



February 1, 2017

Dear Cromwell Community,

So far the winter weather has been mild and we've been able to have school regularly. I am hopeful that this trend will continue!

2017-2018 Budget Process

Budget work is well underway, including a complete review of existing staff and programs to ensure that we are continuing to program the children of Cromwell with the outstanding educational experience that they deserve. The Leadership team, in collaboration with faculty and staff, have kept spending to a minimum and we were able to realize some future savings in several line items. Areas that reflect increases are magnet school tuition, programming for our English Language Learners and science programming. We are still in the early stages of our budget work and will continue to refine our accounts. There is continued concern among school districts across Connecticut regarding reduced state funding for municipalities. We have already seen a reduction in the amount of support from the state and we anticipate this possibility for next year. Therefore, it is our intent to bring the most conservative budget we can to the community.

Employee Climate Survey

This fall the Board of Education and I conducted an employee climate survey designed to gather feedback about working in the Cromwell Schools. Data from this survey is currently being reviewed by the Board of Education Ad Hoc Employee Climate Survey Committee and other groups including the Leadership Team. Some of the areas under discussion are teacher and staff leadership, curriculum improvement, communication, faculty and staff autonomy, and faculty and staff voice. This data will help us to improve the schools overall and make our district an even more wonderful place to work.

Special Events

On March 9 – 11, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. and on March 12, 2017 at 2:00 P.M. the Cromwell High School Drama Club will present the musical **Rock of Ages, High School Edition**. The tickets for the production are \$15.00 in advance or \$20.00 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at https://www.showtix4u.com/index.php?submit=Search+for+Events&t_client=09474717010614893. Senior citizen passes are available at the Cromwell Board of Education offices, or the Cromwell Human Services office. This will be an incredible production and we hope that you can join us!

Spring Pop Up Handmade Market

A Spring Pop Up Handmade Market will be held on Friday, March 24, from 5:00 – 8:00 P.M. at WIS. All items offered for sale will be handmade! Proceeds from this market will benefit the Cromwell Schools. We hope you can join us for some fun shopping with these incredible vendors!

Upcoming District and School February Events Open to the Public

Districtwide

- Thursday, February 2nd – School District Employee Climate Survey Ad Hoc Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – CHS Library Media Center
- Tuesday, February 7th – Secondary Task Force Meeting – 6:00 PM – CHS Library Media Center
- Tuesday, February 7th – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM – CHS Library Media Center
- Friday, February 17th - – NO SCHOOL
- Monday, February 20th - NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, February 21st - NO SCHOOL – Teacher Work Day
- Tuesday, February 28th – Policy Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – CHS Library Media Center
- Tuesday, February 28th – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM – CHS Library Media Center

Cromwell High School

Just a reminder: For CHS sporting events. Adult tickets are \$5.00 and Senior tickets are \$3.00. You can also get a Senior Pass (65 and over) from any one of our school offices or the Central Office that will entitle you to free admission to any school-sponsored event.

Cromwell Middle School

A listing for all February sports events can be found on the CMS web page

Woodside Intermediate School

- Thursday, February 2nd – ECS/WIS PTO Meeting – 6:00 PM – WIS Library Media Center

Edna C. Stevens School

- Thursday, February 2nd – ECS/WIS PTO Meeting – 6:00 PM – WIS Library Media Center

As always, if you have any questions regarding any of the information contained in this month's letter please contact me at ptalty@cromwell.k12.ct.us.

Sincerely,

Paula M. Talty, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools