

SPS to Implement Gold Standard Curriculum in all Subjects Over Three Years

Teaching and learning are central to everything we do in Stamford Public Schools (SPS). That's why in Spring 2022 SPS contracted with Curriculum Management Systems, Inc. (CMSi) to conduct a comprehensive, K-12 curriculum audit – the first such audit in nearly 20 years. The audit found that 20 percent of our curriculum met the CMSi “gold standard” while the balance needed additional elements.

Over the summer of 2022, Associate Superintendent Amy Beldotti and teams of our talented and dedicated teachers got a head start on addressing a number of the audit recommendations in advance of the final report. As part of this work, SPS developed a three-year action plan for PreK-12 curriculum, instructional support, and assessments, available for review [here](#).

When schools opened last Fall, gold standard curricula were in place

for English Language Arts (Grades 9-12), Social Studies (Grades 9-12), Chemistry, Art Level One (High School), Health (Grades 9-10), Music (Grades K-12) and Physical Education (Grades K-12).

When the 2023-24 school year begins in August, the gold standard curriculum will be in place for all math and science courses in Grades 9-12 and for all ELA and social studies courses in grades 6-8. The new K-5 literacy program, CKLA, will be implemented in kindergarten and the Integrated Mathematics program will be in place for Grades 7-12.

Associate Superintendent Beldotti presented an update on the Curriculum Audit work during the April meeting of the BOE Teaching & Learning Committee. I urge you to view the [presentation slides](#) and the [PowerPoint slides](#).



Dr. Tamu Lucero
Superintendent,
Stamford Public Schools



Students from Davenport Ridge Elementary School performed the National Anthem at Citi Field prior to the Braves vs. Mets game on Monday, May 1, 2023. Prior to the game, the students participated in an interactive weather lesson with the PIX Channel 11 Weather Team. More than 350 members of the Davenport School Community (students, staff, and parents) attended the game.





Members of the Stamford Board of Realtors joined Superintendent Lucero for a tour of Hart Elementary School in February. Stamford Realtors have visited Roxbury, Hart, Strawberry Hill, and Stillmeadow since January to learn more about the educational programs and services in our schools. The program will continue next school year.

Vision 2025

On May 5, Dr. Lucero shared with the Board of Education the Vision 2025 roadmap to ensure SPS reaches and exceeds the goals outlined in the 2022-2027 District Strategic Plan. Vision 2025 defines the framework, supports and assessments being implemented to ensure SPS attains the goals associated with the five pillars of the Strategic Plan. The May 5 presentation focused on the Strong Curriculum pillar, specifically the plan for instructional leadership, support, and evaluation for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Read more about Vision 2025 [here](#).

Last Day of School is June 14

Mark your calendars! The last day of the 2022-23 school year is Wednesday, June 14 for all schools **except** Turn of River (TOR) Middle School. Due to a

power outage earlier in the year, TOR will finish the school year on Thursday, June 15.

Graduation and Moving Up Dates Set

Get ready to celebrate! SPS will host graduation and moving up ceremonies as follows:

- Adult Education: Thursday, June 1 at 7 pm
- Grade 5* Moving Up: Monday, June 12
- Stamford High School: Tuesday, June 13 at 2 pm
- Westhill High School: Tuesday, June 13 at 4 pm
- AITE: Tuesday, June 13 at 5 pm
- Grade 8* Moving Up: Wednesday, June 14

*Start times vary by school

Summer School Information

We're gearing up to offer the SPS Summer School Program, a by invitation program, which features academic support programs for students in K-8 and credit recovery for students in grades 9-12. Additional summer programs include the New Arrivals program for English learners and the Extended School Year (ESY) program for qualifying special education students.

Please see our [website](#) for complete details about Summer School, including dates, locations, and transportation.

We're Hiring

Stamford Public Schools is actively recruiting for the 2023-24 school year. Now is the time to apply if you'd like to join our team of passionate and dedicated educators. Full-time positions are available in middle and high school core subjects (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies) as well as Special Education, Bilingual Education, Elementary Education, and more.

Looking for schedule flexibility? Become a substitute teacher. As a substitute, you can set your own schedule and work as many or as few days as you want.

Click [here](#) for more information or to apply.

Legislative Update

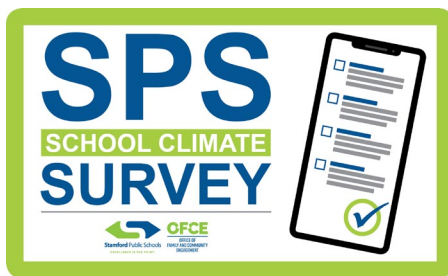
Stamford's delegation in Hartford and our District staff continue to advocate for Stamford's fair share of state education funding. The Governor released his budget to the legislature in March, and now the legislature has released its budget. We are closely monitoring developments, as there are

two pieces of legislation of particular interest to our community:

Senate Bill 1201 is the annual school construction bill. Included is a new allocation for the proposed Roxbury K-8 school and a correction for the construction of a new Westhill High School.

House Bill 5003—An Act Concerning Education Funding in Connecticut—would make student centered funding a reality and help mitigate the impact of expiring ARP/ESSER funds.

Strong Response to Climate Survey



Thank you to all staff, students and families who completed the SPS Climate Survey. Survey response rates were strong again this year, with 73 percent of students and 79 percent of staff completing the survey. More than half of our schools had student response rates of 90 percent or higher. In addition, more than 5,200 parents and caregivers completed the survey, which is a 30 percent increase over last year.

Thank you to the Office of Family and Community Engagement, Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF), our district and building staff, and community partners for their work on the SPS Climate Survey.



The Connecticut Black and Puerto Rican Caucus secured funding from the CT General Assembly to provide books highlighting Black and Latino stories to every K-3 classroom in Stamford Public Schools. Here, author Nadene McKenzie-Reid and her daughter, illustrator Carlee Reid, pose with students from Roxbury Elementary School during a book giveaway event on February 24, 2023. The mother-daughter duo read their book, *I Love My Kinky Hair*, to Roxbury Students. Carlee Reid is a graduate of Stamford Public Schools.

Visit SPS at the Stamford Downtown Farmers Market

Join Stamford Public Schools at the Stamford Downtown [Farmers Market](#) this summer to meet District personnel and learn more about our schools!

Shop for locally grown fruits, vegetables, and flowers along with artisan products including breads, jams, cheeses, olive oils, and more. The Farmers Market accepts both SNAP and WIC.

The Farmers Market at Veterans Memorial Park (130 Atlantic Street) runs weekly from 9 am to 1 pm beginning Saturday, June 10.

Physicals for Grades K, 6, and 9

Students entering kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades in Fall 2023 are required to have a recent annual physical on file with Stamford Public Schools. We recommend that you schedule your child's physical around their birthday. It can be difficult to get an appointment right before school begins in August.

Please bring [this form](#) with you to your appointment. Your doctor will need to fill it out for the school nurse.

If your child does not have a healthcare provider they see regularly, click [here](#) for a list of providers in Stamford that offer school entry physicals.

Kindergarten Registration

Children who live in Stamford and turn five years old on or before January 1, 2024, are eligible to begin kindergarten in August. Please encourage anyone with a child eligible for kindergarten to [register](#) as soon as possible. Early registration enables us to better manage enrollment and staffing for the upcoming year. Click [here](#) for more information or email ofce@stamfordct.gov with questions.

SPS Receives \$2.7 Million for HVAC Projects

In April, Governor Lamont announced \$2.7 million in state reimbursement for HVAC projects that the City of Stamford funded and completed during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. The state funding reimburses a portion of the projects under the newly established "HVAC Grants Program for Public Schools".

Cloonan Middle School (\$96,216); Davenport Ridge Elementary (\$421,566); Julia A. Stark Elementary (\$289,142); Northeast Elementary School (\$231,402); Rippowam Middle School (\$493,271); Stamford High School (\$693,566); and Westover Magnet Elementary School (\$802,700).



In Case You Missed It

- SPS hosted a parent pop-up webinar about the Right to Read legislation and the opportunity to select a common literacy curriculum for use in all Stamford elementary schools. Click [here](#) to view a recording of the webinar.
- In Fall 2023, SPS will begin implementing Integrated Mathematics in middle and high schools, replacing the Algebra 1 / Geometry / Algebra 2 sequence. Click [here](#) for more information about Integrated Mathematics and click [here](#) to watch a recording of the parent information session.
- Dr. Lucero hosted a parent information session about the proposed new K-8 school for families living in the Cove and Lockwood Avenue neighborhoods. Click [here](#) to view a recording of this meeting.
- SPS and the Stamford Education Association (SEA) hosted a "Back to School" program for elected officials. Board of Finance and Board of Representatives members had the opportunity to experience what a typical school day is like for students, teachers, and staff. Thank you to our elected officials who visited 17 schools through this program.



Thanks to support from 100 Black Men of Stamford, the Jane Addams Peace Association, and Stamford Public Schools, Cloonan Middle School eighth grade students met Angela Joy, author of *Choosing Brave: How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement* during an event at Cloonan on May 11. Ms. Joy's book is a 2023 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Winner and a 2023 Caldecott honor book. All 220 Cloonan eighth grade students received a signed copy of Ms. Joy's book.

Thanks for reading. Visit our [website](#) for more information about Stamford Public Schools and [click here](#) to subscribe to the Superintendent's Weekly Message, the SPS Quarterly, and other notices from Stamford Public Schools.