



*North Haven
Public
Schools*

June 2015



End of Year 2014-2015



Congratulations to this year's recipients of the 2014-2015 CIAC Scholar/Athlete Awards:

North Haven Middle School:

Jackson Tubis
Anna Uyeki

North Haven High School:

Amanda Kenny
Colin Uyeki

*Another Year Comes to a Close and
We Say Good-Bye
Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D.*

It's hard to believe, but we've arrived at the end of another school year. What better time to take a few minutes to reflect back on the past ten months and take stock of what we've been able to accomplish and what that means as we look ahead to a new school year.

Probably one of the areas experiencing the greatest change has to do with the leadership in three of the six schools. In November, the Board of Education appointed **Paul Castiglione** as the new Assistant Principal of North Haven Middle School. Prior to his appointment, Paul served as both a teacher and a K-5 Mathematics Program Coordinator. He was very familiar with the middle





school since he served as the interim assistant principal for more than half of last year. Everyone was excited to welcome him back when he officially became the building's assistant principal in the late fall.

In January, Mrs. Peters-Durrigan, principal of Ridge Road School announced that she would be retiring at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year after 10 years at the school. Soon after, we began the search for her replacement. The Search Committee consisted of district administrators, Board of Education members, teachers, and parents. After a lengthy, comprehensive process **Patrick Stirk** was appointed on May 15, 2015. He will assume his new responsibilities on July 1st. Mr. Stirk currently serves as the assistant principal of Stratford Academy Johnson House School in Stratford. He began his career as an elementary school teacher in Bridgeport, CT where he taught first and second grades for ten years.

In April, Mrs. Cahill, principal of Green Acres School, also announced that she would be retiring at the end of the academic year. Mrs. Cahill has led Green Acres for the past 8 years. On June 9, 2015, **Laurie Bankowski** was chosen by the Board of Education as the next principal of Green Acres. Laurie has spent her entire career in North Haven having been a kindergarten teacher at Ridge Road for 12 years, becoming a math coach in 2012, and serving as the K-5 Math Program Coordinator for the past year.

Best Wishes to both Mrs. Cahill and Mrs. Peters-Durrigan for happy, healthy retirements.

I also extend my appreciation to both of them for their commitment and dedication to the students of North Haven. They leave our district a better place for having served here. Thank you to both of them.



Congratulation to Our Recent Inductees into the National Honor Society:

Sonia Atluru
Antonia Barbiero
Julie Barron
Reaghan Bathrick
Ryan Brennan
Megan Bucknall
Rachel Buonasora
Morgan Cairns
Nicholas Campanelli
April Chen
Francesca Coppola
Lia Crowley
Consolata DeLucia
Tyler Doyle
Julia Gill
Kristina Holle
Emelia Imperati
Celine Kilic
Michael Kurk
Samantha Kwieraga
Kelly Manzo
Lauren Maresca
Angelina Martineau
Louis Maselli
Nicholas McKreven
Michael Montano
Jillian Oestreicher
Joshua Paolillo
Benjamin Papsun
Sharlynn Parikh
Ji Young Park
Holden Perrelli
Jonathan Prete
Julia Puzone
Erica Salvo
Natalia Schiavo



Curriculum and Instruction

Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent

“As a result of their experiences in the North Haven Public Schools, every student will acquire the skills necessary to meet the demands of the twenty-first century.”

Once again, we have had many accomplishments throughout the district in the areas of teaching and learning. Updating our curriculum and student assessments continues to be a key focus of our work. Teacher professional development has been ongoing over the course of the year, and a variety of new instructional materials have been purchased to enhance the learning environment for students.

Over the course of the 2014-15 school year the K-5 Math Department has aligned our current curriculum units with *Math in Focus.*, our current math program. This year the math department continued to focus on the Common Core Content Standards and the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice. The content standards outline what students are expected to know, understand, and be able to do, mathematically, by the end of each grade and by the end of high school, and these have been woven into our curriculum. Middle school teachers participated in Math in Focus training to continue to strengthen their understanding of the essentials of Math In Focus. High school teachers participated in a workshop in February in which they learned about developing and implementing cognitively rigorous tasks.

