

Hartland Board of Education Fall Newsletter -- 2017

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.... Dr. Anthony Distasio

Hartland High School Voucher/Designated School Policy

The Hartland Board of Education policy on Voucher/Designated schools is as follows: a voucher allows Hartland students to attend any public high school in the state. The Board of Education will pay the tuition to that school system. A voucher form must be officially submitted each year, and the student must be accepted by the receiving system. The transportation to any voucher school is the responsibility of the parents. Hartland's designated high school is Granby Memorial High School.



Transportation is provided to the designated high school. A designated school form must be submitted for any student wishing to attend Granby High. Letters with the appropriate **Forms** were mailed to parents of all eighth grade students and current high school students during the beginning of October. The appropriate form must be submitted by December 1, 2017 for the upcoming 2018/2019 school year. If any parent has a question about the Voucher/Designated School Policy, please feel free to call at 860-653-7207.

Friendly Reminders:

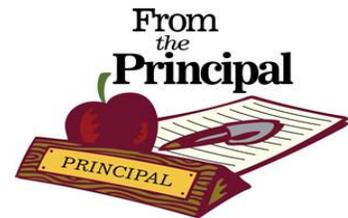
- When a school bus is stopped with the red stop sign and flashers displayed, please remember to stop. There is a very expensive fine for passing a stopped school bus with the flashers displayed. This includes when buses are in the parking lot at dismissal. If the lights are flashing cars cannot pull in or out of the parking lot.
- When visiting Hartland School, all visitors must report to the office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass from the school secretary. Keeping our school safe and secure is always a priority.



- The Hartland Board of Education meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. with the exception of April when we meet on the third Monday due to vacation week. The Board welcomes public attendance and input at our meetings.

Emergency Closings/Delays/Early Dismissals-

Because each parent/guardian receives a personal telephone call announcing emergency school closings, delays, and early dismissals, we will no longer be placing these announcements on television stations. These announcements are also posted on our school's website, texted, and emailed to parents/guardians. The calls go out to everyone designated to be called on the students' contact list, so please let relatives and friends know about this change. Thank you.



PRINCIPALS CORNER.... Laura H. Hollingsworth

Many thanks to the 61 families who found the time to respond to our Parent Feedback Survey last spring. The Climate and Safety Committee chooses questions each year that we want to track over time. Happily, every question showed improvement. Among the highlights, when asked “I feel the adults in this school treat my child fairly” 93% responded “all the time” or “most of the time”, up from 77% the previous year. Responding to “My child’s bus ride is a positive/safe experience” 76% said all/most of the time, up from 66%. This is an area we will continue to focus on this year and hope to see the number improve by more. Responding to “I feel comfortable sharing my thoughts or ideas at this school”, 79% responded positively up from 62%. This is an area I feel should be much higher as the home-school partnership is such an important factor to student success. Please know that we take your feedback very much to heart whether it arrives via a survey or informally during the year.

The faculty has again decided to focus on a schoolwide Student Learning Objective as part of our annual goal setting process. This year we will grow our practice to support the high leverage expectation that ***Students will demonstrate independence in reading, viewing, and listening to complex texts and/or tasks.*** The data and observations that led to this choice were noting that students frequently ask for help before trying tasks, they often don't read directions carefully, and the Smarter Balanced Assessments have very complex language in both the reading and math. Teachers will develop more tasks for their classrooms that are complex and will help students build stamina. They will also use instructional strategies that foster close reading of directions and multi step tasks. We will give students feedback on both the process they use to do work and on the product itself. In our Math and Language Arts Vertical Teams we will be looking at student work before and after samples to see if our feedback resulted in work that shows deeper thinking and addresses all the parts of a given task. This connects to our schoolwide Performance and Practice Goal: ***Teachers and staff will develop strategies that support a Growth Mindset so that students will become aware of their own strengths and weaknesses and become stronger, more self-directed learners.*** As we learn more about this, we look forward to sharing what we learn with you.

Analysis of the 2017 Smarter Balanced Assessment showed that Hartland School performed favorably compared to schools like us and to the state averages. School wide the percentages of students meeting or exceeding standards increased from 68% to 76% in Language Arts. In Math we only grew from 52% to 52.8% so we will be focusing on math with the Region 7 Elementary Consortium and Curriculum Council. Now in our second year of using STAR360 as our benchmark measure, teachers and administrators are looking closely at how the two tests correlate and at student's' growth percentiles. We are able to track if students are making progress as compared to students who score like them and are the same age across the nation. Parents will likely be hearing about these growth percentiles at our upcoming parent-teacher conferences. Students hear about their growth and set goals for their own achievement. As you can imagine, these are powerful conversations! Please be on the lookout on our new website, hartlandschool.com for dates of events, pictures and more. Please sign up for news postings as the signups from the previous site do not carry over. We look forward to celebrating the growth and achievements of Hartland students throughout the year. They are our P.R.I.D.E. and Joy!

BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON.... Pamela Weber

Summer brings warmer weather, longer days, vacations, beach trips, plenty of sunshine, time with family and friends and the start to a new school year. During this time, Hartland School rejuvenates itself in preparation for that grand opening in August. While our students were reenergizing themselves, we were fortunate to have our wonderful staff cleaning and getting the school ready. So much time and hard work went into getting everything all set for that first day back to school. And while Ms. Laura Hollingsworth was out on a medical leave, that unfortunately had her missing the first few weeks of school, our teachers and staff did an amazing job at getting everything prepared in order to welcome each and every one of our students back to school.

On behalf of the Hartland Board of Education, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our awesome teachers and staff at Hartland School. We sincerely appreciate the dedication and commitment each and every one of them has to our school and to our students. We are truly fortunate to have them as part of our Hartland community. As we welcomed our students back on August 30th, our town sign outside of the school read – “Welcome Back to the 2017/18 School Year – Home of Harland’s P.R.I.D.E and Joy.” That sign spoke for itself. Our small, cozy Town of Hartland is fortunate to have such wonderful students, teachers and staff – all of which are truly Hartland’s pride and joy!

Warm regards,

Pam Weber



CULTURAL ARTS LIASION.... Ronnie Alicata

Our new school-wide theme, *Hartland's Pride and Joy*, is certainly enhanced by the cultural experiences that continue to be offered to all our students. Additionally, this year many of our scheduled events complement our attempt to reach the whole person, to have the students reflect on who they are and what they can achieve. Mime Robert Rivest opened our season with his brand new assembly *Mindfulness* urging an understanding that we face important decisions each day. Bright Star Touring Theater brought two performances this fall: *Professor Parsnip's Lab of Healthy Living* for our younger students and *Choices: The Game Show of Life* for our middle school students. They will return in January to perform *Jackie Robinson*. Our annual week-long residence with Hartford Stage will again expose our students to the uncertainties of life, Mary Jo Maichack will return as Mother Goose and the whole school will celebrate Earth Day in the spring with Super Scientific Circus *The Magic of Energy*. Many of our selections hope to magnify Thich Nhat Hana's words, "The present moment is filled with joy and happiness. If you are attentive, you will see it."

