



Where the future is present.

Beth Schiavino-Narvaez, Ed.D.
Superintendent

August 6, 2015

Dear Clark School Families:

I want to thank you once more for your support and collaboration during the 2014-2015 school year and to let you know that I will be working hard again this year to provide the best possible educational environment for your children during the temporary relocation from the Clark building.

We are already putting a number of changes and improvements in place to make that happen.

To begin with, the Pk-3 students will remain at Wish school, and grade 4 will also join them at Wish this year. We have secured two additional classrooms at the Wish School that will allow us to move the 4th grade students to those rooms from the Journalism and Media Academy. A third classroom at Wish will be reserved for the community partners who operate before and after-school enrichment programs.

Although, we have received positive reports on the status of the Clark building renovation project from the School Building Committee, we have been advised that you should plan on having your children remain at their current school location for the full 2015-2016 academic year.

As you may already know, funding for the state Department of Education's Commissioner's Network was reduced for 2015-2016. The reduced grant means that the Capital Region Education Council will not return as Clark's lead management partner. CREC was there to help us launch the work and served as a critical technical assistance partner. We are grateful for the support they provided. Commissioner's Network resources will support essential positions, such as a Dean of Students, an instructional coach and four academic tutors.

Despite the cutback, we are grateful for the state's continued commitment to Clark School and, in addition to the state's commitment, the district will strengthen its investment in Clark by including it in our Acceleration Agenda. The acceleration agenda is a focused action plan to optimize support for the city's neighborhood schools in ways that will boost student achievement. Each student in an acceleration agenda school will have a personalized plan for support and enrichment.

I also want to let you know that we have changed the bus procedures for this year to alleviate the issues that occurred by having one bus stop at Clark last year. This year, busing for the coming school year will be provided according to the standard Hartford Public School Transportation Guidelines. Students in grades K-1 will be bused if they live 0.5 miles or more from their school. Students in grades 2-5 will be bused if they live 1 mile or more from the school and students in grades 6-8 will be bused if they live 1.5 miles or more from their school. If you are eligible for

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bus transportation, you will receive information about your bus stop and pick-off and drop-off times by our transportation department within the coming weeks.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to join with Principal Tayarisha Stone, The Village for Families and Children and other community partners, in inviting all Clark School families and staff to celebrate the start of the new school year at a gala festival on the Clark School grounds. The festival will take place on Friday, August 21, 2015, between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. It will include a bounce house, face painting, music and plenty of food. Please come and enjoy.

As always, please call the Clark School Response Line, 860-695-8504, to speak to a district representative or share your concerns. You can also stay informed and view the report online by accessing our website at www.hartfordschools.org.

Once again, I want to thank you for your patience and cooperation throughout this process.

Your trust means a lot to me.

Sincerely,

Beth

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