



Committed to Excellence

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ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that our September PreK-12 opening is fast approaching. I hope your vacation has been safe, relaxing and reflective.

As I mentioned on several occasions, 2019-20 was like no other because of the COVID-19 pandemic and recent social and racial strife throughout the nation. Unfortunately, in the 2020-21 school year, districts across the state and country will face similar challenges and issues. It is our sincere belief that several previously experienced obstacles will be remedied and the district's hard work, energy and effort will place us in a much better place to enhance the student learning process.

I know you realize that with so many complexities and people involved, changes inevitably will unfold as we move forward. We have been significantly impacted by the Governor, the Commissioner of Education and Connecticut State Department of Education protocols, Federal mandates, revised learning approaches, school/room revisions, health and wellness requirements, transportation issues, food service procedures, technology accommodations, Special Education needs and budgetary reductions. A perfect example was this past week when the CIAC directed that football and volleyball would be held this fall, beginning September 24. The day following, the Connecticut Department of Health interceded and declared that the CIAC did not follow health protocols and put those sports on hold. The two groups will meet this week to resolve the matter.

Our staff has been working extremely hard this summer, and we ask you to note the following key details:

- Needless but important to say, the most critical priority area is to provide for a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff.
- Trumbull will reopen with a Hybrid Learning Model, a combination of live teacher-student learning and remote learning.

- Since we are not in an emergency timeline like last school year, we expect remote learning offerings to be robust, challenging and rigorous.
- PreK-12 schools will reopen on September 8th, although the transition grades (PreK, K, 6, 9) will begin on September 4th.
- School hours will be the same as last year.
- Health protocols for both staff and students must be followed, including when students ride the buses. Key musts includes social distancing, increased hand hygiene, enhanced facility changes, and related staff training for COVID-19.
- The delivery of mandated Special Education services will be disseminated to parents by Dr. Hapken and Barbara Beaman and will include the plans shared in the Reopening Model.
- Each building principal will forward communications to parents/guardians related to school specifics, including bus schedules, lunch and critical safety protocols.
- Lunch for all students will be available every day, beginning September 8th. More details to come from Food Services.
- The State has reduced its 180 day student requirement to 177 days. The 3 reduced days will be dedicated to professional development on September 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Topics include: training on signs & symptoms of COVID-19; health protocols; social and emotional learning; teaching & learning approaches; new technology integration; and various policy updates, including required sexual harassment prevention training.

We know that our adopted Hybrid Learning Model will not be the choice of everyone, but through hard work, effort and extensive knowledge of our team of subcommittees and chairs, we have embraced a learning package that should meet the needs of our students and staff. Nevertheless, we should not lose sight that our plan is an evolving document with changes implemented as needed, particularly modifications issued by the Commissioner of Education and Governor.

Please note some key personnel appointments that have been finalized since June:

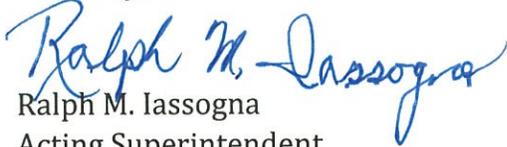
1. Dr. Martin Semmel was appointed the new Superintendent of Schools, effective September 14, 2020. Dr. Semmel is joining Trumbull having been the Superintendent of Schools in Plymouth, Connecticut. My last official day will be Friday, September 11. If Dr. Semmel seeks any transitional help, I am readily available.
2. Mr. Dennis McLaughlin was appointed Dean of Students at Trumbull High School and will assume those responsibilities following the November retirement of Anthony Pijar.
3. Mr. Christopher Siano, former House Principal at Newtown High School, has taken on the A House Principalship at Trumbull High School upon promotion of Jennifer Chirles to Principal of Blind Brook High School in Rye Brook, NY.

4. Mrs. Mary Ellen Bolton, Principal at Jane Ryan Elementary School, will be retiring effective December 4, 2020. Interviews for that principalship will be conducted next week. Mrs. Donna Seidell will continue as Interim Principal until a candidate is chosen.
5. Barbara Beaman, Coordinator of Special Education at Trumbull High, was promoted to district-wide Coordinator of Special Education replacing Maureen Makres-Steinberg, who retired in February.
6. Mr. Paul Hendrickson has been appointed as Business Administrator to replace Interim Allan Cameron. Paul will be starting in approximately 30 days and based upon his credentials and experience in Plymouth, Connecticut, will be an asset to the Trumbull Public Schools.

One of our priorities is to continue to provide parents, students and the educational community with updated information as received and we are sure modifications will be made when deemed necessary. We will share this information via e-blasts, our TPS website, information forums, responses to parental/staff questions, and/or communications from our building/central office staff. Please understand that districts, including Trumbull, cannot answer every query, but we will do our best in disseminating information.

Last, it is an exciting time to be in TPS, and it is my great honor to serve as your interim Superintendent. TPS is family; there is no better place in which to learn and work. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to do our very best for our community's children. We simply cannot do this important work without you. We look forward to seeing you and your children soon.

Sincerely,


Ralph M. Iassogna
Acting Superintendent