

4th Graders at Maloney Magnet

### Inside the Issue

#### ACADEMIC ACADEMY

A school within a school, the Academic Academy at Wallace Middle School is a rigorous program with high expectations in academics, attendance and behavior.

#### SCHOOL TO WORK

A look at Wilby High School's Transition Academy. In its first year, the academy is teaching valuable life skills as students transition to a work setting.

#### MISSION AND VISION

On January 16, the Board of Education adopted a new mission, vision and set of core values for Waterbury Public Schools.


### A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT


Dear Parents, Families and Staff,

I hope you are settling into 2020 well. We expect an exciting and productive year ahead. In a continued effort to strengthen communication, I will publish a quarterly newsletter with valuable information, District happenings and notable achievements.

As we strive together to educate and prepare our students for graduation and beyond, I remain committed to engaging in thoughtful and inclusive dialogue. *(cont. on p. 3)*



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## ACADEMIC ACADEMY: WALLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Academic Academy at Wallace Middle School is flourishing with 150 students in grades four through eight currently enrolled. The students are engaged in a challenging and dynamic curriculum paired with electives



such as fine arts, physical education and computers. The Academy currently has ten teachers under the leadership of Principal Vin Balsamo and Program Supervisor Kathleen Ferrucci. We anticipate the Academy's enrollment will increase as we prepare for its second year. We are excited to see what lies ahead for this creative, inspiring and stimulating program.

## TRANSITION ACADEMY: WILBY HIGH SCHOOL

During the 2018-19 academic year, following input from administrators, teachers, parents, students and the community, the District identified the need for a community-based program that would serve students with disabilities between the ages of 19 and 21.

The 'School to Work Transition' Academy was launched this year and currently enrolls 15 students, who continue to advance their social, emotional and vocational skills. In December, the Academy's curriculum focused on getting around and public transportation as students prepare for independent living.



## NEW GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

For the Class of 2023, the credit requirement will increase to 25 credits and students must meet all requirements. In order for a student to graduate in 2020, 2021 and 2022, they must accumulate at least 22 credits.

### Promotion and Class Placement Credits

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Graduate
Class of 2020-2022	0-5 Credits	5.5-10 Credits	10.5-16 Credits	16.5-22 Credits	22 & met all graduation requirements
Class of 2023+	0-6 Credits	6.5-12 Credits	12.5-18 Credits	18.5+ Credits	25 & met all graduation requirements

## NEW WPS MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES

Following several collaborative sessions with the Connecticut Center for School Change, the Board of Education adopted a new mission, vision and set of core values for Waterbury Public Schools.

### Mission

The mission of Waterbury Public Schools is to inspire and prepare every student to be successful in and beyond school.

### Vision

ALL Waterbury Public Schools students will graduate ready to transform their world.

## BOE MEMBERS RECOGNIZED



Waterbury Board of Education Commissioners Charles Stango and Ann Sweeney recently achieved the designation of *Master Board of Education Member*, a prestigious honor from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

Congratulations and thank you for your years of dedicated service to the City of Waterbury!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT (CONT.)

We have made progress over the last several months with input from teachers, administrators, parents, the community and Board of Education. The *Portrait of a Graduate* was produced collectively and our work continues through engaging in a strategic planning process. We have met with the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and will now establish sub-committees based upon our direction and needs.

School districts are complex organizations, requiring significant thought, reflection and attention related to organizational beliefs, vision, mission and goals. The District's strategic plan will serve as a guiding path for years and have a lasting impact on our schools and city.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Verna D. Ruffin

### WARM WELCOME: STUDENT REGISTRATION CENTER

The Intake Center is now the Welcome Center and where new students will continue to go to enroll. It is still located at One Jefferson Square, however, it has a fresh look and houses the District's Education Liaison to Government, Business and Community, Liaison to the Homeless, Community Connection Coordinator and Busing Coordinator. The Center also offers bilingual and special education services.

With a dedicated staff, the Center is a one-stop location for families to register their children for school, obtain valuable information on school and District resources, seek student records and transportation information.

### NEW FOR 2020: ONLINE REGISTRATION

Parents can now register their children, grades Kindergarten through eight, online through the Power School portal. Parents must still submit all documentation in-person at the Welcome Center.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Superintendent's Student Recognition Awards

Tuesday, May 12

Kennedy High School 5:00 p.m.

### Teacher of the Year & Staff Awards

Wednesday, May 20

Crosby High School 4:00 p.m.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT ADVISORY

In September, Superintendent Ruffin began accepting applications for the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. The response was tremendous and more than 100 applications were received.

The council will meet every two months after school, beginning next month. Student representatives will share ideas and problem solve with Dr. Ruffin. At times, they will meet with the Superintendent's Executive Cabinet to learn more about the District and school leadership.

### IN THE WORKS: SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT'S ADVISORY

To ensure parents have an opportunity to engage with Dr. Ruffin, she will be creating a Superintendent's Parent Advisory. Members of the School Governance Council, District Parent Advisory Council, Family Resource Center and Welcome Center will be invited to join.

The first meeting will be announced on the District's website soon.

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