

June 13, 2022

Dear Spring Glen Families,

As my eighth year as your proud Spring Glen principal comes to an end and you begin to enjoy the sizzling days of summer, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment, grace and support this unprecedented year, which included teaching during the pandemic. I remember early on, health department officials saying that our success in schools was going to be determined by the cooperation and commitment of the entire community to follow recommendations and mitigation strategies. As we end the school year with many staff and students vaccinated, and Covid cases declining there is much to celebrate. We came together again this year to support one another and worked under extraordinary circumstances, demonstrating flexibility and resiliency. We have certainly come a long way since March 2020. I have just completed my 29<sup>th</sup> year as an educator and I have never worked with a more dedicated staff than ours. They have been on the front lines of the pandemic, school safety, and the mental health crisis in this country, all while ensuring our students' social-emotional needs are met and student learning is maximized. This year, we were recognized by U.S. News as one of the top 100 schools in Connecticut and Molly O'Neill was nominated as the Spring Glen Teacher of the Year. There is so much to be proud of. Join me in thanking the SPG staff for all that they do.

I am so proud of our students' resilience throughout this entire school year. Students worked as hard as they could each and every day. Please know that although the pace of the curriculum may have changed, our students learned important lessons that will stay with them for life. We will be refining our curriculum, teaching practices and schedules next year to address any perceived learning gaps from the pandemic. Our staff and district have spent many hours of professional development with consultants from Uconn ensuring we provide equitable practices to our students. We will continue to better understand issues around diversity, inclusion and equity and continue to change our culture, curriculum and structures to better meet the needs of all of our students.

Our fabulous PTA continued their involvement by supporting events such as the 5k Road Race, Renaissance Day, Common Ground Days, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, After School Enrichment, Field Days and Staff Appreciation Week. As I looked into the students' faces during field day, our concerts and our spirit days, I could see memories being created and I witnessed a "better" normal which brings hope to our school community as the pandemic begins to show some signs of immunity. Join me in congratulating Courtney Connors for her outstanding work as Spring Glen PTA president. She and her executive board have truly helped support us through the pandemic. She has gladly agreed to return next year in the role of treasurer. Please welcome Rachel Gasana as our new SPG PTA president.

We will truly miss our sixth-grade students who are going off to middle school. They enjoyed the last few weeks participating in Field Day, hiking and fishing, attending Paradise Pool Club, and enjoying food from the New Haven Pizza Truck. This class was special for me, as I have known many of them since kindergarten. Please join me in wishing them good luck in middle school.

If you have an incoming kindergarten student and have not registered them yet, please do so. We need these numbers so we can plan accordingly. If you are leaving Spring Glen, please email Kathy Wieland at [kwieland@hamden.org](mailto:kwieland@hamden.org) and let her know. The new school will request records.

Class placements for the 2022-2023 school year will be mailed in August and supply lists have been posted on our school's website. As a reminder, we do not take formal requests for specific teachers. There will be new family play dates again this summer which are sponsored by our PTA. More details can be found on their website, Instagram and Facebook pages.

Spring Glen School is truly a collaborative community where all stakeholders work together to ensure that the students receive the best possible educational experiences during their time here. Our vision states that we will prepare students to be open-minded, independent thinkers who are creative problem solvers, who will become respectful responsible citizens, and who can work collaboratively in an ever-changing global society. Our vision drives our work each day and we can't do it without working collaboratively. Spring Glen School values community and your children give us a special reason to come together. The constant synergy between our talented staff, students and the Spring Glen parent community inspires and motivates me to continue to lead Spring Glen to be the best it can be.

On behalf of the Spring Glen staff, I wish all of you a safe summer filled with friends, family and lots of laughter. Do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or your family.

With gratitude,

Howard Hornreich

Principal

#Spring Glen Strong