In March, the department celebrated Super Pi Day with a pi(e) baking contest and pi memorization contest at the high school and a pi(e) in the face fundraiser at the middle school that benefitted a local charity. The Math Team at the high school placed sixth in the Greater New Haven Math League and qualified to compete in the state meet. One of our students was the second place finisher for the highest scoring individual in the Greater New Haven Math League. The middle school Math Counts Group competed in the regional competition at Yale and qualified for the state meet (the team placed 10th). In April, computer science students participated in the High School Computer Programming Competition at Quinnipiac University.

Our K-5 Language Arts program also has a great deal to be excited about this year. Right now, we are turning our attention to the area of writing. We received a grant from the North Haven Education Foundation (NHEF), which will allow several teachers to attend Columbia University this summer to learn about effective writing instruction. Upon completion of the training, teachers who attend will serve as resources to their colleagues throughout the district. We also brought in presenters from Columbia Teachers College to North Haven during our March professional development day to work with all K-5 teachers on writing instruction.

We are also in the process of examining our phonics program and district assessments. Committees are meeting to look deeply at what we currently possess to see what best aligns to the Connecticut Core Standards and what may need to be modified. Please remember to encourage children to read this summer. The summer reading list is available on the district and school websites.

English Language Arts teachers at the middle and high school have been continuing to align their instruction, content and student assessments. They meet regularly in grade level teams. English/Language Arts and Social Studies teachers are working closely together to align units. An example of this can be seen in the 6th grade mythology unit.

Our Social Studies department has spent the year, learning the recently released CT Social Studies Framework and developing and refining curriculum across grades and courses. K-5 Social Studies lessons were developed by teacher teams and will be piloted next year in all four elementary schools.

K-12 teachers of science continue to seek out opportunities to attend Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curricula writing workshops online, at local universities, ACES and the CT Science Center this summer. North Haven Chemistry teacher, Juliet Nichols, was selected to participate in the College Board's Annual AP Reading in AP Chemistry.

Director of Special Services Report, Dana Corriveau

The Department of Student Services continues to implement high quality services and supports to many students. The North Haven Transition Partnership (NHTP) is concluding its first year of operation. Students ages 18-21 who completed high school credits but required transition services made great strides in their independent living, vocational skills, and community participation as adults. The program formed partnerships with the community, employers such as TJ Maxx and Candid Cleaners, and even Yale University's Best Buddies program.

Pupil Personnel focused on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) practices that are consistent across schools, levels and programs. For example, this year the department focused on whole-class instruction using the Zones of Regulation and Social Thinking to strengthen Tier I social-emotional-behavior in the four elementary schools. The focus at the secondary level was building self-awareness and self-advocacy for students with IEPs. All related services began the Medicaid reimbursement process this year.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) took a step forward with the Check In-Check Out process. The elementary schools wrapped up their third year of formal training, and the MS and HS wrapped up year two. The Green Acres preschool program submitted its application for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation and completed the work that came out of a very comprehensive self-assessment that began in fall 2013. The district continues to implement and improve the Therapeutic Learning Services and Intensive Learning Services for students who require significant special education and related service support. Many programs ran another successful year including Best Buddies, Circle of Friends, and Unified Sports. Paraprofessionals received verbal de-escalation training under the district's Handle with Care program.

