

# SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Dr. Kate M. Carter**  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
(860) 291-1205

**Daniel S. Hansen**  
*Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Curriculum and Instruction*  
(860) 291-1210

**Richard A. Cormier**  
*Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Personnel and Administration*  
(860) 291-1215

**Donna R. McKenty**  
*Business Manager*  
(860) 291-1260

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EDUCATE ALL CHILDREN TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL

August 25, 2011

Dear South Windsor Families:

It is my pleasure to welcome students and families back for a new and exciting academic year! I hope the summer break provided time for enjoying family and friends, taking in a ball game, reading a great book, traveling near and far, grilling at a cookout, or simply taking time to appreciate the sunny summer afternoons that seem to move at a slower pace than the busy days that whirl by during the school year.

I am pleased to report that we are in the final stages of adopting a three-year strategic plan. The 2011-2014 Strategic Plan is designed to clearly communicate our district-wide initiatives and priorities to parents, staff, students, and the community. After the board of education formally adopts the plan, the document will be posted on the district website. I will also be visiting PTO/PAC meetings this fall to discuss the strategic plan. Last year I held focus groups at each school with parents, teachers, and staff. Additionally, I met with a high school student group to seek input. I also met with many civic organizations in town. Whether it was with the Senior Advisory Council, the Rotary Club, the Historical Society Board, the Junior Women's Club, Wood Memorial Library staff, members of the Human Rights Commission, the South Windsor Police Department, or the South Windsor Community Foundation Board, it was clear to me that South Windsor civic groups understand the relationship between quality schools and a prosperous community. Hearing the hopes and dreams for the future of South Windsor Public Schools from so many stakeholders was extremely helpful to the development of the strategic plan.

I am also pleased to report that the district was able to hire three full-time math interventionists to improve math instruction at the elementary level. Due to unanticipated, but certainly welcomed state grant funds, we were able to fill these positions. The additional grant funds were awarded due to recently passed legislation. As you may be aware, the math interventionist positions were identified as a top priority during budget deliberations, but ultimately were not funded in order to deliver a fiscally responsible budget reflective of these tough economic times. It is through these newly awarded grant funds that we will endeavor to improve instruction and ultimately raise student achievement in the area of mathematics.

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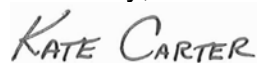
1737 MAIN STREET, SOUTH WINDSOR, CT 06074-1093  
(860) 291-1200 FAX: (860) 291-1291

This communication also provides me with an opportunity to introduce you to Mrs. Ann Walsh, the newly hired administrative assistant to the superintendent and clerk to the board. Ann is replacing Judy Nevins who is retiring after admirably serving South Windsor Public Schools for 23 years. Ann will join us in mid-September and will be the person with whom you will speak if you need assistance from my office. Ann is already aware of my open door policy and I know she will be extremely helpful to you when calling the office of the superintendent.

Finally, I want to thank the families of South Windsor for their support. Last year my welcome back letter informed parents of my belief that one of the most important qualities we model for children is kindness. What I could not have known then was the kindness that I would be shown in my first year as superintendent. As I reflect on my first year, please know that I genuinely appreciate the positive feedback and the kind emails that I received from families and community members. Your positive energy only inspires me to work even harder for the students and families of South Windsor. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as your superintendent. I have nothing but optimism for the future of our schools when I consider the collective power of committed families, dedicated community members, talented students, and an amazing team of educators and staff members who all work toward the common goal of providing our students with the foundation they will need for their future success.

I look forward to our continued partnership and hope that you and your children enjoy the remaining days of summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "KATE CARTER".

Kate M. Carter, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools