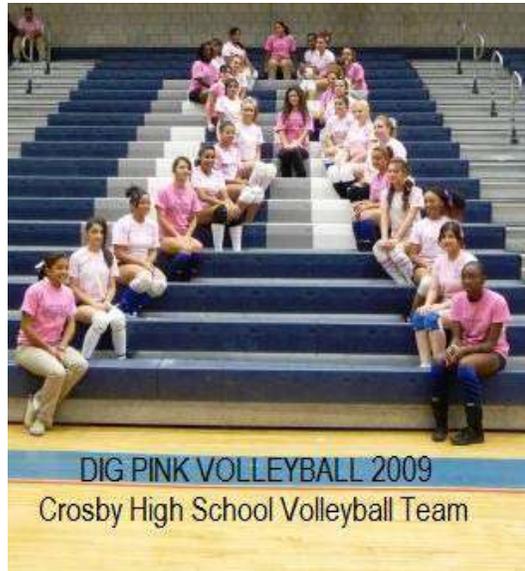


# Waterbury Public Schools News Update

Vol. 11, Issue 1

September / October 2009



## CROSBY HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN DIG PINK VOLLEYBALL EVENT

Crosby High School's Volleyball team participated in a 'Dig Pink Volleyball Event' and raised \$322.00 for cancer research for the SIDEOUT Foundation. On that day, the team played Holy Cross, who was also participating along with other NVL volleyball teams. The goal is to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research during the month of October.



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## Waterbury Schools And Students Improve Achievement on CMT, CAPT

David L. Snead, Ph.D.

We have received the results from our 2009 CMT and CAPT tests, and I am pleased to report that the overwhelming majority of our schools showed improvement and that the district overall has done well. In fact, the district as a whole has shown sustained growth in the major areas of Reading, Writing and Math on the CMTs.

The results include:

- at least two straight years of statistically significant growth in Reading, Writing and Math on the Connecticut Mastery Tests on the district level (whole district) in both Proficient and Goal level with three straight years of statistically significant improvement in math in

both Proficient and Goal

- growth in science at the proficient level (stayed the same at goal level)
- statistically significant growth at District Wide Grade Level in both Proficient and Goal in Reading (grade 3, grade 4, grade 5, grade 7), Writing (grade 5, grade 7), Math (grade 3, grade 4, grade 7) and Science (grade 5).
- statistically significant growth at District Wide Grade Level in either Proficient or Goal Level in Writing (grade 3 – proficient; grade 6 – proficient; grade 8 – proficient) and math (grade 4 – proficient)
- no statistically significant decreases in Proficient or Goal levels at district level by whole district, grade level or sub-group.
- statistically significant growth in CAPT scores for Reading (district level, both pro-

see page 12 for more information -

## NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT -

**Early Childhood Education Forum ----** Waterbury's School Readiness Council hosted an Early Childhood Education Forum in October. The Forum was attended by caregivers, educators, and government officials, including Senator Chris Murphy and State Senator Joan Hartley. Senator Murphy had requested the forum in order to learn more about Waterbury's successes in developing its comprehensive Bridge to Success plan and its needs as a community going forward in the area of early childhood education. Congress is currently considering a way to save billions of dollars from the way it handles the student loan program and may use some of that savings to fund some early childhood education initiatives. State Senator Hartley cautioned that, as a state, we need to set funding priorities for the next few years in areas such as early childhood education or we will find ourselves spending even more money later on to assist youngster and adults who are failing or getting into trouble.

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**Yale Physics Olympics ---** On Saturday, a team of four Kennedy HS students successfully participated in the Yale Physics Olympics: Chunze Chen, Captain; and Ruth Alladin, Jose Plasencia, and Raymond Ortiz. As in previous years, the theme of this competition was "Physics is Fun!" This year, 50 high school teams from New York, Rhode Island, and Connecticut participated. The Yale Physics Olympics is a pentathlon, consisting of five 40-minute physics events. The teams are ranked on the basis of their results as observed by the judges who are Yale physics professors and graduate students. An order-of-magnitude "Fermi" quiz is also included. After the last physics event, students had an opportunity to visit the Yale Nuclear Lab, the largest in the world at the university level.

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**Crosby Robotics Teams Wins Two -** Crosby High School's Robotics Team took first place trophies in the Table Displays and Interviews categories at this past Sunday's Robotics Competition held at Central Connecticut State University.

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**Mardi Gross Volunteers Thanked -** Ken Killer, chairman of this year's Mardi Gross Committee, sent his congratulations to Kennedy High School on the fine group of students that represented both Kennedy High School and Waterbury as volunteers at the Spirit of Waterbury Festival and Mardi Gross that was held on Sunday October 25 on the Green. In particular, he sent special kudos to Monique and Crystal Bellamere, who he described as "absolutely outstanding," and "always available and willing to help." He also sent congratulations to Renee McBride for the outstanding puppets that she and her art classes made. Kennedy was the only Waterbury High School that took the time to make parade puppets, and because of that, they walked off with the \$500 First Prize.

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### **Tinker School's STORM TEAM Formed ----**

Tinker School students have started a STORM Team (Special Team of Role Models) at the school. This team consists of 15 fifth graders and 10 fourth graders with Mr. Kevin Egan as their advisor. They will be doing community service projects, volunteering at the school functions, and serving as role models for the younger students here. Students on the team have been given special shirts that they wear to school and are very proud and excited about being chosen.

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**MINI METRIC OLYMPICS HELD AT WEST SIDE -----** West Side Middle School students in eight grade held a mini metric olympics in September. This event helped students estimate various units in metrics and and to check their measurements to see how accurate they were. According to Janine Thomas, Red House eighth grade science teacher, the school held several events including sponge squeeze and paper plate throw. the activities helped reinforce CMT tasks.



## Office Max Honors Veteran Teacher

Office Max honored Jeanette Tapper recently as this year's "A Day Made Better" teacher for the Waterbury store. Several Office Max employees surprised Mrs. Tapper in her classroom at Gilmartin School. As part of the recognition, Mrs. Tapper received a new chair, a digital camera, a new printer for the classroom, and school supplies totaling up to \$1,000. Mrs. Tapper is a veteran teacher who has 40 years of teaching experience.

**Paul Mazzaccaro** has recently been named a liaison to the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials. The CASBO provides on-going professional development and support to its members, assuring an effective presence in our school districts.

**Louise Allen Brown**, the district's Competitive Grants Writer and former chairman of the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board has stepped down as chairman of the PPB, effective October 7. It is a position she has passionately held for the past four years. To honor her many accomplishments as Chairman, Mayor Michael Jarjura proclaimed October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as a special day of recognition for her. Among the many accomplishments cited in the proclamation are: incorporating the 40 Developmental Assets into the Waterbury community; leading an effort to merge the updated 2008 Youth Plan into the Bridge to Success- Preparing Waterbury Youth for Life: A Birth to 21 Initiative; and securing significant funding for programs to benefit the children of Waterbury.

### Paul Guidone Honored by AGC of CT

Paul Guidone received a "Public Owner Award" from the Associated General Contractors of America - Connecticut for his contributions to the many school projects he has overseen both here in Waterbury and in New Haven. The award was presented to him during an annual recognition awards and dinner on October 13.

Paul has served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Waterbury public Schools since 2002, administering the finance, operations and support services for the district.



**Crosby High School** continued its tradition of honoring those who died on 9/11, especially former Crosby student David Carlone. Student participants this year included:

Presentation of Colors: CHS JROTC

SUMMARY OF THE TRAGIC DAY -  
DENESSA PACK - CLASS OF 2010  
JASON STURDIVANT - CLASS OF 2010-  
BULLDOG BATTALLION COMMANDER

REFLECTIONS  
BRIONIE MCINTOSH CLASS OF 2010  
NORBERT SZMYT

LAYING OF THE WREATH  
EJ SCOTT CLASS OF 2010  
YASMIN ASANTE CLASS OF 2010  
KEVIN PEREZ CLASS OF 2010

SINGING OF "GOD BLESS THE USA"  
SENIOR CLASS

## NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT -

Administrator and teacher teams attended a two day professional development session on August 17 and August 18 on the topic of Professional Learning Communities, and these teams brought the concept back to the remaining staff with ins-service trainings over the past two days. The PLC concept will remain a focus throughout this year's professional development offerings, serving as a foundation with which to consider other issues and strategies.

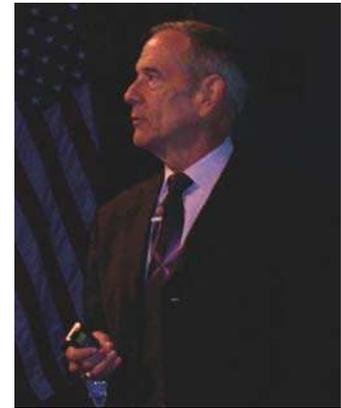
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THE WATERBURY BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY was once again a huge success. Many parents and students came to Library Park on Wednesday to celebrate the return to school.



Dr. George Sugai

Teachers and administrators also took the time to comment positively on our **Convocation**, which was held the day before school opening. For the first time, the assembled staff included paraprofessionals. The Convocation featured two national speakers, Dr. George Sugai and Dr. Richard DuFour. Dr. Sugai spoke about positive behavior supports and Dr. DuFour spoke about professional learning communities. Staff said the day's events provided them with excitement about the coming school year. They started the school off with great motivation to succeed.



Dr. Richard DuFour

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For the first time, Waterbury Public Schools conducted a Three Day New Teacher Orientation program. This was a very comprehensive session, conducted with the assistance of the WTA, SAW and Central Office under the direction of Ron Frost.

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Waterbury administrators attended a Change Academy workshop presented by ACES in September. During the workshop, participants collaborated in teams to convince a fictional school district to adopt a new educational concept. Along the way, the teams discovered what works and what does not work in trying to convince large numbers of people to adopt new strategies.

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**RACE TO THE TOP** ---- School officials have been meeting with State Education Commissioner Mark McQuillen and several other superintendents to discuss the Race to the Top proposal. Earlier this year, the Waterbury Board of Education voted to send a letter expressing the district's possible interest in participating. As part of the ongoing meetings, School Superintendent David L. Snead, Ph.D. has brought with him a brief explanation of some of the strategies the district has found successful here in Waterbury and would like to expand.



ESL students from Tinker who passed the CMT or made significant gains were invited to special dinner at Chili's. Families, children, principals, classroom teachers and ESL teacher Suzanne Dali-Parker were all in attendance, about 45 people in total.

Pictured: ESL students Mixtli Suarez, Kiana Colon, Diana Debrito, Jason Bello, Trevi Alikoli and Gilberto Ortiz., ( two of which are now at Westside Middle School), ESL teacher is Mrs. Dali-Parker (K-5) and classroom teachers Nancy Devylder (Grade 5) and Christine Boccardi (Grade 4) as well as Tinker School Principal Lauren Elias and VP Debra Ponte. The families also attended and enjoyed the event! It was a great evening!

The 21st Century Learning Centers Cohort VII planned and completed a field trip to New York City on Saturday, September 26th, for 84 students (grades 3, 4, and 5) from five schools (Barnard, Tinker, Sprague, Wilson, and Washington) to view a production of *The Lion King*. The students were prepared for the production by participating in art lessons at the Mattatuck Museum involving masks, references to classical literary texts through visual representation, and the history and technique for the construction of mobiles. A prelude field trip was completed two weeks ago to the New Britain Museum of American Art, where the students looked at painting and sculpture that are pertinent to the set design of *The Lion King*. *Students behaved well on both field trips.*



Waterbury's District Improvement Plan Executive Committee will continue meeting this year with state officials to discuss implementation of the District Improvement Plan. This year, the team will be briefly reviewing some data from last year and considering whether or not to make changes to the DIP, based on that review. For example, the district may find that it has accomplished certain steps and no longer needs to monitor the adult actions, or it may eliminate one or more strategies associated with a goal or change what those strategies are.

**Kingsbury** participated in an **International Walk Your Child To School Day** on October 7. After learning safety rules from representatives of the Waterbury police Department, students walked around the block, practicing safety rules, then visited several exhibits, including a fire truck, an ambulance and a FedEx delivery truck. One of the highlights was a roll over car exhibit, which demonstrated what happens during a roll over accident when passengers (or the driver) are not safely belted in.



## Catch It Before We Are Famous

The Kennedy High School volleyball team won its first championship of any kind recently, the Naugatuck Valley League Copper Division title. The team accomplished this with a 3-0 victory over Crosby. Kennedy had a 16-1 record at that point in this season, with no losses in the Copper Division.



### MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

N.E.M.S Soccer - Franco Qyteti.

N.E.M.S Volleyball - Talia Ortiz

Wallace Soccer - Kostika Kosova.

Wallace Volleyball - Iesha Matos



**Joe Polaco**, a KHS senior and all-NVL swimmer, was one of eight athletes from the Waterbury area who represented the Waterbury YMCA Barracuda Swim Team at the 2009 YMCA Long Course National Swimming Championship. The meet was held at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. Joe competed in the 50 meter freestyle (27.34), 50 meter butterfly (28.63), and as part of the 200 meter freestyle

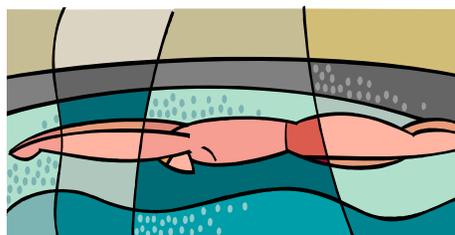
and 400 meter medley relays. He was the first Waterbury Public School swimmer to compete in a Y National meet since Jeremy Traylor, a KHS alum, back in 1993.

The Barracudas, coached by KHS bio teacher Ryan Walker, also sent six swimmers from Sacred Heart High School and one from Watertown High School to the meet. Seven of

those swimmers, including Polaco, are already eligible for the 2010 Long Course meet, and will begin working in mid-September to qualify for the 2010 Short Course meet, held in April in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

SUBMITTED BY:

R. Walker  
Biology / Human Biology  
John F. Kennedy HS



## New For This Year

We will be introducing Professional Learning Communities. This concept was introduced last year as part of our District Improvement Plan process, but we will be moving forward with implementation this school year. PLC has been a topic at several workshops this summer and will continue as a topic for all upcoming professional development throughout the district. Basically, Professional Learning Communities are places where learning is valued and where everyone supports learning. In our schools, this means we will be moving forward as a team to assure that all of our students are learning. Teachers, administrators and support staff will work together and share knowledge and best practices to enhance the learning environment for students and to utilize the best possible educational strategies for teaching students.

We are initiating our new Middle School Accelerated Academies. Selected students in our middle schools will have the opportunity to participate in a smaller learning community where they will receive advanced instruction, similar to what our high school students receive through the ACE, ATOMS, and SOAR programs in our three comprehensive high schools.

We will be increasing the use of common formative assessments throughout the district.

We are improving our technology by purchasing additional new Smart Boards for more classrooms this year, utilizing ARRA funds. These Smart Boards are essential new tools for today's modern teacher, enabling him or her to provide a more interactive learning environment for students.

We are in our second year of CommPACT Schools at West Side Middle School and Washington Elementary School.

We are in our second year of a Literacy Academy at Wendell Cross School.

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## Intern From The Netherlands Staying at Crosby High School

Southern CT State University is hosting social work students this year from The Netherlands and sharing them with both the Waterbury and Seymour Public School Systems.

Karin Willers, the social work student assigned to Crosby, will be interning at the school until October 23rd. Karin will be at Crosby every day except for Wednesday's when she will be attending class at Southern. The hope is that she will not only be able to observe the school's social work team but also observe many of the programs and staff that Crosby has to offer its special education students (for example, a school psychologist, guidance counselor, the resource room, CBT, BDLC, co-taught classrooms, PPT meetings, etc.).

In particular, Karin is excited to learn the difference in school systems between The Netherlands and the United States.

News Item submitted by  
Dana Forino, Crosby High School

CBIA Press Release on Project Opening Doors  
August 25, 2009

**CBIA'S PROJECT OPENING DOORS A BIG SUCCESS IN FIRST YEAR**  
**Increases in math, science and English scores, particularly among minority students**

The Connecticut Business & Industry Association's (CBIA's) Project Opening Doors (POD) has successfully completed its first year with impressive results. POD has increased the number of passing scores in Advanced Placement (AP) math, science, and English exams by students in nine Connecticut high schools, according to the 2009 Advanced Placement results released by the College Board.

The nine Connecticut districts participating in POD increased their passing rate for math, science, and English AP exams by 12 percent overall. That's over twice the national average and three times the overall state average.

While representing close to 6 percent of the state's total enrollment, the nine schools accounted for 13 percent of the increase of the state's math, science, and English (MSE) exams passed and more than half (51 percent) of the state's increase in MSE AP exams taken.

POD's nine schools represent 12 percent of the state's high school minority enrollment and had a 26 percent increase in the number of minority students passing AP exams and a 104 percent increase in the number of minority students taking those exams.

John R. Rathgeber, CBIA president and CEO, expressed considerable pleasure with the project's first-year results in the nine member schools. "The results solidly confirm the efficacy of the intensive intervention provided by Project Opening Doors, and they bolster our efforts to close the achievement gap in Connecticut."

"This project proves that all students, including those in the inner cities and low income populations, if given the chance, are capable of learning at higher levels," said Governor M. Jodi Rell. "Together we must continue our efforts to support programs that successfully provide students with the education they need to be successful in college and the workforce—because today's students are tomorrow's leaders and Connecticut's future."

"The data confirm our belief that more and more of our students are interested in taking part in rigorous coursework and demanding curriculum today," said State Education Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan. "They want the challenge and rise to the occasion. I am proud to see the strong response in so many of our schools that have not been able to offer AP courses to a wide range of students. I know that this will provide a foundation for new policy as we move toward secondary school reform in Connecticut."

The National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) funded POD in Connecticut and programs in five other states to enhance student performance in AP math, science, and English courses. The programs in Connecticut, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Virginia emphasize a combination of enhanced teacher training, teacher incentives, student scholarships, student prep sessions and master teacher men-

continue reading this article on page 13

PRESS RELEASE - Additional Information  
August 25, 2009

AP results confirm CBIA's Project Opening Doors increases student achievement in math, science, and English, particularly with minority populations.

**HARTFORD – The College Board has released the 209 Advanced Placement results and they confirm that the focused efforts provided by Project Opening Doors has increased the number of passing scores in AP math, science, and English exams by 12.3 percent among students in the nine participating schools.**

Project Opening Doors (POD) is one of six replication projects funded by the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) to enhance student performance in AP math, science, and English courses. The six participating states are Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Virginia. The six replication projects emphasize a combination of enhanced teacher training, teacher incentives, student scholarships, student prep sessions and master teacher mentoring. AP results in math, science, and English in Connecticut and the other NMSI states show that such a focused approach works.

During its first year in operation POD assisted nine districts in increasing the passing rate for math, science, and English AP exams by 12.3 percent. For minority students the increase was 26.2 percent!

The nine schools in POD's first cohort are Ansonia, Bulkely (Hartford), Coventry, East Hartford, New Britain, New London, Putnam, Westhill (Stamford), and Wilby (Waterbury). While representing only 5.8% of the state's total enrollment, these nine schools accounted for 13% of the increase of the state's math, science, and English (MSE) exams passed and accounted for 51.3% of the state's increase in MSE AP exams taken.

Cam Vautour, President of POD expressed considerable pleasure with the project's first year results and was particularly happy with minority representation in the nine member schools. "For years we have seen discouraging results in our efforts to close the achievement gap in Connecticut. POD demonstrates that high quality support services can make a difference".

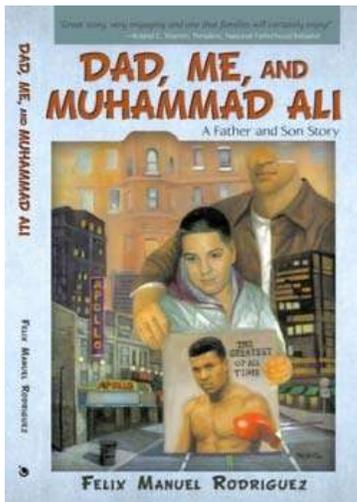
POD's Cohort 1 schools consisted of 12.2% of the state's high school minority enrollment and had a 26.3% increase in the number of minority students passing and 103.6% increase in the number of minority students taking AP exams. When the nine POD schools are removed from the state results, the rest of the state actually had a decrease in the number of minority exams passed and in the number of minority exams taken.

POD's positive impact was seen not only with minority populations but also with the state's low income students. Within the nine Cohort 1 schools is a population consisting of 11.0% of the state's high school low income student enrollment. POD schools accounted for 35.0% of all passing MSE scores by low income students in the state and accounted for 42.7% of all MSE exams taken by low income students in the state. POD had a 10.1% increase in the number of passing MSE exams among low income students and a 47.7% increase in the number of MSE exams taken by low income students. When POD schools are removed from the comparisons, the rest of the state had a decrease in the number of low income students taking and passing MSE exams.

Female student involvement in MSE AP courses is greater for POD schools than the state as a whole. POD's Cohort 1 Schools consisted of 5.8% of the state's total high school female enrollment yet accounted for 26.5% of the increase of the state's math and science exams taken by females. Pod schools also accounted for 62.0% of the state's increase in female math and science exams taken

## Book Published by Waterbury Native - Former Waterbury Student Offers to Speak at Schools

**Felix Manuel Rodriguez** is a state child welfare employee, vice president of a local non-profit human service organization, and professional boxing inspector. He is also an assistant youth coach, police commissioner, but more importantly, a proud father of two. This is his first book.



Felix Rodriguez spoke to students at North End Middle School earlier this year about his experiences growing up and how he decided to write this book. Students were especially intrigued to learn that Felix attended North End Middle School as a student.

