



Deborah Santacapita, Ed.D
Principal
Hallen School
68 Omega Avenue
Principal
(203) 576-8216



August 1, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On September 1, 2016, I want to welcome you and your child back to our school. At Hallen School, we are committed to have your child learn, grow, and attain academic and social/emotional success. I am very excited to begin my fourth year as the principal of Hallen School!

Hallen School's Highlights:

Hallen ranked #7 out of 34 schools in Bridgeport in the 2014-15 State Accountability Report – the top six schools were five magnet schools, one TAG School. This report is based on the following indicators: Academic Achievement, Academic Growth, Participation Rate, Chronic Absenteeism, and Physical Fitness. This is amazing results! Hallen School also has had significant improvement in the follow areas:

Student Attendance: 2014-15 2015-16

94.02% 95.52%

Suspension: 2014-15 2015-16

10% 1%

92% of Hallen School students have shown substantial growth as evidenced by our 2015-16 district assessments. WE are very proud that Hallen School students have improved in academics, attendance, physical fitness, and positive behaviors. Together, we can continue to REACH for the STARS so every student will SHINE!

Hallen School is one of five Turnaround Schools in Bridgeport! Turnaround Arts is a national program by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in coordination with the White House, and the U.S. Department of Education, to bring arts educational programming and resources to high-poverty elementary and middle schools across the country. To continue to learn more about Turnaround Arts, please visit the website, <http://turnaroundarts.pcah.gov/>

RULER continues to support that "emotions matter". Students are taught strategies to learn to; **Recognize** emotions; **Understand** the cause and consequence of emotions; **Label** the emotions; **Express** the emotions; **Regulate** the emotions. We continue to implement our school wide initiative called "**Take a Break Corner**" also, known as the "**Meta-Moment Corner**". It is located in the classroom, decorated with colorful objects or posters that students can go if they need a few minutes to calm down and reassess their behavior. They can write down their feelings in a journal and return to the classroom activities, feeling better in a matter of a few minutes. A timer is used by the students so they know when time is up.

We continue to embrace the **PBIS Model** for achieving optimal behavior from all our students. Each Hallen student will continue to earn a letter each day if they follow the school and classroom rules (S.O.A.R.S) in order to participate in our Fun Friday activities. **Caught for Being Good** is our bi-monthly incentive program, which awards students publicly using coupons or Dojo points. **Perfect Student Attendance** has weekly, monthly and marking period incentives such as prizes, announcements, and theme parties. **Student of the Month** continues to acknowledge and honor students with a breakfast, prizes, and student pictures, which are on display.

Our school-wide initiative called, "**Morning Meetings**" will continue. It has had a profound effect on our students' connections to each other and the teacher. During the meetings, students use the **Mood Meter** to rate their feelings, share with each other and the teacher. If students do not feel valued or appreciated, they will not try to achieve their **personal best**.

Our motto continues to be, "**We are all performers in the act of life!**"

Deborah Santacapita