

VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Office of the Superintendent
30 Park Street • P.O. Box 600
Vernon, CT 06066-0600
Fax (860) 870-6005

Website: www.vernonpublicschools.org

Joseph Macary, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(860) 870-6000 ext. 4660

Robert Testa
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
(860) 870-6000 ext. 4676

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Press Contact:

David Owens, Communications Specialist
Desk (860) 870-3574
Cell (860) 494-5973

Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne Honors Northeast School Students, Teachers and Staff for Hard Work and Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School

(VERNON, Connecticut) – Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne honored the students and staff at Northeast School Monday morning for their hard work and for being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Mayor Champagne read a proclamation and told Northeast’s students that he and the entire Town of Vernon are proud of them.



Northeast School fifth graders jump for joy as they celebrate their school’s recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.

“What you have achieved in being named a National Blue Ribbon School is very special,” Mayor Champagne said. “Congratulations to all of you, to your principal, to the staff and your parents for coming together and working so hard to distinguish yourselves as one of the top schools in the nation.”

Northeast School was one of four schools in Connecticut and one of 367 in the nation to achieve the National Blue Ribbon designation this year.

“The entire Northeast School family should be very proud of their many accomplishments and unwavering dedication to a world class education for all,” reads the proclamation from Mayor Champagne and the Town Council.

The Vernon Public Schools, in partnership with family and community, is committed to provide a quality education, with high expectations, in a safe environment where all students become independent learners and productive contributors to society.

Vernon Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Macary said the honor “validates the hard work of dedicated teachers and staff” and cooperation by parents and the community. “This type of continuous and diligent collaboration helps our students thrive.”

Mayor Champagne singled out Northeast Principal Brenda Greene for her focus on getting the best out of Northeast students. “Dr. Greene has high expectations of everyone at Northeast and works hard to create an atmosphere where students, teachers and staff can achieve at a high level,” Mayor Champagne said.

This week is National Blue Ribbon School Celebration Week in all of Vernon’s schools.

“We’re very, very excited and we’re proud of all of you,” Dr. Macary told the students. “It’s because of you we have this award, because of your hard work, your teachers’ hard work, the staff, and your parents. Enjoy it. It’s going to be a great week.”

The annual awards program recognizes schools for their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing the achievement gap. Northeast is being recognized for closing the achievement gap, but has actually achieved both, ranking among the top 15 percent of all schools in the state the past two years and helping all students achieve at a high level.

Each year since the 2015-16 school year, the number of students at Northeast School meeting or exceeding grade level proficiency in English Language Arts and Math has increased.

For the 2015-16 school year, 56.9 percent of Northeast Students met or exceeded the standard in English Language Arts and 44.5 percent met or exceeded the standard in math.

By the 2019-20 school year, the number of students meeting or exceeding the standard increased 22.8 percent in English Language Arts to 69.9 percent, and in math the number increased 44 percent to 64.1 percent of students meeting or exceeding the standard.

The same level of progress has been demonstrated in the Connecticut’s Next Generation Accountability results, which are essentially a report card for a school’s whole approach to teaching students.

In four of the last five years, Northeast School’s score has beat the state average. And for the past two years, Northeast School was rated among the top 15 percent of schools in the state.

“The key to Northeast School’s success is we look at the kids individually,” said Dr. Brenda Greene, who has been principal at Northeast School for nine years. “We ask, ‘what does this child need?’ We drill down and do whatever we can for the individual student. That child will be the best he or she can be.”

Dr. Macary said that if such results can be achieved at Northeast School, they can be achieved at any school.

“If you have a quality teaching staff and focused interventions in both English Language Arts and Mathematics for students who are not on grade level, you are helping push the tide forward,” Dr. Macary said. “That along with a relevant curriculum is a formula for success. It’s a team effort – students, parents, teachers, administration, staff, everybody.”

There is a simple but powerful mantra at Northeast School, “Work hard and Be Nice.” Northeast School was previously recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School during the 1991-1992 school year.

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