**Contact:** Felix M. Rodriguez  
dadmeandali@yahoo.com

### **DAD, ME, and MUHAMMAD ALI: A FATHER and SON STORY**

By Felix Manuel Rodriguez

*In recognition of celebrating 100 Years of Father's Day in America, newly acclaimed author Felix Manuel Rodriguez releases his first book entitled Dad, Me, and Muhammad Ali: A Father and Son Story published by iUniverse.*

Jo-Jo's dad is an Aliologist, someone who considers himself an expert on all things Muhammad Ali! When Jo-Jo accidentally damages his dad's favorite Muhammad Ali autographed picture, he knows that he must do whatever he can to make it up to his dad, even if it means spending all of his money to replace it. But how can he do that? It's a one-of-a-kind picture! What can he do to make it up to his dad?

Then, a miraculous opportunity opens up for Jo-Jo and his father. So, he takes his dad on an incredible adventure to Harlem in New York City that he hopes will show his dad just how much he means to him. And they meet some pretty wonderful people along the way!

***Dad, Me, and Muhammad Ali*** takes the reader on a journey through a son's heart as he tries to find the best way to make amends for an accident that damages his father's most prized possession. It's the heart-warming story of a loyal son and his loving father and a magical afternoon that changes both of their lives forever!

## Waterbury Gets Funding for Three After-School Programs

The Waterbury Public Schools will receive new funding this year for three 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center after-school programs. The three programs funded are the “Downtown Academy” (serving approximately 100 middle school students at several downtown sites), the “Dare to Dream” program (serving up to 180 high school students) and the “Afterschool Adventures” program (serving a total of 80 students at Carrington School and 80 students at Walsh School in grades 3, 4 and 5).

The Downtown Academy will serve students from North End Middle School, Wallace Middle School and West Side Middle School. The partner sites are the YMCA, the Mattatuck Museum, Connecticut Junior Republic, and Waterbury Youth Service Systems. Certified teachers will join agency staff to offer integrated academic, enrichment and recreational activities. A strong literacy component, math and science component, health and wellness, and recreation component are planned. Students will have many opportunities to learn from fun, hands-on activities, including “all-academy” activities such as a “Spring Academy Olympics.”

The Dare to Dream Program is a new concept for high school students. Offered in partnership with Naugatuck Valley Community College and the Mattatuck Museum, the program will allow high school students to build their proficiency in math and English while supporting their enthusiasm and interest in the performing arts of dance, voice and theater. Instructors for the program will come from NVCC, thereby allowing Waterbury high school students a chance to experience an introduction to higher education.

The Afterschool Adventures program at Walsh and Carrington Elementary Schools will operate four days per week, three hours per day and will provide students with a strong literacy component, a math component, a science and technology component, health and wellness and recreation activities centered around specific themes. Some of the planned activities include: an arts initiative with the Mattatuck Museum, a theater journalism project with the Palace Theater, “Nature Hunts” outdoors, and more.

Information on these programs will be available soon at the participating schools.

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**Kennedy High School** is in the midst of its **NEASC accreditation process**. The school recently hosted a NEASC site visit. This is a major component of the NEASC accreditation process.

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### Members of the current Waterbury Prevention Policy Board Executive Committee:

- Cathy Awwad, Executive Director - Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board
- Louise Allen Brown, Grant Writer - Waterbury Public Schools
- Attorney Theresa Caldarone, Counsel to Mayor - Office of the Mayor
- Kelly Cronin, Executive Director - Waterbury Youth Service System, Inc.
- Jennifer DeWitt, Executive Director - Central Naugatuck Valley RAC
- Bryan R. Hall, Field Director - Connecticut Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Neil O’Leary, Acting Chief of Police - Town of Wolcott
- Jim O’Rourke, Executive Director - Greater Waterbury YMCA
- Sandy Porteus, Executive Director - Family Services of Greater Waterbury
- Attorney Elaine Skoronski, IDEA Grant Coordinator - Waterbury Special Services in Waterbury Public Schools

Sandy Porteus was elected chairperson of the PPB for the coming year. As you know, under Louise Allen Brown’s leadership, this group has done a wonderful job in pulling together the many youth-focused agencies here in Waterbury and helping the local community adopt the 40 Developmental Assets.

## CMT / CAPT Results (continued)

ficient and goal).

- growth in CAPT scores for math, reading and writing (district level, both proficient and goal) sustained growth in CAPT scores for math and writing over the past three years

Statewide changes to both the CMT and CAPT were implemented for the 2008-2009 test period pertaining to Special Education students. Prior to this year, Special Education students participated by completing a standard test or a special skills checklist (if they were deemed severely cognitively impaired). Beginning with this test year, these students had a third option - the Modified Assessment System designed for a subset of the special education population not likely to reach proficiency on the standard test despite appropriate instruction. Schools determined which students qualified for the MAS based on state guidelines, and this selection was

reviewed by the state DOE. Participation in MAS varied from school to school, depending on the specific special education population. The CMT and CAPT results released by the state for all school districts do not include MAS results.

