

ECASB

SUPERINTENDENT CONGRATULATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT!

Mike Ginestre is the new Superintendent of the Sweet Home CSD. He was previously the Superintendent of the Sherman Central School District for 5 years and prior to that served as the principal at Sherman High School for 4 years. Mr. Ginestre taught social studies prior to moving into administration. He taught in the Falconer Central School District and served as the head football coach and head girls varsity basketball coach. As the say in education "once a teacher - always a teacher"... Mr. Ginestre's fondest memories while teaching was always graduation, considering that he always taught seniors. He enjoyed listening to their stories and helping to prepare them for life beyond high school. As an administrator - he enjoyed the first day of school. He would meet with each grade level. Students would always be so excited about the start of school and getting a fresh start. It was like New Year's Day for students, teachers, and staff alike. Mr. Ginestre is no stranger to the northtowns as he grew up in North Tonawanda and attended Car-

"Cycling, hockey and watching sports when I can are hobbies that I enjoy. I took up cycling 4 years ago and took to it right away. I participated in the Empire State ride this summer—which is a 568 mile ride across New York State to raise money for the clinical trials at Roswell. It was a fantastic worthwhile experience. "



Returning to the North Towns...

Putting students first was the attraction to Sweet Home CSD.

dinal O'Hara High School where he enjoyed playing football and making friends, many of them who he still maintains contact with today. In 1994, Mike Ginestre graduated from St. John Fisher with a bachelors degree in Communication and Journalism with a concentration in public relations. He worked for 10 years in the public relations industry. After returning to St. John Fisher to teach a course, he got the "teaching bug" and knew he wanted to be in a classroom working with students. He decided to pursue a masters degree in secondary education from Niagara University. He returned to teaching on a full time basis at St. John Fisher under the condition that he could pursue a second masters degree in Educational Leadership. After two years at St. John Fisher, Mr. Ginestre made a career move and accepted a full time position in the Falconer Central School District.

As Superintendent of the Sweet Home CSD since August 2nd, Mr. Ginestre has met with all administrators at their buildings and is meeting many faculty and staff. He loves the passion of that all the employees have for the district.

One of Superintendent Ginestre's favorite teachers while attending school was Mr. Gary Gross at Cardinal O'Hara. He still teaches at the school today. He taught life lessons of hard work, discipline, how to take risks, and lessons in leadership that still resonate with him today.

The reputation of putting students first in the Sweet Home CSD is what attracted him to the school district. Academic programming, social and emotional support, great facilities, and people that care about the well being of students were evident from the moment he entered the search process.

Mr. Ginestre's message to legislators in Albany would be to "Please include educators in the decision-making process before making sweeping policies that impact students and our schools. During the recent pandemic, politicians and health officials made decisions without the input from those in the field of education that led to much confusion and division. Legislators and educational leaders need to work side by side in order to advance the interest of the students.