



# Welcome Back!

August 18, 2017

It is my pleasure to welcome students and families back to school! It was a very busy summer filled with many projects and initiatives. In addition to information regarding staffing, new programs and progress with the Ten-Year Elementary Facilities Plan, this newsletter also includes important information regarding the new point of sale system in our school cafeterias, and a quick overview of our new website.

This is an unprecedented time of change in the district. Over the summer 2,800 boxes were packed, moved and unpacked. Across the district 165 teachers moved to a classroom different than the one they taught in previously. Our staff's flexibility, resiliency and professionalism is what allowed this change to occur so smoothly. I thank our educators, support staff, facilities staff and IT staff for the countless hours put in this summer to ensure we will be able to welcome more than 4,100 students to safe, clean and welcoming buildings.

At this time last year we were in the midst of construction of the new Orchard Hill School. The cranes and bulldozers are long gone and I am pleased to report that we are ready to open our doors to approximately 623 students and families who will be entering a beautiful building that is being completed on time and on budget! The new school is more than just bricks and mortar, however. It serves as an important symbol for the South Windsor community. The overwhelming support for Phase Two (Eli Terry and Philip R. Smith) at last March's referendum was a sign of this community's continuing commitment to the Ten Year Plan. I am heartened by our residents, community leaders and parents who have come together to work toward the common goal of investing in our children and our town's future.

The support for public education in South Windsor is becoming well known across the region and we continue to attract families who seek outstanding schools. This is most clearly evidenced by the growing number of new families registering this summer. In just the past two weeks alone we have registered more than 70 new students, and over the summer we welcomed more than 90 families who are new to South Windsor.

I hope the information found in this newsletter is helpful to families. I thank you for partnering with us to ensure that South Windsor maintains its commitment to high quality schools led by talented educators and support staff who are dedicated to the success of the children and families we serve.

We look forward to welcoming your children back on August 30th!

Sincerely,

*KATE CARTER*

Kate Carter, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Opening of New Orchard Hill School ..... 2

Phase Two Update ..... 2

New Culinary Program Launches for SWHS Students ..... 3

Food Services New Point of Sale System..... 3

Elementary STEM Program Expands to All Schools ..... 3

New Website Platform ..... 4

Welcome New Certified Staff ..... 4

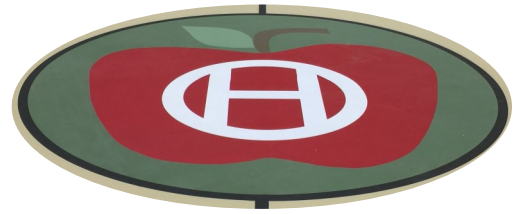
Back to School Reminders ..... 5

**SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS VISION STATEMENT**

South Windsor Public Schools promotes an engaging and dynamic culture of learning that prepares students to achieve their own individual excellence. Within an emotionally safe environment, educators will foster students' academic, social and personal growth. Our students will demonstrate critical and creative thinking, self-direction, collaboration, adaptability, compassion and civic responsibility in an ever-changing global society.

## OPENING OF NEW ORCHARD HILL SCHOOL

The first grand opening event for the new Orchard Hill School occurred on Monday, August 14 when more than 400 Orchard Hill students and their families attended a special open house. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and everyone is excited to begin the school year at the new facility. Principal Mike Tortora sent a communication to families detailing the new traffic pattern. We encourage parents to become familiar with these details prior to the first day of school.



On Saturday, August 26, everyone is invited to join members of the Board of Education, Town Council and Public Building Commission for the Orchard Hill Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. We are excited to celebrate this important milestone in South Windsor's Elementary Facilities Master Plan. Tours of the new school will be offered immediately following the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

### **Orchard Hill Elementary School—Ribbon Cutting and Public Tours**

**Saturday, August 26 at 11:00 a.m.**



## PHASE TWO UPDATE

In March 2017, the Town of South Windsor voted to approve Phase Two of the South Windsor Public Schools 10-Year Elementary Facilities Master Plan. Phase Two includes the construction of new buildings for both Eli Terry Elementary School and Philip R. Smith Elementary School. Since approval of the referendum, the School Construction Grant (SCG) applications have been filed with the state; the Public Building Commission has approved the architect firm of Moser Pilon Nelson Architects, LLC; and Colliers International has been selected as the Owner's Representative.

