

*From the Desk of the Superintendent...*

We are excited to see our students back in classrooms! Teachers and staff are hard at work reigniting our students' passion for learning, reimagining learning opportunities, and restoring a sense of community in our schools. The first 30 days of school will be primarily focused on re-establishing our sense of community to foster a safe, warm environment to ensure that the best learning can take place.

In an ever-evolving pandemic, our priorities remain unchanged. Safety has been our first priority; however, our mission still stands. "We create innovative thinkers for a dynamic world." Our mission still drives all we do here in Colchester. "We" embodies the notion that everyone in our community plays a role in developing innovative thinkers, and that Colchester collectively thrives when students develop the skills to solve problems, work collaboratively, and communicate effectively.

Building upon this mission, the Board of Education recently established the following four goals:

- Goal #1: The Board is known for fostering and cultivating a welcoming, inclusive, and equitable culture that promotes the overall well-being of our students, staff, caregivers, and the community.
- Goal #2: The Board is known for growing innovative thinkers by investing in student achievement through dynamic and appropriately resourced instruction that maximizes the individual potential of students.
- Goal #3: The Board is known for effective reciprocal communication that builds connections with the CPS community and promotes advocacy efforts at the local and state level.
- Goal #4: The Board is known for purposefully aligning the needs of students with a fiscally responsible, equitable, and transparent budget.

The District's goals are in perfect alignment with the Board of Education's goals. We've spent much of the last 18 months reacting to the impact of the pandemic on our community. While we will continue to support a recovery, we must also sustain instructional and operational programming. The District has been able to implement a number of initiatives and programs over the past decade that need to be sustained in order to continue the tradition of excellence in our schools.

I am grateful for the strong partnerships we have cultivated with parents, caregivers, educators, business owners, and community members. I will continue to listen to and learn from you, and work with the Board of Education and my colleagues to foster the best educational, social, and emotional environment for all of Colchester's children. Working together for children, we can help them strive for excellence.

Jeffrey E. Burt  
Superintendent, Colchester Public Schools