

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4
CHESTER • DEEP RIVER • ESSEX

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Dear Faculty and Staff,

Time certainly does fly! The opening convocation for school year 2008/2009 is just around the corner. Convocation begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 26 at Valley Regional High School. Please join us for refreshments starting at 7:30 a.m. The convocation schedule will be posted on the district website under important announcements (www.region4schools.com) by August 22.

Welcome back to those of you returning from summer vacation. I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful break. Thank you to all who worked through the summer to ensure another smooth opening to the school year. Your efforts are appreciated. Please join me in a special welcome to our new faculty and staff. We expect our new faculty and staff to add to our capacity to provide educational excellence for the young people of Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

Please give a warm welcome to our new members of the district leadership team:

- Mr. Ian Nevaizer – Principal of Valley Regional High School.
- Ms. Kristina Martineau – Associate Principal of Valley Regional High School.
- Mr. Michael Barile – Chester Elementary School Principal.
- Ms. Marjorie DePasquale – Director of Technology for Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4.

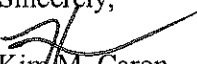
Congratulations to Kathleen Onofrio, Director of Pupil Services, as she transitions to a new administrative position in the Westbrook Public Schools. We thank Kathleen for her service and wish her the best in her new post. Mrs. Patricia Varholy, a retired administrator, has been appointed Interim Pupil Services Director while the search is conducted for a permanent replacement.

I ask you to reflect on the following as we begin school year 2008/2009. The world of today is changing at an unprecedented rate creating excitement, creating opportunity, and creating uncertainty about the world of tomorrow - the world of the 21st century. The 21st century workplace is a more global, more connected, more diverse, more competitive place. Our students will compete for their role in that workplace with millions of other young people from America, from India, from China, and other countries around the globe. The challenge before us is to prepare all young people for success in an evolving global society. I ask all of us, together, to commit to actions that better prepare the young people in our charge for success in the 21st century global society.

- Encourage a positive school culture that supports high expectations for 21st century teaching and learning.
- Embrace professional learning communities and collaboration as a process for school improvement.
- Welcome accountability and rigorous standards based upon the Connecticut Mastery Test, Connecticut Academic Performance Test, challenging grade level expectations, and other indicators of success.
- Support pre-kindergarten through grade twelve continuity within a cohesive educational program as an organization to maximize student achievement.
- Continually strive for educational excellence for the children of Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

I look forward to an outstanding school year.

Sincerely,


Kim M. Caron
Superintendent of Schools