Students enrolled in Eli Terry will remain in their existing building until construction of the new Eli Terry school building is complete, which is expected to occur in August 2020. Students enrolled in Philip R. Smith will remain in their existing building through the end of this school year. PRS students will then move to the swing space school (old Orchard Hill building) beginning in August 2018, and remain there for two years while their new school is built on the existing PRS campus. The new PRS building is expected to open in August 2020.

## NEW CULINARY PROGRAM LAUNCHES FOR SWHS STUDENTS

South Windsor High School will launch a new culinary program housed in the kitchen of the Wapping School building. Over 100 students have enrolled in Principles of Food Preparation and/or Principles of Baking. These new courses will be aligned to state standards, promote restaurant and food management careers, and provide hands-on experiences preparing foods for monthly dining events. SWHS last offered culinary classes in 1996.

South Windsor High School is excited to welcome Keri Smart as a family and consumer sciences teacher. Ms. Smart taught at Timothy Edwards Middle School last year. In addition to teaching safe food handling practices, cooking skills, and baking techniques, Ms. Smart will collaborate with Manchester Community College faculty to articulate SWHS's culinary classes with MCC's Culinary Arts program.



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## FOOD SERVICES NEW POINT OF SALE SYSTEM

South Windsor Food Services is using a new Point of Sale system for all food and meal purchases in the school cafeterias. Beginning this school year, all students will use their **Student ID** number at the register to make their food purchases. This unique number is assigned when a student is registered in South Windsor Public Schools. Parents are encouraged to confirm whether their child is familiar with his/her student ID. If you are not familiar with this 5-digit number, you can retrieve it through ParentPortal. We will be providing cards to our K-3 classrooms to assist with the learning of their codes; however, we do strongly suggest that students practice on a calculator or a computer number pad prior to the start of school to help alleviate any wait times in the lunch line.

In addition to the new point of sale system, **EzSchoolPay** is a new online system that will be used to make payments, track purchases and receive low balance notifications (the district is no longer using PayPams). Please note that all money on account as of the last day of the 2016-2017 school year has been transferred into the new system. Once the system is live, parents will be notified via email so that accounts can be created for student(s) prior to the start of school.

We are excited for these changes, and hope that the use of the Student ID number will help streamline this process. Additional information is available on our website ([www.southwindsorschools.org/foodservices](http://www.southwindsorschools.org/foodservices)).

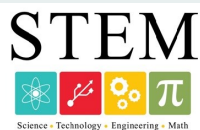


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## ELEMENTARY S.T.E.M. PROGRAM EXPANDS TO ALL SCHOOLS

Following a successful pilot at Philip R. Smith Elementary last year, we are excited to expand our S.T.E.M. program into all four of our elementary schools. STEM educates students by integrating the four disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The South Windsor STEM program uses the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch program, a curriculum designed especially for the elementary learner. PLTW is aligned with the Common Core for Math and English language arts (ELA), and corresponds with the new Next Generation Science Standards. In addition to teaching the engineering design process and introducing the idea of STEM to students early in their education, this program reinforces skills learned in other areas. Through the PLTW model, students are engaged in solving real life problems by designing and testing different solutions. The students will apply their new knowledge to different situations throughout the school year.

STEM classes will be held once a week for K-2 students, and twice each week for students in grades 3-5. It is our hope that by igniting an excitement for science and technology through this early exposure, our students will develop an increased passion for these areas later on in their education and beyond.

