

To: The Editor

From: Louis M. Daniels, Chair
Canton Board of Education

Re: Excellence in Education – The Canton School District

Date: 8/06/08

The summer seems to be flying by and the back to school advertisements remind us that the new school year is only weeks away. It is an exciting and rewarding time for the Canton School District. Good things do come in bunches and for our school system, 2008 has produced some remarkable results with more to come, I'm sure.

The good news started rolling in this spring when we were notified that this October 2 our middle school will officially be awarded Connecticut Middle School of the Year, an honor that clearly distinguishes us as one of the elite schools in the state. It has only been five short years since we made the change from the old junior high school system to our current middle school format and through the hard work of staff and administration we have earned this very prestigious award. Truly an amazing accomplishment by our principal Joe Scheideler and our very talented CMS staff.

This summer the State of Connecticut released the test results for both CAPT and CMT. The results were beyond expectation and moved the Canton Schools into the top 10 of high performing districts in the state. Again, a tribute to staff and the laser focus on curriculum that has been paying dividends over time. Please check the Board of Education website for a full analysis of the CAPT and CMT results; the breakdown is very impressive. (www.cantonschools.org)

The Board of Education is proud of the results and accomplishments we have made to date and as Chair I believe there are four key reasons why we continue to make these wonderful strides in education. First, great people equal great results. Our teachers, Administrators, Para Educators, Tutors and Staff have made Canton a great place to learn....**thank you!** Secondly, a focus on curriculum that is aligned, linked, and highly managed. We are fortunate to have Lynn McMullin as our person responsible for the development and oversight of our curriculum needs. Thirdly, a community that is supportive of its education system and is vested in its growth and its financial needs. The Board of Education is committed to providing high value on your tax dollars. It is truly a partnership that has yielded these fine results between schools and community.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge and pay tribute to the volunteer Board of Education members past and present who have built this district through a fine tuned vision, a strategic plan, and a passion to do what is best for our children. A selfless group of volunteers who demand excellence at every level regardless of age or building, and do an excellent job in managing our district holistically. High test scores are great, but

providing children a quality education must be done in balance, something the BOE works very hard to maintain. I like to refer to it as the MBS of education, mind, body and soul.

We can all feel proud of these accomplishments as a community and should revel in the success but not become complacent. Canton is on a path of excellence in education and should enjoy it for at least a little while. In just a few short weeks the bell will go off again as it does every late August, time to go back to work, together making the Canton school district the best it can be!!!