

# Superintendent's Love Note to Bridgeport Public Schools

Dear Bridgeport Community,

It's hard to believe that we have only been together for 36 school days! The first few weeks of my tenure has been one of the most rewarding and most taxing experiences of my career.

I continue to be incredibly thankful for your support, patience, and enthusiasm for the work that lies ahead and victories that we will experience together, one battle at a time.

"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase." — Martin Luther King Jr.

When trust is broken, it's hard to believe that anything will be different until it changes. However, we have to persevere and focus on the eyes that watch us daily. They gleefully receive our "good morning" greetings and believe us when we smile and say "see you tomorrow." They are our priority and we must remain focused on putting their needs and expectations first. We stand poised to begin a new legacy of Bridgeport graduates, who will be proud to stay, return, and invest in our schools.

My resolve to meet that commitment remains unwavering and is even stronger than when I arrived in this beautiful city.

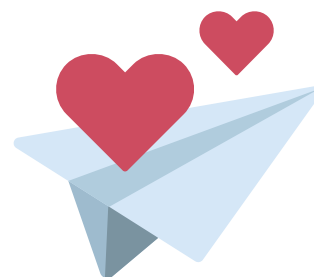
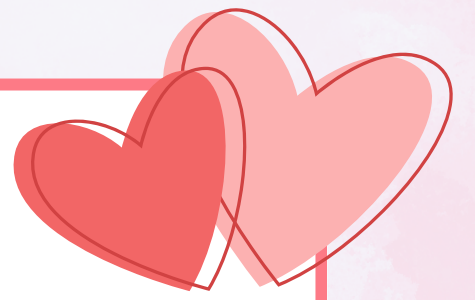
"The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next." – Abraham Lincoln

Take a look at all that we have done in 36 days. Now take a deep breath and exhale. I can't wait to see what we will do together in one year!

#risingtogether #wearebridgeport

Love,

Carmela M. Levy-David, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# IN 36 SCHOOL DAYS WE...

- Successfully negotiated a four-year teacher contract that will attract and retain talented educators while ensuring compensation remains in step with the cost of living increases.
- Defined the three instructional priorities that will be our focus for the next 24 months:
  - Building Teacher Capacity
  - Culturally Responsive Instruction
  - Guaranteeing Tier 1 instruction while closing the gaps in every classroom
- Redesigned how we share district information, messages, and priorities
- Embraced social media platforms and weekly summaries of our activities and accomplishments
- Listened and responded to questions and concerns from diverse community stakeholder groups and parents
- Built partnerships with corporations and organizations that will yield apprenticeships, scholarships, and future employment for Bridgeport graduates.
- Secured STEM labs for all schools thanks to the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation and the Allan Wallack Foundation.
- Recently, we've added Literacy and Math Directors to improve essential academic programs, ensuring a strong focus on tier-one instruction.
- We have enthusiastically welcomed Dr. Royce Avery as Interim Deputy Superintendent. He has a proven track record in transforming struggling school districts, bringing valuable experience to our leadership team.
- We've reestablished the position of Athletic Director, recognizing the pivotal role it plays in fostering student health, teamwork, and school spirit.
- We've expanded our leadership team to include Dr. Albert Sackey as Assistant Superintendent for Social Emotional Learning, Comprehensive Health, and Student Affairs. This appointment emphasizes our commitment to the holistic well-being of our students, ensuring they receive supports in academic, social and emotional development, overall health, and student affairs.
- Re-established strong partnerships with City of Bridgeport Officials, Locally Elected Officials, and Legislators committed to supporting effective leadership and strong schools
- Built bridges with all local colleges and universities to increase access for students and public school personnel
- Partnered with local officials to launch the Bridgeport Promise, a program that will secure college pathways and readiness for Bridgeport students and the opportunity to transform their family trajectories within one generation
- Begun the process of revitalizing our Magnet programs throughout the district while moving our students closer to becoming competitive in a 21st-century global economy
- Established partnerships with outstanding superintendents within the state of Connecticut and beyond