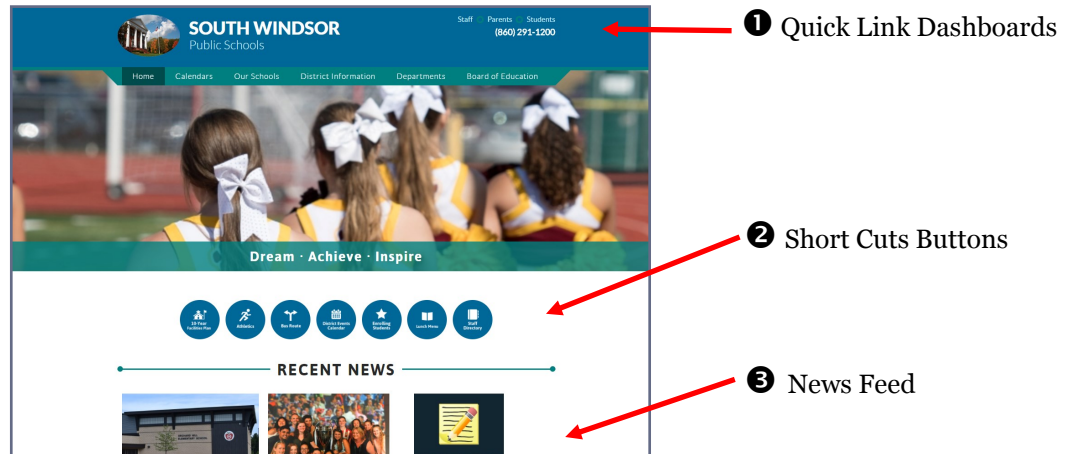


## NEW WEBSITE FOR SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

On July 1, South Windsor Public Schools migrated to a new website platform. This change provides a fresh look, streamlined navigation, and updated content.

Whether you're on the district homepage, or any of the school specific websites, the following are a few tips for navigating the new system:

1. Quick link "dashboards" for **Staff • Parents • Students** at the top of every page. These dashboards provide links to useful tools and resources.
2. Short cut buttons to help you navigate to frequently used information such as Lunch Menus, Bus Routes and Staff Directory.
3. Highlights of recent news and information from the district and our schools.
4. Our URL is the same: [www.southwindsorschools.org](http://www.southwindsorschools.org). You can now access each school's website by adding back slash + school abbreviation (e.g., /ET, /OH, /PRS, /PV, /TEMS, /SWHS).



## WELCOME NEW CERTIFIED STAFF

Each year the Personnel Department is charged with responding to the retirements, resignations, and transfers associated with more than 670 employees in the South Windsor Public Schools district. This August, we will welcome 13 new teachers and support specialists and three new administrators to South Windsor.

### Administrators New to the District

Melissa Morgan-Hostetler	Associate Principal	SWHS
Michael Kenyon	Associate Principal	Orchard Hill
Kim Sokale	PreK-5 Special Education Supervisor	District

### Teachers/Certified Staff New to the District

Lauren Suffish	English Learner Teacher	Eli Terry
Tabitha Turgeon	Grade 1 Teacher	Orchard Hill
Jennifer Wilson	Library Media Specialist	Orchard Hill
Jessica Aceto	Grade 4 Teacher	Pleasant Valley
Paula Carpentier	Speech Language Pathologist	Pleasant Valley
Emily Cyr	Grade 1 Teacher	Pleasant Valley
Marisa Fazzino	Psychologist	Pleasant Valley
Kurtis Martel	Psychologist	TEMS
Sara Connolly	Special Education	SWHS
Heather Ferrer	Science	SWHS
Kristin Larson	English Language Arts	SWHS
José Rivera	World Languages—Spanish	SWHS
Kimberly Steinbach	Mathematics	SWHS



# BACK TO SCHOOL

## ANNUAL STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATES

All parents are asked to complete the Student Information Update for each child by no later than **September 15**. Student information such as phone numbers, emergency contacts, doctor(s) names, and medical information is required to be reviewed and updated electronically via Parent Portal at the beginning of each school year. This update also includes the annual review and acknowledgment of certain policies and notifications mandated by law. If you have forgotten your Parent Portal password or if you have not yet created a Parent Portal account, please contact your school's main office for assistance.

Don't forget: SchoolMessenger is the primary means of delivering important and timely communications to families. While you're logged into your Parent Portal account, you can review and customize your SchoolMessenger account preferences.

## SCHOOL SCHEDULE

As a reminder, when weather or other conditions require us to postpone the opening of our schools, South Windsor operates on a **Two (2) hour delayed opening** schedule. Announcements of delayed openings will be sent to all families via SchoolMessenger, posted on our district website, and appear on news outlets such as WFSB, WVIT, FOX and WTNH. For your reference, school hours for the coming school year are as follows:

SCHOOL(S)	START	END
<b>South Windsor High School</b>		
Regular School Day	7:25	2:00
Late Arrival Mondays	8:30	2:00
2-Hour Delay	9:25	2:00
Early Dismissal/Exam Days	7:25	11:25
<b>Timothy Edwards Middle School</b>		
Regular School Day	8:05	2:40
2-Hour Delay	10:05	2:40
Early Dismissal	8:05	12:05
<b>Eli Terry, Philip R. Smith and Pleasant Valley Elementary Schools</b>		
Regular School Day	8:45	3:20
2-Hour Delay	10:45	3:20
Early Dismissal	8:45	12:45
<b>Orchard Hill Elementary School</b>		
Regular School Day	9:15	3:50
2-Hour Delay	11:15	3:50
Early Dismissal	9:15	1:15

## BUS ROUTES

Bus routes for the 2017-2018 school year are published on the district website. Special transportation requests were due to the Transportation Office in June; it is important to note that the Transportation Office cannot process any new special transportation requests between August 23—September 6. Please visit the website ([www.southwindsorschools.org/transportation](http://www.southwindsorschools.org/transportation)) for additional information pertaining to our transportation services.



## IMPORTANT BACK TO SCHOOL DATES

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation

Thursday, August 24—8:00 a.m.

### Orchard Hill Ribbon Cutting and Public Tours

Saturday, August 26—11:00 a.m.

### Elementary Meet & Greet

Tuesday, August 29—8:15 a.m.

### First Day of School

Wednesday, August 30

### Parent Open House Events

Pleasant Valley

August 31

SWHS

September 5

TEMS—Grade 6

September 6

TEMS—Grade 7

September 7

TEMS—Grade 8

September 11

Philip R. Smith

September 14

Eli Terry

September 19

Orchard Hill

September 28

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

David S. Joy, Chair  
Beth Esstman, Vice Chair  
Craig Zimmerman, Secretary  
Joseph Durette  
Jamie Gamble  
Michael Gonzalez  
Mary Justine Hockenberry  
Phil Koboski  
Richard Stahr

### CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

**Kate Carter, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
**Sheryl L. Mortensen**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Curriculum & Instruction  
**Colin J. McNamara**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Personnel & Administration  
**Chris M. Chemerka**  
Director of Finance & Operations

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

**South Windsor High School**  
Daniel P. Sullivan III, Principal  
Tera Harlow, Associate Principal  
Melissa Morgan-Hostetter, Assoc. Principal  
Frank Rizzuto, Associate Principal

**Timothy Edwards Middle School**  
Nancy Larson, Principal  
Jarrod Clifton, Associate Principal  
David St. Jean, Associate Principal

**Eli Terry Elementary School**  
Vincent Federici, Principal  
**Orchard Hill Elementary School**  
Michael Tortora, Principal  
Michael Kenyon, Associate Principal

**Philip R. Smith Elementary School**  
Michelle Dixon, Principal

**Pleasant Valley Elementary School**  
Tiffany Caouette, Principal

### CURRICULUM LEADERS

Steven Albrecht, Career and Technical Ed.  
Nicholas Canova, Visual Arts  
Gregory Frank, Social Studies  
Candice Irwin, Literacy/English Language Arts  
Robyn Ongley, Mathematics  
Karen Stoj, World Languages/English Learners  
Arnica Sullivan, Science  
David Sytulek, Health/Physical Education

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

Jessica Kuckel, Director, Special Services  
Kim Sokale, PreK-5 Special Education  
Maureen Pearson, 6-12 Special Education

### TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP

Doug Couture, Technology Systems/Programs  
Scott Matchett, Operations/Services



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**Dream. Achieve. Inspire.**