



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

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Gary S. Mala
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

September 11, 2014

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

I am again pleased to communicate with you and hope that the beginning of the new school year has been an exciting one for you and your family.

As we continue through the annual Open House programs at each school, I want to personally welcome you and thank you for the opportunity to serve you and your children. As you meet those who are new to each school, hear about the new programs, learn about the content and methods of the instruction planned, and observe the physical improvements made at various schools, rest assured that your children are receiving a rigorous, comprehensive educational experience. This is a result of great staff, great teaching and the positive cooperation between your homes and each school. We are all very fortunate to maintain the key components to successful schools.

A few weeks ago, the district announced the use of ZippSlip as a communication tools to assist you with managing the multiple forms, announcements and permissions necessary during any school year. If you have not had an opportunity to register for a ZippSlip account, please refer to a past communication in which this was explained or contact your child's school. School staff will be happy to assist you with getting registered.

Since the implementation of ZippSlip, I have been asked by some to clarify the security of the information parents are entering into this system. We have confirmed through the district's technology staff that this data is maintained on district servers and is not accessible to anyone outside of the district. There are only a handful of people in the district who have access privileges to the personal information maintained by this system. A more detailed communication explaining the technology will be included in a future communication.

Additionally, it has been reported to me by district and transportation staff that the transportation issues some of you may have experienced during the first two weeks of school have greatly improved. It is reported that buses are arriving on time at each school and students are arriving home after school within required parameters as specified in the contract between Specialty Transportation and the district. If you are continuing to experience issues with transportation, please contact Specialty Transportation directly at (860) 470-7200, (860) 470-7201 and (860) 999-4192. The modified bus routes continue to be available at <http://www.transfinder.com?cid=STI4DVDGA581> or by clicking on the hyperlink posted on the district homepage www.avon.k12.ct.us.

If you continue to experience difficulty with either reaching a representative of Specialty Transportation or you have a unique situation that requires further examination by district personnel, please feel free to contact John Spang, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. He may be reached at (860) 404-4700 or at jspang@avon.k12.ct.us.

I am also pleased to inform you that the initial documents of the sustained, comprehensive curriculum review and revision process that is in the second year of implementation are scheduled to be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2014. The revised English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum, kindergarten through grade 8, will be presented by Dr. Donna Nestler-Rusack, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. The Board will receive information about the proposed changes in each of the named content areas and is expected to take action on the revised curriculum at its October meeting. A special message containing a link where you may access the draft documents presented to the Board of Education will be made available following the Board meeting.

Lastly, we look forward to seeing you at Avon Day on September 27, 2014. Each school will have an opportunity to display some of the great work that has commenced so far this school year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving your children and I look forward to communicating with you again very soon.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

Gary S. Mala
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