

Dear Members of the Litchfield Community:

I warmly welcome you to the Litchfield Public Schools.

The first day of school for the 2010-2011 year will be September 1, 2010. New for this school year are reconfigured school bus routes and the consolidation of bus stops throughout the district. This action resulted from a purposeful decision by the administration and Board of Education to explore and adopt efficiencies in our transportation system, as part of a long-term endeavor to conservatively manage district expenditures. Student safety was paramount as decisions were made and Board policy serves as the framework for the revisions to the transportation system. New routes and bus stops are listed on this website.

In addition, we are happy to announce that several new staff members have joined our faculty. The recruitment and selection process was rigorous, and we believe that we have found exemplary professionals to fill each open position.

New to Litchfield High School:

- Shoshanna Armington is the 7th, 8th and 9th school counselor
- Kerri Sullivan Petti is a high school counselor grades 10th, 11th and 12th
- Patricia Smaldone will teach Spanish
- Emil Bantea will teach Latin
- Jill Caturano is the long term sub for Art
- Kevin Rondeau is the long term sub for Social Studies

New to Litchfield Intermediate School:

- Mark Obolewicz will teach Music Grades 4-6
- Rebecca Duquette will teach Grade 5
- Heidi Lechich will teach Grade 6
- Tina Cordani is the school nurse

New to Center School:

- Adam Piechowski is the long term sub in Grade 2
- Lisa Hellman is the long term sub in PreK

We currently enroll approximately 1,190 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. For the opening of school, Center School anticipates enrolling about 335 students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3; Litchfield Intermediate School anticipates having about 265 students in Grades 4 through 6; and Litchfield High School, which houses both the Litchfield Middle School, Grades 7 and 8, and Litchfield High School, Grades 9 through 12, anticipates a combined enrollment of about 570 students.

We are proud that Litchfield's students have historically demonstrated a high level of performance on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) for Grades 3-8 and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) for 10th grade student. Results for the 2009, as well as previous administrations, of the CMT and CAPT for the Litchfield Public Schools may be accessed through the State Department of Education website at www.ctreports.com . In addition, approximately 90 percent of our seniors take the Scholastic Ability Tests (SAT) and typically score significantly higher than the state and national averages on both the Mathematics and Verbal subtests. Litchfield High School is proud of our 98 percent graduation rate as well as the fact that almost 90 percent of our graduates advance to higher education.

The Litchfield Board of Education's annual operating budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year is \$16,384,606. This budget was adopted by the town meeting in May 2010.

In my June message, I shared that as part of the state's application for Round 2 of the competitive federal Race to the Top (RTTT) grant program state legislation was adopted that provided significant change to PreK-12 public education in Connecticut. Briefly, for the class of 2018, the minimum number of credits required for graduation will increase to 25, with end of course examinations for specific courses in mathematics, science, social studies and English. Also, the State Board of Education must, by 2013, develop guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation that include as a factor student academic achievement. In addition, districts will be required to expand data collection regarding student achievement and related reporting to the State Department of Education. Although Connecticut was unsuccessful in this application, and will not receive RTTT funds, these requirements have not been rescinded. Additional information pertaining to the new mandates can be accessed through the Connecticut State Department of Education website at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/pressroom/may26rttt.pdf>

I sincerely welcome interest in our school community and cordially invite you to explore the educational opportunities offered by the Litchfield Public Schools. Additional information and data pertaining to the Litchfield Public Schools are available on the Connecticut State Department of Education website at www.csde.state.ct.us . In addition, I recommend that you bookmark our district website at www.litchfieldschools.org for up to date information about our schools and programs, including our district activities and athletic department calendars.

I can be reached at wheelerd@litchfieldschools.org . Thank you again for your ongoing support of the students and staff of the Litchfield Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Wheeler, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools