

# SPS QUARTERLY

Stamford Public Schools | Stamford, CT

Summer 2023

## Welcome to the 2023-24 School Year!

This summer, Stamford Public Schools administrators, educators, and staff were hard at work to ensure students and families benefit from the best educational practices, approaches and learning opportunities this school year. We are incredibly excited about the work that has been accomplished and the new programs we are introducing, a few of which I want to highlight:

- Kindergartners in all 13 elementary schools are kicking off the school year with the district's new literacy program, Content Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA). This captivating and content rich reading program builds on our existing science-based literacy approach by offering rich, diverse and up-to-date knowledge spanning all core subjects—social studies, science, math, literature and the arts. There are student workbooks, manipulatives, and other resources for teachers to bring into the classroom to compliment and build on instruction and to support differentiation.

And this is just the beginning! Throughout the year, students in grades 1-5 will receive unit-based exposure to the new CKLA reading program, with full implementation in grades 1-2 in fall 2024 and grades 3-5 in fall 2025.

- Our middle school teachers were determined to deliver high-quality curricula for all core courses—Math, Science, ELA, Social Studies and World Language—for fall 2023 and they've done just that. Teachers worked over the summer writing new curriculum to improve student learning, heighten engagement, and prepare students

for the rigor and expectations of high school. Our middle school teachers are ready and eager to share this great work with their students.

- Stamford High School gets down to business! The district's new High School of Business, a program of [MBA Research & Curriculum Center](#), is now open and ready to welcome the over 40 students enrolled in the district's second business focused college and career readiness program. Over the summer, the program's six teachers were "students" themselves, experiencing firsthand the challenging real-world business problems and projects-based course work expected of their students this fall. Over the four years, students take six semester courses, and their studies culminate with a capstone project that challenges them to start and run their own business.

The High School of Business is just one of many new programs and career pathways available to Stamford high school students. For more information, check our website for the AITE Program of Studies and the Stamford High and Westhill Program of Studies ("Stamford High and Westhill Program of Studies" should link to [2023-2024 High School Program of Studies: SHS/WHS](#)).

We are looking forward to a great year of learning, growth, community, and partnership and to sharing more news about the learning and extracurricular activities happening at SPS in the next issue of The Quarterly!

Dr. Tamu Lucero  
Superintendent  
Stamford Public Schools



Dr. Tamu Lucero  
Superintendent,  
Stamford Public Schools



## School Begins Wednesday, August 30



Mark your calendars! The first day of the 2023-24 school year for all students in grades K-12 is Wednesday, August 30. View individual school start times on our [website](#).

## Open School Nights

Stamford Public Schools hosts Open School Nights for parents/guardians to meet their child's teachers and to hear about grade level and classroom expectations, academic requirements, and more.

Open School Nights are as follows:

- Middle Schools: September 19
- High Schools: September 21
- Elementary Schools: September 28

Building principals will share information about Open School Night in early September. Please note, Open School Night is for parents and guardians. In order to get the most from this event, please make childcare arrangements for younger children.

## All-City College & Career Fair is October 19

The annual All-City College & Career Fair is **Thursday, October 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Stamford High School**. Representatives from two- and four-year colleges (public and private), trade and vocational schools, college-related service providers, and the military will participate. Families also can get information about the financial aid process.

This event is sponsored by Stamford Public Schools and open to high school students from AITE, Stamford High, and Westhill. Don't miss this opportunity to explore post-high school educational opportunities.

## Café con la Super Returns This Fall



Café con la Super - the District's in-person Spanish language Community Conversation series - resumes Monday, September 18 at the Stamford Government Center (4th floor cafeteria). Parents are invited to join Dr. Lucero to share ideas, concerns, and engage in

## K, 6 & 9 Orientation is August 29



Orientation for students entering kindergarten, sixth and ninth grades is Tuesday, August 29. Principals will share orientation schedules with families the week of August 21.

Kindergarten students who qualify for bus transportation may ride the bus to orientation with their parents on Tuesday, August 29.

lively conversation. Café con la Super is scheduled for 7:30 am and 6:30 pm on September 18, October 23, November 6, and December 11. Translation in English is available. There's free parking in the Government Center parking garage and [Bus routes](#) 331, 341, 971 pass near or in front of the Government Center.

## Administrative Changes

There have been a number of administrative changes throughout the District since the end of the 2022-23 school year. Please join us in congratulating the following individuals for their new roles within Stamford Public Schools:

- Amy Beldotti, Chief Academic Officer
- Angela Asaro, Interim Associate Superintendent for Research and Policy
- Jaimie Fisco, Principal at K.T. Murphy Elementary School
- Sherri Prendergast, Principal of Turn at River Middle School
- Kathleen Kelley, Interim Principal at Stillmeadow Elementary School
- Robert Biko, Assistant Principal at Rippowam Middle School
- Rafael Escobar, Assistant Principal at Turn of River Middle School
- Amparo Fabre, Assistant Principal at Westhill High School
- Melissa Fano-Dropick, Interim Assistant Principal at Davenport Ridge Elementary School
- Brendan Fox, Assistant Principal at K.T. Murphy Elementary School

- Charles Langworth, Assistant Principal, Rippowam Middle School

Oversight of the elementary, middle and high schools was also reorganized for the 2023-24 school year as follows:

Dr. Michael Fernandes, Associate Superintendent, Student Support: High Schools

Dr. Lori Rhodes, Associate Superintendent, Access & Opportunity: K-8 and Middle Schools

Angela Asaro, Interim Associate Superintendent, Research & Policy: K-5 Schools

## More than 3,000 Students Attend Summer School

Stamford Public Schools offered a Summer School program for students in preK-12 at seven locations throughout the district. More than 3,000 students participated in the program, which offered academic support in ELA and math for students in grades K-8, credit recovery for students in grades 9-12, and a New Arrivals program for English language acquisition.

A huge thank you to the 289 certified teachers who taught summer school this year. The Summer School Program would not be possible without their dedicated service.

## Hiring Update

We're excited to share that SPS has filled 125 full time equivalent certified teachers positions for the 2023-24 school year as of August 3. The district began the early hiring process in spring 2023 with nearly 180 anticipated vacancies due to retirements, relocations,

and in-district transfers. As of August 3, the district's teacher vacancy rate was just below the national average of 4 percent.

We're excited to welcome these new teachers to Stamford Public Schools during New Teacher Orientation August 22-23.

## PowerSchool Parent Portal

The [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) is where parents and guardians get important information about Stamford Public Schools including classroom/teacher assignments, bus assignments, daily attendance data, report cards, and more.

Parents and guardians new to Stamford Public Schools should create a PowerSchool Parent Portal Account. Information in the PowerSchool Parent Portal can be presented in dozens of world languages to accommodate most families.

Current PowerSchool Parent Portal users should update their contact information, if necessary, for the upcoming school year. Schools use the information in PowerSchool to contact families via phone, email, and text.

Parents can also access the portal on their mobile device by downloading the PowerSchool App for iPhone and android.

If you need assistance creating an account or accessing the PowerSchool Parent Portal, contact your child's school.



## Bus Information Coming Soon!

Bus assignments will be posted in PowerSchool no later than Monday, August 28.

Download the FirstView app to track your child(ren)'s bus in real time. Information about the FirstView app is available on our [website](#).

Please remind your child(ren) that the bus is an extension of their school building. Misconduct on school buses will be met with disciplinary action. Students and families should review the expectations for student behavior outlined in their school's Student Handbook.

## New Legislation Affects SPS

The recently completed legislative session in Hartford will have implications for public schools across the state, including here in Stamford. Most notably, students entering kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year will need to be five years old on or before September 1, 2024 to be automatically eligible for Kindergarten. In addition, the Parents Bill of Rights requires public school districts to make translation services available to parents in their preferred language.

Dr. Lucero addressed both of these matters in the August 11 edition of the Superintendent's Weekly Message, which can be viewed on the SPS [website](#).



## Visit SPS at the Stamford Downtown Farmers Market



Be sure to join SPS at the Stamford Downtown Farmers Market Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm through October 28. We love meeting so many members of the community and sharing information about Stamford Public Schools.

Each week at 10:30 am, SPS hosts a children's storytime with books selected by the Ferguson Library staff. A special thank you State Representatives David Michel, Tom O'Dea, and Matt Blumenthal; Newfield teacher Alix Mesa; school counselor Dena Booker from the SPS Office of Family and Community Engagement; and Liz McKay from the Ferguson Library for sharing their love for reading with our youngest community members.

Please see the sidebar for the remaining Farmers Market Storytime Schedule.

### FARMER'S MARKET STORYTIME SCHEDULE:

#### August 19

State Representative  
Corey Paris

#### August 26

Lindsay Wyman, Executive  
Director of Stamford Public  
Education Foundation

#### September 2

No Storytime / Labor Day  
Weekend

#### September 9

Dr. Reverend Ford; Faith  
Tabernacle Missionary Baptist  
Church

#### September 16

State Senator Pat Billie Miller &  
SPS Teacher of the Year,  
Elba Sims

#### September 23

Mayor Caroline Simmons

#### September 30

State Representative Rachel  
Khanna

#### October 7

TBA

#### October 14

TBA

#### October 21

State Senator Ryan Fazio

#### October 28

SPS Superintendent  
Dr. Tamu Lucero

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.



# Stamford Public Schools Calendar 2023-2024

(Adopted 01/24/2023)

Note: Calendar is subject to change pending unforeseen circumstances.

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August (2 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September (19 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October (21 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- Aug. 22-23: New teacher orientation
- Aug. 24: Convocation & school-based PD
- Aug. 25: Mandated Training / Classroom Prep
- Aug. 28: District PD
- Aug. 29: K, 6, 9 orientation & school-based PD
- Aug. 30: First Day of School students

- Sept. 4: Labor Day, no school
- Sept. 16-17: Rosh Hashanah
- Sept. 19: Open House - Middle School
- Sept. 21: Open House - High School
- Sept. 25: Yom Kippur, no school
- Sept. 27: Early release - school-based PD
- Sept. 28: Open House - Elementary School

- October 9: Columbus Day, no school
- October 25: Early Release - school-based PD

November (18 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December (16 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January (21 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February (18 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

- Nov. 7: Election Day, no school students, PD
- Nov. 10: Veterans Day, no school
- Nov. 22: All Early Release
- Nov. 23-24: Thanksgiving recess, no school

- Dec. 13-15: All District - Early Release/Conferences
- Dec. 22: Early Release, all
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day, no school
- Dec. 26-29: Winter Recess, no school

- Jan 1: New Years Day, no school
- Jan. 15: MLK Day, no school
- Jan. 31: Early Release - school-based PD

- Feb. 16: February break, no school
- Feb. 19: Presidents' Day, no school
- Feb. 20: February break, no school
- Feb. 28: Early Release - school-based PD

March (20 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April (16 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May (22 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June (8 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- March 20-22: All District - Early Release/Conferences
- March 27: Early Release - school-based PD
- March 29: Good Friday, no school

- April 10: Eid al-Fitr, no school
- April 15-19: Spring Recess, no school

- May 22: Early Release - school-based PD
- May 27: Memorial Day, no school

- June 10-11: Tentative\* early release, students
- June 12: Tentative\* early release, last day all
- June 19: Juneteenth

**Legend:**

- No school students, staff
- ☆ First day/last day of school
- Open school night
- ◻ Early release
- △ K, 6, 9 orientation
- ◆ Staff only

\*Any inclement weather days will be added to the end of the school year.  
This calendar has 181 student days and 186 staff days scheduled.

**OTHER RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL HOLIDAYS**

Nov. 12: Diwali	Feb. 10: Lunar New Year	Apr. 22-30: Passover
Dec. 7-15: Hanukkah	Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday	May 5: Orthodox Easter
Dec. 26-Jan. 1: Kwanzaa	Mar. 10: Ramadan begins	June 16: Eid al-Adha
Jan. 6: Three Kings Day	Mar. 31: Easter	July 4: Independence Day