



Early dismissal Wednesdays

Early dismissal Wednesdays continue at all elementary schools beginning Wednesday, Sept. 10. They will continue through Wednesday, Dec. 17, and resume again on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 (there will be no Wednesday early dismissals from Jan. 7 to March 25). These dismissals afford teachers the opportunity to work collaboratively on professional development activities such as the implementation of new units of study, training and preparation for standardized testing, and the development of technology skills for the classroom.

'Gateway to Technology' program begins

A new pre-engineering program launches at Timothy Edwards Middle School this fall for students in grade 8. The program seeks to expose students to the field of engineering through a series of hands-on activities that explore robotics, automation, computer programming and computer-aided design. This "Gateway to Technology" program offers two classes and serves as a pre-cursor to the high school program which allows students to explore a variety of engineering fields.

In "Automation and Robotics," students will learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. The VEX Robotics® platform will be used to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths and robotic arms. "Design and Modeling" allows students to apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students will work in teams to design a playground and furniture while capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks.

New teachers attend orientation



South Windsor Public Schools welcomes 25 new teachers. Featured here is the group that participated in the new teacher orientation program on Aug. 20 - 21.

High school hosts freshmen orientation

Ninth-grade orientation occurred on Wednesday, Aug. 20, at South Windsor High School. This year marks the largest group of incoming freshman in recent history, with more than 370 new students. The program was run by three faculty members as well as the high school's LINK crew, a group of 11th- and 12th-grade students who volunteer their time to help their peers transition to high school.



New Assistant Superintendent welcomed



Colin J. McNamara joins the central office administrative team as the assistant superintendent of personnel and administration. McNamara started his career as a sixth-grade teacher and assistant principal in Fairfax County, Virginia. He moved to Connecticut in 2005 and served as the principal of Center School in Willington. He has been an assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction in Killingly and an assistant superintendent of personnel in Wallingford prior to coming to South Windsor. McNamara is excited about working in a town that has such a strong commitment to providing outstanding education opportunities for its students, and is looking forward to getting to know the students, staff, parents and community stakeholders of South Windsor public schools.

Parent Open Houses

Parent Open Houses are scheduled on Sept. 11 for Pleasant Valley and Wapping elementary schools; and Sept. 18 for Orchard Hill, Philip R. Smith and Eli Terry elementary schools.

Submitted by Sara Chamberlain