



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

I hope this message finds you well having enjoyed the first days of the new school year and the Labor Day holiday weekend. While it is always sad to see the summer months conclude, it is exciting to have our schools filled with students once again. Seeing the students creates in us a joy and motivation to assist them in achieving their hopes and dreams.

While preparing for the 2013-2014 school year, I reflected on the last school year and realized that we have navigated a number of changes in a short period of time. Some were personnel related while others led to the inclusion of new or revised programs and services at all levels. While change in public or private organizations is inevitable, it cannot be achieved without the support of many. What we have accomplished together in such a short time is due to the extraordinary efforts of you, our families, our students, Avon residents, supporters, and most notably the efforts of all of the district's faculty and staff.

This year, we were very fortunate to secure many talented and highly skilled staff to fill the vacancies created due to retirements and resignations. A complete list of the new staff welcomed to our district is available at <http://www.avon.k12.ct.us/page.asp?pageid=99>. I also wish to recognize and thank current staff for their efforts to make the Avon Public Schools exceptional places to learn and grow. As I have stated on numerous occasions, we are blessed with an exceptionally talented staff that time and time again rise to the challenge of what is needed to make our schools even better than they are already.

All of what has been initiated over the past year and continue into this school year is aligned with a very well designed district Strategic Plan. This Plan serves as the "blueprint" for the district's work. For your review, I have copied it below. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with its content:

Avon Public Schools
Mission

Our mission is to inspire in each student a joy and passion for learning and a commitment to excellence, personal integrity, and social responsibility.

Statement of Beliefs

We educate students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically to acquire knowledge and skills, to develop creativity and character, and to pursue their interests, realize their potential, and meet the challenges in a constantly changing world.

We believe that

- A high quality education is fundamental to create a life with purpose, meaning, and happiness.
- Educated people of good character are essential to democracy.
- Public education is a responsibility shared by students, parents, school personnel, and community members.
- Trust and respect are prerequisites for sustaining and improving safe and successful schools.
- Critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and innovation are essential.

- All people have value and should be treated with dignity and respect.

We are committed to.....

- Clear communication and transparent processes.
- Rigorous, comprehensive, and innovative programs.
- Meeting the needs of all students within local, state, and national requirements.
- Collaboration, professional development, and ethical practice.
- Continuous improvement through systematically assessing our actions and outcomes.
- Using all resources efficiently and effectively to the greatest advantage of all students.

Goals & Strategic Actions

Goal I: Culture

We will:

- Ensure our district culture aligns with our mission and beliefs.
- Model by example our beliefs and professional ethics.
- Create respectful school cultures that foster innovation and excellence.
- Provide meaningful partnerships with schools, families, the local community, and beyond.
- Maintain safe and healthy learning environments.
- Allocate resources and staff efficiently and appropriately to meet the mission of the schools, and local, state, and national requirements.
- Maintain a climate that recognizes the dignity and self-worth of each person.

Goal II. Achievement

We will:

- Create multiple opportunities for students to engage in collaboration, problem solving, critical thinking, innovation, and creative expression.
- Develop and implement programs, activities, and experiences to ensure students are prepared for college, career, and life.
- Clearly articulate and implement a Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum that is vertically aligned, rigorous, and relevant.
- Encourage and support students to participate in meaningful community learning and citizenship activities.
- Design, implement, and evaluate teaching and learning to achieve and maintain high standards.
- Provide all students with the opportunity to achieve at their highest levels.
- Align our professional development to meet the needs of all staff in fulfilling their responsibilities and foster continuous improvement.
- Develop and implement plans to integrate evolving technologies to support high quality teaching and learning.
- Foster meaningful connections with alumni to assess their post-secondary success as it reflects on their Avon Public School experience.

Goal III. Communication

We will:

- Communicate regularly with students, parents, school personnel, and community members.
- Provide communication that is purposeful, clear, and concise.
- Identify and utilize a variety of techniques to communicate, inform, educate, and respond to all stakeholders.
- Educate the community on how resources are secured and utilized to operate the schools.

As with the opening of any new school year, there are always things that are well planned but for a multitude of reasons need attention for the first few days of the year. We have received various concerns regarding the district's transportation system presently being managed by DATTCO. Many of these concerns have been reviewed over this weekend for the purpose of resolving as many concerns as possible. The transportation system is designed to conform to federal and state laws and also complies with local policies and regulations. Using these guidelines, representatives of the district's business and operations staff continue to work with DATTCO staff to resolve the identified concerns.

With this said, and in an attempt to be proactive in resolving transportation concerns, the district has arranged the following steps which will be implemented immediately:

1. DATTCO will man our district Central Office transportation help desk beginning on Tuesday morning, September 3rd.
2. We have designated a special email address for bus route help: busroutes@avon.k12.ct.us. We prefer that you relay your questions or concerns via email to allow us to maintain a paper record and enable us to track each message with DATTCO staff.
3. We have designated a special telephone number to which transportation questions and concerns may be directed: 860-471-5981. The number is equipped with voice mail so that each call may be logged and the resulting activity to address the concern may be reviewed appropriately with DATTCO staff.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to work through and resolve the remaining transportation concerns.

It goes without saying that meeting the challenge of the aggressive agenda we have charted for this new school year will require much energy and enthusiasm from all of us. We thank you in advance for joining us on this journey.

Thank you also for your continued support and for the privilege of serving you and your children.

Enjoy a great start to another school year.

Very truly yours,



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