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August 9, 2024

Dear Region 14 School Community,

I hope you are enjoying the summer with family and friends. I would like to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year. It is such an exciting time of year for our staff who are looking forward to the opportunity to work with each student in Region 14. Each new school year invites the opportunity for new learning experiences, new friendships, and new relationships. We look forward to welcoming our students back on the first day of school, **Wednesday, August 28, 2024**. All schools will follow the district's early dismissal schedule for professional learning for staff. I have enclosed the dismissal times for each school below.

School	First Day of School Schedule Wednesday, August 28, 2024
Nonnewaug High School	7:25 a.m. to 1:35 p.m.
Woodbury Middle School	7:25 a.m. to 1:35 p.m.
Bethlehem/Mitchell Elementary Schools	8:25 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.
Preschool Hours Pre-K 4 (BES and MES)	9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Preschool Hours Pre-K 3 (BES)	No Pre-K

### **District Curricula Initiatives**

Region 14 is extremely proud of all of our schools. Our schools have been recognized nationally and by the State of Connecticut for exemplary student achievement levels and school climate programs. Region 14 is thrilled to inform you about several new curricular initiatives. Mitchell Elementary School and Bethlehem Elementary School will be implementing a new literacy program in Kindergarten and Grades 4 and 5. These changes are meeting the new requirements under the Connecticut State Department of Education's "Science of Reading" legislation. Region 14 will complete full implementation of this new researched based literacy program in our elementary schools next school year. We are excited to inform you that we will be offering an after school Talented and Gifted program for our elementary and middle schools for students who qualify and we will continue to offer our after school Tutoring Academy for students who qualify. The district will be expanding our World Language offerings to include Spanish for students in grades 5, 6 and 7 as we continue to prepare our students for high school and beyond. Woodbury Middle School will be adding Advanced Manufacturing to its curricular programming through a wonderful partnership with Goodwin University and also adding Girls' Volleyball for our students.

Nonnewaug High School will be increasing dual credit college enrollment offerings and offering a Musical Theatre class and SAT/NGSS preparation classes in English, Math, and Science. Finally, the high school will be implementing a new 8-period day schedule that will afford students additional course enrollment opportunities throughout the school year while also increasing teacher collaboration.

### **Student Registration/Bus Transportation**

Please register your child through our on-line platform through Powerschool enrollment. All parents will be receiving an email when this platform is open. If you are having any issues registering your child please contact Maggie Gildea [mgildea@ctreg14.org](mailto:mgildea@ctreg14.org) (District Data and Enrollment Coordinator). Every student must be registered through this platform every school year. There is additional important information that is accessed through this registration process. All Star Transportation will continue to provide bus transportation for Region 14. All bus drivers have been provided with the most updated training and are committed to the safety of all of our students. All Star Transportation will post student bus routes via the Region 14 website beginning on **August 12, 2024**.

### **District Food Service Program**

EdAdvance will continue to provide managerial oversight of the Region 14 Food Service Program. The Connecticut State Department of Education will not be providing free breakfast for every student for the upcoming school year unless you qualify for free and reduced breakfast/lunch. Students will be able to purchase breakfast at each school. Please complete the Free Breakfast/Lunch Application ([Link](#)) if you feel that you may qualify. The CSDE has changed its criteria for qualifying for this benefit.

### **District Maintenance Projects**

The district has invested significantly in capital projects in our schools over the past two years. We strongly believe that a safe and clean learning environment is paramount to student learning. The parking lot at Woodbury Middle School has been paved, new 7th and 8th grade lockers have been installed, and several bathrooms have been renovated at Woodbury Middle School. New playground equipment has been purchased for Mitchell Elementary School as well. Finally, several classrooms and common areas were painted in each school.

### **Nonnewaug High School/Capital Projects**

We are proud to inform you that the Horse Barn and Maple Syrup/Maintenance building projects have been completed and our students and staff are excited to use these state of the art learning facilities. Additional cameras and lighting were installed in the student parking lots.

### **School Security Information**

The district's number one priority is the safety of our students and staff. We are committed to providing a safe learning environment for everyone and will continue to update our safety policies and procedures. Our staff has reviewed our District Safety Plan and made the appropriate changes to our safety protocols. Our School Resource Officers in each school are the best in the state of Connecticut and continue to provide an enhanced level of security. The district's administrative team works closely with local law enforcement officials to provide the best safety methods.

### **School Student Handbooks**

Our staff is finalizing policies and procedures and each school will be sending out letters to parents on August 13, 2024. Each school has updated their Student Handbooks. Please review with your child our updated school policies. You will be able to review each school's Student Handbook in each Principal's parent letter that will be emailed to you next week. Student Handbooks will also be accessible on the Region 14 website.

### **Region 14 Website/Resource Center/Social Media Platforms**

The Region 14 website is a wonderful resource for up-to-date information. This website includes district, school, and athletic calendars; news updates from principals; curricula; and links to school-based programs. You can sign up for calendar and news alerts to receive notifications when updates are made. Region 14 maintains a strong presence on Facebook and Instagram. You will be able to see numerous weekly updates on these platforms regarding the wonderful initiatives and activities in Region 14.

### **Student Privacy**

Region 14 understands the importance of student data privacy. The district adheres to Connecticut's student data privacy law ([Link](#)) posted on the CSDE website. Region 14 policies regarding student data privacy are posted on the district website, along with digital resources which are available to those who have agreed to the student acceptable use policy through the Powerschool registration process. A list of Required Annual Notices for students and parents can be found here. ([Link](#))

We are filled with optimism and are excited to start the new school year! We can't wait to see all of the students on the first day of school.

We value your partnership.  
Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,  
Brian Murphy  
Superintendent of Schools