These results also indicate that we are on target to meet our District Improvement Plan's Tier One Indicators of 15% improvement in student achievement in math and literacy as evidenced by the CMTs in math, reading and writing and by the CAPTs in reading. These indicators were adopted after consultation with the State of Connecticut Department of Education and were selected as being suitable target goals for a district with our demographics and previous test results.

We are excited by these results. Our efforts to improve student achievement as evidenced by these tests have begun to pay off. This is especially true in the lower grades as evidenced by our CMT scores but also in our high schools as well where growth has been slower but has been sustained. Our students are making progress, and we applaud their efforts, as well as the efforts of parents, staff and the community in supporting our youngsters.

David L. Snead, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

### Standardized Test Results 2008 2009

#### CMT District Results All Grades (Proficient, Levels 3, 4, 5)

Year	Math	Reading	Writing	Science
05-06	58.6%	48.3%	69.5%	NA
06-07	61.8%*	48.3%	69.4%	NA
07-08	64.3%*	51.1%*	66.7%*	50.9%
08-09	69.7%*	56.5%*	71.3%*	51.8%

#### CMT District Results – All Grades (Goal, Levels 4, 5)

Year	Math	Reading	Writing	Science
05-06	29.5%	32.3%	39.8%	NA
06-07	34.9%*	32.8%	40.0%	NA
07-08	37.0%*	35.0%*	38.0%*	22.3%
08-09	40.7%*	39.3%*	41.7%*	23.3%

#### CAPT District Results (Proficient, Levels 3, 4, 5)

Year	Math	Science	Reading	Writing
06-07	47.7%	46.7%	55.5%	66.2%
07-08	48.3%	47.9%	57.2%	76.6%*
08-09	49.1%	47.2%	67.0%*	78.6%

#### CAPT District Results (Goal, Levels 4, 5)

Year	Math	Science	Reading	Writing
06-07	12.8%	10.4%	17.5%	26.1%
07-08	14.5%	15.0%*	15.4%	29.4%
08-09	15.1%	11.7%	23.1%*	32.9%

\* Statistically Significant Increases (not due to chance)

Overall math growth CMT proficiency – 5.4 percentage points  
 Overall reading growth CMT proficiency – 5.4 percentage points  
 Overall writing growth CMT proficiency – 4.6 percentage points  
 Overall science growth CMT proficiency – 0.9 percentage points  
 Overall math growth CAPT proficiency – 0.8 percentage points  
 Overall reading growth CAPT proficiency – 9.8 percentage points  
 Overall writing growth CAPT proficiency – 2.0 percentage points  
 Overall science growth CAPT proficiency – -0.7 percentage points (DECLINE)

ELL's on CMT – 12.1%  
 ELL's on CAPT – 11.1%

"The results show that Wilby increased its enrollment in AP courses by 51% and qualifying scores by 81% over 2008."

Robyn Apicella, Principal  
Wilby High School

toring.

Dr. Cam Vautour, president of POD, is particularly happy with minority representation in the nine member schools. "The College Board scores prove that more-rigorous coursework combined with a multifaceted teacher and student support network is successful in improving student achievement, especially with underrepresented students in AP classes, giving them the knowledge and skills to be successful in college. POD clearly demonstrates that high quality support services can make a difference."

POD also had a positive impact on the state's low-income and female populations.

- The nine POD schools represent 11 percent of the state's low-income high school student enrollment. POD schools accounted for 35 percent of all passing MSE scores by low-income students in the state and accounted for 43 percent of all MSE exams taken by low-income students in the state.

- POD schools had a

10 percent increase in the number of passing MSE exams among low-income students and a 47 percent increase in the number of MSE exams taken by low-income students.

- POD represents only 6 percent of the state's total high school female enrollment yet accounted for 27 percent of the increase in the state's math and science exams passed and a 62 percent increase in the number of exams taken by female students. POD schools had a 137 percent increase in the number of female students taking MSE exams and a 47 percent increase in the number passing those exams.

The nine high schools participating in POD are Ansonia, Bulkeley (Hartford), Coventry, East Hartford, New Britain, New London, Putnam, West Hill (Stamford), and Wilby (Waterbury).

