



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**Avon Public Schools**

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**Gary S. Mala**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

September 23, 2013

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

I hope this message finds you well after having enjoyed the recently held Open House programs at each school. As you can see, we are hard at work and engaged in the new school year. It is my honor to once again communicate with you and to keep you apprised of the work of the district.

There are a number of issues about which I wish to make you aware so you may plan accordingly as we make our way into this school year.

First, I am confirming that commencing with this school year, all school delays will be announced as two (2) hours. When a delay is announced, half-day kindergarten students are not to attend and pre-school classes will be cancelled. Implementing a standard two hour delay schedule in the event of inclement weather addresses a number of issues, including but not limited to: 1) the need to allow for sufficient time for the Town of Avon Public Works to complete their work on local streets, 2) Avon Public School maintenance and custodial staff to adequately prepare all school property prior to the arrival of teachers and students, and 3) clarify the frequent, observed confusion regarding bus times and school starting times when a ninety (90) minute delay is announced.

Second, I am providing you with reaffirmation as to the manner in which cancelled school days will be made up during the 2013-2014 school year. Specifically, the first five (5) necessary make-up days will be added to the end of the approved 2013-2014 school calendar as needed. Should all five (5) days be used, the last day of the 2013-2014 school year would become Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. If all five (5) days are not used, the last official day of the school year would be sooner as identified. Any days beyond five (5) days will be made up using the April 2014 break. The sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) day will be made up on Thursday, April 17, 2014, and will progress next to Wednesday, Tuesday and Monday of this same week as necessary. If the days identified above have been exhausted, I will then be left with no choice but to continue to add to the end of the school year.

Additionally, we continue to manage various concerns regarding the district's transportation system presently being managed by DATTCO. 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 have been reviewing concerns since the start of this school year and continue to work with DATTCO staff to resolve as many concerns as palpable. DATTCO continues to maintain a staff representative in our district Central Office transportation help desk. This same representative monitors a special email address for bus route help, [busroutes@avon.k12.ct.us](mailto:busroutes@avon.k12.ct.us), and a special telephone number, 860-471-5981, to which transportation questions and concerns may be directed. We appreciate your patience as we work to resolve the remaining transportation concerns.

Last and certainly not least, I am certain that you have heard that the Common Core State Standards are being adopted as a part of the district's curriculum along with the curricula provided to students residing in forty-seven other states in our country. These standards continue to remain a focal point of an aggressive curriculum revision process embarked upon in Avon approximately one year ago. You may be left with questions regarding what this means with respect to what instruction was being provided before the state-required adoption of the Common Core State Standards and what and how the district's revised curriculum will reflect these new required Standards. The Avon Board of Education Communications Subcommittee will be hosting a public information session during which these types of questions will be addressed. Please save the date of Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. An additional public information session is also being planned for November 21<sup>st</sup>, during which the newly implemented safety and security measures will be reviewed

with a discussion on the future security upgrades in all schools. Please save both dates and expect additional information to be forthcoming in the immediate future.

Thank you for your continued support during what I can best describe as a great start to a new school year. Thank you also for the privilege of serving you and your children.

I remain very truly yours,

A cursive signature of the name "Gary" in a stylized, flowing script.

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