



# WESTBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent*

August 12, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, your students will be welcomed back to their new school year by their administrators, teachers and staff. While we all lament the winding down of summer, the first day of school is an exciting day for students to reconnect with one another and with their principal, teachers, counselors and other support professionals. This year, major programming and facilities improvement projects that have been completed over the summer will also add to the excitement of returning to school. Thanks to the efforts of our Board of Education, our elected town officials/boards & committees as well as our school district professionals; this is truly a grand opening. Here are just a few of the changes and improvements that our students and staff will enjoy.

- Our expansion of Pre-K opportunities has led to our Westbrook becoming a Universal Pre-K district. All four-year-old children now have access to full-day Pre – K.
- Our EL population continues to rise and with it our diversity percentages are providing positive impacts on our culture and climate. To more effectively serve our EL students, we have added to our bilingual support professionals and now have two full time certified faculty and several teachers with added credentials to meet the needs of our EL population.
- High School students will have access to greater career exploration opportunities and placements as part of their programming through the auspices of our new Career/College Readiness Center and the efforts of our new Coordinator who has joined the Guidance Dept.
- Last year's growth in athletic programming for students has resulted in the outcome for which we had hoped. We are seeing an impressive rise in the number of students coming out for sports teams and showing interest in becoming multi-sport athletes.
- Our school buildings are in great shape, with specific upgrades including, fire and chemical safety inspection adjustments & repairs, new high school safety/security doors, tennis courts resurfacing, improvements to field turf conditions and, final improvements to the high school auditorium. Daisy Ingraham and the high school now have new generators with back-up alternative fuel sources.

The aforementioned improvements aside, we understand always that student success and mastery is a journey. We are committed to giving students the individual support they need on their personal journey to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to realize their hopes and aspirations; always measuring our own performance relative to theirs.

Again, it is exciting to plan for and welcome our students every school year and we welcome your involvement as well. Please plan to join us often for individually planned visits, conferences and events, festivities and celebrations, and as always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Welcome to school year 2019 - 20! You have my sincere best wishes for a wonderful year.

Patricia A. Ciccone

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