identifying and developing my focus towards a dissertation will allow me to greater understand what aspects(s) of education I want to further understand. Attaining my doctorate while learning more about research and methods, theory of social organizations, politics and policy and ethics will do just that.

