

Woodbridge School District

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Gaeton F. Stella, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Stephen Sirico, CPA
Business Manager

June 15, 2006

Dear Families of Beecher Road School:

As your Superintendent, I plan to lead the district to higher levels of academic performance. This letter is an outline of a shared vision for Beecher Road School. After meticulously implementing an Entry Plan, where listening to and talking with school personnel, school board members, parents and town officials was a major component, this vision was developed. When people ask, "Where do you see our school in the next three to five years?" we can collectively talk about the following key points.

My Vision for Woodbridge Children

1. **A minimum of 90% of students will be on goal** in the core curriculum areas¹ of the CMT (Connecticut Mastery Test).
2. **All suggestions of the Tri-State Consortium² will be met.**
3. **Students will be independent readers, writers and problem solvers** by the end of sixth grade.
4. **Students will leave sixth grade:**
 - with the necessary set of skills and strategies needed to collect large amounts of information quickly and to synthesize that information, using technology as a tool, into a product that can be effectively communicated and shared with others.
 - knowing the grammar and syntax of the internet.
 - having the ability to work effectively as a team member, using project-based learning; students will be able to communicate locally, nationally and internationally to share those results.
 - with a broad knowledge and love of the arts.
 - with a rudimentary knowledge in two world languages, as well as a love for language acquisition, and an appreciation of other cultures.
 - having developed healthy nutritional habits and physical fitness strategies designed to promote life long wellness and fitness.
 - with the foundations of character education that are essential for responsible participation as a local and global citizen.
5. **I will be well established as Superintendent** having built strong relationships with all School Community and Town constituencies.
6. **There will be a continuity of leadership** with the Co-Principals (Principal of the Primary School and Principal of the Intermediate School) firmly established as school and district leaders.

¹ Core curriculum areas measured by the CMT are: Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science.

² The Tri-State Consortium, an educational research group, was contracted to study our school district in the spring of 2005 and make recommendations to improve performance.

The Big Question: How will we implement this vision?

1. Let me describe the development and implementation of what I call my ***Blue Print For Success***:
 - a. There will be a comprehensive curriculum in each of the core academic areas and also in music, art, physical education and health, based on updated state standards, and supported by comprehensive assessments.
 - b. There will be a comprehensive assessment design that helps teachers plan and direct daily instruction.
 - c. A professional development program, based on analysis of student data, curriculum implementation, and personnel evaluation will be in place.
2. We will develop a pool of ***teacher leaders***.
3. Within three years, all students in Grades K-6 will be immersed in ***Writer's Workshop***.³
4. ***Technology*** will be integrated into all curriculum areas.
5. ***Independent research projects*** will be integrated into instruction for all Grade 2-6 students.
6. ***The Arts*** will be expanded and enhanced.
7. ***Technology will help students develop the skills*** necessary to engage in project-based learning, and to communicate with others on a state, national and international level.
8. ***A World Languages*** curriculum will be developed.
9. ***A Family Learning Initiative***, with the help of technology, will provide a virtual 24/7 learning opportunity for students and their families.
10. ***Summer programs***, in cooperation with other institutions, will be improved to provide year-round learning opportunities.
11. ***A Parents Curriculum Leadership Academy*** will be established to support student achievement.
12. ***Character Education*** will permeate the school through the ***Responsive Classroom***.⁴
13. ***Communication*** with parents and community will be enhanced.

I need the support of all school constituents if the Vision outlined above is to be implemented effectively. Most importantly, **I need your support**. Feel free to share your thoughts with me about this Vision. My email address is: gstella@woodbridge.k12.ct.us.

June 21 is the last day of school. Keep learning alive for your children during the summer months through participation in summer programs, family travel and/or the numerous family-learning activities that occur on a daily basis. Encourage your children to read every day. You will receive summer reading guidelines and suggestions from your school.

Thank you for the support you have given me since I arrived in January. I am proud to serve you and your children as Superintendent of the Woodbridge School District.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Gaeton F. Stella, Ph.D.
Superintendent

³ A formal plan of writing instruction with specific goals, strategies, and student work samples designed to develop independent writers.

⁴ A structured program with specific activities and strategies to develop strong school citizens.