



Michael T. Conner, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent of Schools

August 19, 2019

Dear Middletown Education Community,

At the outset of the 2018–2019 academic year, Middletown Public Schools embarked upon a journey of “*thinking differently*” about education by focusing on *equity, innovation, and continuous growth* in every thread of our work. This endeavor embodied strategic implementation, collaboration, and a level of risk. Our intentional focus of “*thinking differently*” using a growth mindset has paid significant dividends for all students in Middletown.

Some of your highlights from the 2018–2019 academic year include:

- Bridge to Brilliance Pre-K initiative generated 10.8 million words mastered and over 38,000 books read. Over 90% of our three and four-year olds in Middletown were active participants in the initiative.
- Early childhood leaders, teachers of Middletown Public Schools, parents, and community advocates worked in collaboration to develop ***Early Minds 2022: Pathways to Readiness and Equity Strategic Operating Plan***. The first draft of the plan has been distributed to the Middletown Board of Education for review and potential adoption in September at their business meeting.
- Overall proficiency rate increases on the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) administration for grades 3-8 were 4% for ELA and 3% for Math.
- Overall, Woodrow Wilson Middle School demonstrated significant proficiency increases in ELA (+10%) and Math (+8%) on the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). Seventh grade alone increased their overall performance outcomes in ELA by 16% and Math by 15% on the Smarter Balanced Assessment.
- Advanced placement enrollment at Middletown High School continues to steadily increase, while overall performance on the 2019 Connecticut SAT Day administration improved by 6% (ELA) and 3% (Math) respectively.

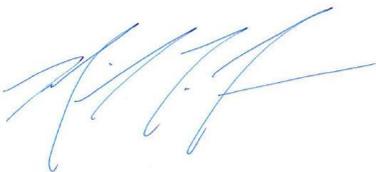
- Lawrence School received notification this spring from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) that they were approved as a “candidate” to launch the Primary Years Programme. This is the first step in becoming a nationally recognized International Baccalaureate School.
- Macdonough School has prepared and will be launching the first phase of the “STEM Academy” transition in kindergarten and grade 4.
- Successful planning occurred during the 2018–2019 academic year to launch Makerspaces in all elementary schools – including Middletown High School. Official launch will take place in September.

Your success as an education ecosystem is remarkable – thank you for all that you do for our students. With the ongoing commitment of our board of education, leaders, teachers, staff, parents, students, advocates, and external partners, we are well positioned to continue this growth trajectory in the upcoming school year.

We will officially welcome back staff on August 26, 2019 and students on August 29, 2019. Also, please check our district website for the updated 2019–2020 academic calendar.

Have a great last week of summer vacation. I look forward to continuing this collaborative journey of *unlocking the potential in ALL students*.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Conner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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