The commitment, contributions and passion of everyone in the department is truly remarkable. There are so many accomplishments, it's difficult to capture them all but they are evident in the success that our students, colleagues and families experience that would not have been possible without the support of our special education teachers, school counselors, social workers, school psychologists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapist, gifted facilitators, paraprofessionals, and nurses.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the 2014-2015

Retirees

Linda Cahill, Principal, Green Acres Elementary School

Kathleen Peters-Durrigan, Principal, Ridge Road Elementary School

Richard Nigro, Music Teacher, North Haven Middle School

Mary Quinn-Devine, Grade 8 Language Arts Teacher, North Haven Middle School

Lydia Westerberg, Library/Media Specialist, Ridge Road Elementary School

Lenore Martinelli, Language Arts Specialist, Ridge Road Elementary School

Nancy Skedgell, School Social Worker, Department of Special Services

Marie Santore, Language Arts Specialist, Green Acres School

Donna Malley, School Secretary, Montowese Elementary School

Middle School Building Project Moves Forward

By the end of June, the middle school building project will be well underway. During the summer of 2015, a major focus of the work will be on preparing the site in order to begin construction of the new academic building. When students return to school in September things will look a bit different at the middle school. Here's just a partial list of some of the changes they can expect:

- Setting up perimeter fencing will be set up around the outside of the construction area.
- Reconfiguring the bus loop and establishing a new middle/high school bus drop-off and pick-up area.
- Establishing a process for parent drop-off and pick-up at the current middle school.
- Creating as much parking as possible. (The goal is to maintain the same number of parking places at the middle school as currently exists.)
- Beginning construction of the new academic building.
- Limiting all of the work next year to the current faculty and staff parking area.
- Updating parents prior to the start of the new school year summarizing work completed over the summer.

Another Year of Athletic Accomplishments by North Haven Students

Once again, North Haven students proved themselves to be champions not only in the classroom, but also on the athletic fields. While all of their accomplishments are too numerous to list here, what follows are some of the high-lights of this past year in sports:

- The North Haven Football Team advanced to the semifinals this fall.
- Football coach, **Anthony Sagnella** received the regional chapter of the National Football Foundation's Coach of the Year Award.
- Senior **Jillian Johnson** scored her 1000th point this year in girls' basketball, becoming only the 4th player in North Haven history to accomplish this incredible feat.
- Every athletic team qualified for the CIAC State Tournament this spring. This includes Boys' Baseball, Girls' Softball; Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' Lacrosse, Golf, Boys' Tennis, Girls' Tennis, and Outdoor Track and Field.
- Seniors **Colin Uyeki** (Boys' Lacrosse) and **Emily Migliorini** (Girls' Tennis) were selected "Players of the Year" for their respective sports by the Southern Connecticut Conference.



Finance and Operations Report, Kristine Carling

“After using Eno Boards in the classroom for 6 years now, I can confidently say that I have become a better teacher with the use of this technology. I am better able to engage my students as well as teach any concept more clearly and creatively. I think that they are a huge asset to any classroom at any age level.”

Teacher ~ Clintonville Elementary School



Technology is ever changing and it is our duty to give students access to technology as they learn and grow. This year we have been able to provide a variety of new technology at the elementary level. Over the summer of 2014, we were able to outfit 20 additional elementary classrooms with new Eno boards. An Eno Board is an interactive whiteboard. In addition, when the students arrived at school in September 2014, all the classrooms and the computer labs were equipped with new desktop computers. The computers have large touch screens that allow students to access information more easily, and in a way that they have become accustomed to. The computers allow students to learn basic keyboarding skills, do research projects and take the SBAC testing without concern for technical issues. The district is currently working on a technology plan that will continue to provide new technology to students. The next step in the technology plan is to provide the high school students with new computers in the labs and classrooms for the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

This year, the Information Technology (IT) Department has been working diligently on a new website. It is almost completed. We will be putting the finishing touches on it over the summer and will be going live soon.

The business operations are becoming more automated. We recently began using an online application system, Applitrack for those interested candidates applying to the district. An interested candidate will now be able to click on the link that is on our website or job search websites, create a profile with North Haven Public Schools, and upload all necessary information for their application. Once uploaded the Personnel Department will have access to their applications, transcripts, certification and all other necessary documents. This will allow for easier access for district personnel to review and select the applicants when they have applied.

