

# Back to School 2018-2019



Wilby High School: Dr. Ruffin, President Brown, and Principal Carey Edwards.

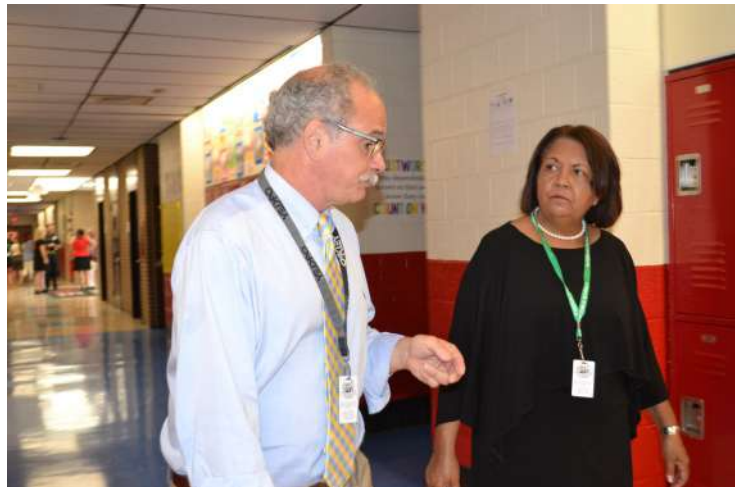


Rotella Magnet: President Brown, Principal Robin Henry, and Dr. Ruffin.

On opening day, August 27, new Superintendent of Schools Dr. Verna Ruffin visited several schools to greet staff, families and parents, as well as tour the buildings, accompanied by Board of Education President Elizabeth Brown. These schools included: Waterbury Career Academy (where NBC 30 interviewed Dr. Ruffin at the start of the news program), Wilby High School, North End Middle School, M.M. Generali Elementary School, Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School, Crosby High School, Wallace Middle School, and Washington Elementary School.



Generali: President Brown and Dr. Ruffin visit a classroom.



Wallace Middle School: Principal Michael LoRusso provided a tour of the school to Dr. Dr. Ruffin.



Washington: Dr. Ruffin visited classrooms with Principal Lori Eldridge.



North End Middle School: Principal Jacquelyn Gilmore toured the school with President Brown and Dr. Ruffin.

Principals spent several minutes detailing some of the programs at their schools, along with changes made over the summer (if any) and hopes for expansion of successful existing programs or implementation of new programs they thought might help students succeed. Though the tours were brief, each provided Dr. Ruffin and President Brown with an idea of school culture and climate as well as the special academic programs each might offer.



At Wilby High School, Dr. Ruffin checked out Wilby High School's electrathon program car as Mr. Boucher explained the requirements for competition.

Dr. Ruffin then spoke to students in an automotive class, along with President Brown and Principal Edwards.







Schools provided a warm, welcoming environment for returning students.

Dr. Ruffin took the opportunity to meet with as many staff people as possible during her morning tour of the schools.





During the week before school, Dr. Ruffin greeted new teachers at the New Teach Orientation, met families and representatives of Community organizations at the Back to School Rally, attended Professional Development sessions at both Kennedy and Crosby High Schools, and was welcomed at a Reception in her honor at Veterans Hall in City Hall on Friday.

Left, Dr. Ruffin joined members of the special education department staff at the department-wide Professional Development session held at Kennedy High School. Presenters livened up the event with white feather boas, black hats, and special shirts welcoming staff to a "Happy New School Year!"

Professional development at Crosby High School brought together elementary school teachers from throughout the district, along with elementary school administrators, and middle school science teachers, who all learned about the new science curriculum. Bilingual Department teachers also attended Professional Development activities at Crosby. Dr. Ruffin seemed very pleased with the professional development she saw unfolding, as did Dr. Whyte and Mr. Schwartz.



During her tour of Crosby with Instructional Leadership Director Paul Whyte and Chief Academic Officer Darren Schwartz, Dr. Ruffin paused to admire the courtyard at Crosby.

