



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

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Gary S. Mala
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

Thank you for the continued opportunity to communicate with you and update you regarding aspects associated with operating our schools.

This past Tuesday evening, the Board of Education's Communication Subcommittee sponsored this school year's first Public Information Session centered on the Common Core State Standards. The discussion was facilitated by Joanne White, a consultant from the Connecticut State Department of Education, and Donna Nestler-Rusack, Ed.D., the district Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning.

The presentations specifically discussed how and why Connecticut joined with forty-six (46) others states in adopting these standards to align what is taught in public schools, how as a district we are aligning our curriculum to comply with the mandate to do so, and how the new generation of state-wide standardized assessment (Smarter Balanced Assessment) correlates to the Common Core.

As a means of providing information to those who could not attend the session, I have included the following links for your review. The summary Power Point presentation is available on our website at: http://www.avon.k12.ct.us/backpack/Introduction_Common_Core_State_Standards.pdf. The *Communications Toolkit*, as prepared and disseminated by the Connecticut State Department of Education, is also available on our website at: http://www.avon.k12.ct.us/backpack/Common_Core_State_Standards_Communications_Toolkit.pdf. The presentations can also be found on the district website under the *Curriculum (Curriculum Presentations)* heading. Both of these presentations contain valuable information regarding the Common Core State Standards and how they will impact Avon Public Schools as well as the schools in the other states.

If you have specific questions regarding the Common Core after reading the materials contained on each link, please feel free to contact the principal of your child's school, the Office of the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning or me. We would be happy to address your questions.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving you and your children.

I remain very truly yours,

Gary S. Mala
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