

City of Woonsocket

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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Robert J. Gerardi, Jr., Ph. D.
Superintendent

August, 2010

Dear Faculty and Staff,

We are entering a new school year committed to continued improvements in our student's academic success in spite of the challenging fiscal constraints we have endured over the last two years. I am proud to be a member of the Woonsocket Educational Department leadership team (including School Committee, WTG, and Administrative members) that negotiated a three year contract in good faith and have created a climate of collaboration. This was accomplished during a time when **WE ARE FIGHTING** with the City and State to provide adequate resources to fulfill their responsibility to provide an education to the children of Woonsocket. The Woonsocket Education Department and the Woonsocket Teachers' Guild need to remain unified in this battle. The delayed paychecks and potential problems with supplies were all problems stemming from the **CITY'S CASH FLOW PROBLEMS!** Fortunately, in an article in the Woonsocket Call on August 19, 2010, it declared that the Commissioner of Education agreed that the Woonsocket Schools are underfunded. Eventually our message will get out and we will be financially supported!

I am looking forward to a constructive 2010-2011 school year! Most importantly, I hope that everyone got their well deserved rest and relaxation over the summer recess, as I always say that health and family must come first. Now that we are reinvigorated, we need to be eager to meet our challenges this year and get started.

Please be advised Teacher Orientation is scheduled for Monday, August 30, 2010. Teacher Assistants are always welcome to attend Teacher Orientation Day but it is not mandatory, nor will it count toward professional development hours. Our Orientation Day will be held at the Woonsocket High School Auditorium. A continental breakfast will be available from 7:00 AM – 8:15 AM in the cafeteria and the program will commence at 8:30 AM. There will be a number of speakers from the Central Office on a variety of pertinent issues. At 10:45 AM all teachers are to report to their respective schools for their building level programs. Please be prompt as the Principals will be expecting all presentations to begin at exactly 10:45 AM. The first day for students will be Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

Our contractually scheduled Professional Development Day will be on Tuesday, August 31, 2010. Teacher Assistants may attend this day for professional development hours. That day will have varied hours based on the school day hours of the Elementary, Middle, and High schools. The elementary program will begin at 8:35 AM. The Middle School, Woonsocket High School, and Woonsocket Area Career and Technical Center will begin at 7:25 AM. More information on the logistics of this professional development day will be forthcoming. Also, throughout the month of September, the emphasis on instruction must continue to be on preparing our students for the NECAP testing in October.

For the 2010-2011 school year there will be one contractually required meeting per month. Principals will provide a list of dates for their buildings. Common planning time for all Staff will be at the beginning of the day for one-half (1/2) hour, four times a week, or its equivalent.

All Teachers whose certification expired this August must either present their renewal certificate, or evidence that the renewal application has been submitted, by August 31, 2010. Without this evidence of a current certificate, you **will not** be permitted to work and will be unpaid until such time as you are properly certified. If you have submitted your renewal application, you can print the status of your application from the RICERT website.

On behalf of the Central Office Leadership Team and all of our Clerical and Custodial Staff, we wish everyone pleasant days through the remaining summer recess.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Gerardi, Jr., Ph. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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"Empowering all learners to shape and enrich their changing world"

The Woonsocket Education Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, color or disability in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.