"As a college-preparatory high school, we know that access to Advanced Placement coursework is ultimately tied to admissions and success in our students' post-secondary

educational plans," said Gayle Allen-Greene, Bulkeley Upper High School principal. "I am extremely proud of my Advanced Placement teachers and their commitment to our students and POD. Without them and POD, we would not have the success that we have reached to date."

"The POD project is so compatible to the work we are doing in the Stamford Public Schools," said Camille Figluizzi, principal of West Hill High School in Stamford. "All of our curriculum decisions are around how to make all of our students college ready, and the expectations that are part of the POD work are helping us raise the bar."

Beginning in September, 12 more Connecticut high schools from across the state are joining the initiative, providing students, especially those in underserved minority groups, the opportunity to be successful participants in the future workforce. The new schools are: The Academy of Engineering and Green Technology, Hartford; Bacon High School, Colchester; Bloomfield High School; Cooperative Arts and Humanities Magnet High School, New Haven; Hill Regional Career High School, New Haven; Bas-

sick High School, Bridgeport; Parish Hill High School, Chaplin; Plainville High School; Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven; Windham High School, Willimantic; Windsor High School; and Windsor Locks High School.

"With a high-tech economy requiring advanced skills in math and science, it is essential that Connecticut's young people have the skills necessary for today's highly competitive global marketplace," said Rathgeber.

"POD has proven in just its first year that it can help address the state's educational achievement gap, and the program is growing to help more students master and graduate with the rigorous advanced-level math and science courses they need to be successful in the future."

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CBIA is the state's largest business organization, with 10,000 members.

## 'Fun With Physics' Booklet Contains Numerous Projects

# Quassy Teams Up With American Association Of Physics Teachers To Present New Program

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – Middle and elementary school students will have the opportunity to learn first-hand about the scientific properties of popular amusement rides in a new program being launched by Quassy Amusement Park for 2010.

"Fun With Physics at Quassy Amusement Park" is a workbook containing more than 30 pages of educational projects incorporating many of the mechanical rides at the lakeside park. The recently-completed project was coordinated through and approved by the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) in College Park, Md.

"Students who think about and experience physics in the park develop a deeper understanding of the principles taught in the classroom," noted Dr. Warren W. Hein, executive officer of AAPT. "By becoming part of the laboratory equipment, the students experience the excitement of understanding and learning along with the enjoyment of the rides."

The Quassy project was designed for students to work individually or in teams as they go to various rides, making observations and calculations. "After receiving a request from some faculty members to create such an educational program, we embarked on a mission to do just that," said George Frantzis II, a co-owner of the 102-year-old amusement park. "This workbook not only complements our existing educational programs, but provides a comprehensive learning experience like never before offered at Quassy," Frantzis added.

### **Day Of Learning**

The pamphlet outlines goals and objectives, contains pre-trip activities and numerous in-park projects for middle and elementary school students. The booklet will be provided in advance via e-mail or on a compact disc to schools scheduling educational fieldtrips.

"There are enough projects outlined in the booklet to fill an entire day," the park official added. "Or, some faculty members may select only a handful of experiments to complete. The flexibility to pick as little or as much as you want makes this a very attractive educational tool."

Students will learn about roller coaster and bumper car physics, giant pendulums, spinning wheels and hydraulics. Calculating speeds and other math problems are also part of the self-guided project. Teachers can duplicate the pages they want completed during their park visit.

For more information about AAPT visit [www.aapt.org](http://www.aapt.org).

### **Other Educational Offerings**

Quassy Amusement Park offers a variety of free educational programs for schools. Among the offerings: = "Wacky Science" - A 30-minute interactive stage presentation guaranteed to educate as well as entertain. Students uncork some "Wacky Science" experiments to tease the eyes and mind.

= "Commotion About Motion" – A popular guided walking tour with a handful of experiments for classes on a tight schedule.

= "History Tour" – Behind-The-Scenes look at Quassy Amusement Park, which is one of only 11 remaining "trolley parks" still operating in the United States.

= "ABCs About News" – Workshop where students become reporters and learn to write a news story.

= "Student Photo Essay Contest" – Digital cameras as prizes for elementary, middle and high schools.

= "Art In The Park" – Sidewalk art competition in late May with divisions for elementary, middle and high schools.

= "School Music Festival" – Annual June event featuring elementary, middle and high school bands, choruses, orchestras.

= "Roller Coaster Model Contest" – Built it and they will come to see it operate. Divisions for elementary, middle and high schools. Late spring.

Schools wishing to book educational fieldtrips should call the Quassy office at 203-758-2913 ext. 105.

For more information about Quassy Amusement Park visit [www.quassy.com](http://www.quassy.com).