



WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Working Together”

Steven E. Haddad

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Dear Winchendon Public School Employees,

The summer has gone by so fast and it is time to start the new school year. I hope that you had a great vacation filled with family, friends, and fun. I also hope you were able to reflect on the past year, rest and relax to gain strength, and mentally prepare yourself for the great school year ahead. Teaching our children is a rewarding profession, and I look forward to working with you to make this Winchendon Public Schools best year ever!!!

We have made a few changes and added a few people. I am pleased to announce that we have hired Kristina Mecelicaite as our new Director of Pupil Services. She will lead our Special Education Department, After School Programs, and Nursing Department. We have also hired Katie Quinn-Stearns to cover high school ELA for Julia Callahan the first few months of the school year, (congratulations Julia on the birth of your new baby boy) and then replace History’s “Greatest Teacher”, Steve Forte, who retires in December. Good luck Kristina and Katie, and congratulations Steve. As of the writing of this letter, we are still searching for a high school English teacher, a high school math teacher, a middle school science teacher, and a part time ELL teacher. Let us know if you know anyone qualified to apply. Also, we are waiting for the arrival of “baby Whitaker”, I’m thinking any day now. Best wishes to our Athletic Director, Jenna Whitaker.

We have been really busy this summer. We have moved the Murdock Academy for Success to the 1st floor of the high school. This will allow for improved teacher support, and the integration of specials back into the schedules of our Academy students. The buildings are as clean as they’ve ever been, and many classrooms have been moved thanks to the hard work of our custodial staff. Also, the Administrative Team and secretaries have worked diligently making sure everything is ready for the start of the school year. Thank you to all. Just a reminder, if you haven’t been fingerprinted yet, you need to schedule an appointment at www.identogo.com/FP/Massachusetts.aspx. The Organizational Code number needed to register is #03430000.

This year school opens with two Professional Development Days for teachers and staff. The first day back will be Tuesday, August 25th. The day will begin with a continental breakfast served in the cafeteria beginning at 7:45 am. We will then meet in the Murdock Auditorium at 8:15 am. The schedule for the day is included with this letter. Lunch will be provided by the Winchendon Teachers Association. Thank you WTA!!! On Wednesday, August 26th, each school administrator is in control of the schedule. Hopefully, there will be time to allow you to make final preparations in your classrooms. And of course, the students return on Thursday, August 27th. We are ready!!!

Last year was a difficult year for our town and our schools. There is still a lot of work to do to recover from the financial problems discovered. We are working closely with town hall and the state to get back on track. We will begin this school year with two main initiatives in addition to improving academic performance: to develop a winning culture of trust and respect in our schools, and to increase school pride. I look forward to working with you to achieve these initiatives and to make this a great school year.

Sincerely, Steven E. Haddad, Superintendent, Winchendon Public Schools