



COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
1700 MAIN STREET  
COVENTRY, CT 06238



August 9, 2010

Greetings, Colleagues:

As we move into our fourth year of the five year theme...*Quality Educational Environments: Responsive, Collaborative, Clearly Defined*, we will be attending to being ever more responsive to student needs. Our RTI initiatives will further focus on customizing the Tier I, II, and III learning experiences for our young people.

Please find below the schedule for our August staff development days. We are extremely fortunate to have Ms. Gina Barreca, from the University of Connecticut, join us for our August 26<sup>th</sup> event. She will address the complex issues of diversity and systemic responsiveness to individual student needs and learning styles. In any learning environment, the best achievement comes as the teacher and learner engage from a place of knowing. Due to the nature of our theme and the important role para-educator staff members play in student achievement and success, we welcome their participation during the morning seminar. The afternoon sessions will be site based as we continue our planning and preparations for a systemic RTI expansion and implementation.

**Thursday, August 26 – Morning – CHS/CNH Complex**

.6 CEUs for full day

7:45 – 8:25 a.m. – Continental breakfast provided for all staff in the CHS “Old” Gymnasium (optional)

**8:30 a.m. – Pledge of Allegiance – ALL Staff – Veterans Auditorium**

8:31 a.m. – Welcome – Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Bernard and Chairman, Larry Pietrantonio

8:50 a.m. – Introductions: Administrators and New Staff, Mentor Awards, Years of Service Recognition

9:30 a.m. – **Gina Barreca – Understanding the Learning; Issues Related to Diversity**

10:15 a.m. – Break (Support staff personnel may return to their regular duties.)

10:45 a.m. – Panel Discussion – **How Customization Increased Learning – Special Guests Tell “Learning Stories”** – Veterans Auditorium (Certified Staff and Para-educators)

12:00 noon – Personal Time or Lunch will be provided in the **Capt. Nathan Hale School Cafeteria** for Certified Staff, Para-educators and those involved in the afternoon RTI workshops.

**Thursday, August 26 – Afternoon – 1:15 – 3:45 p.m.** – Site-based **RTI Groups in Workshops** (Diversity Group to meet with Gina Barreca – separately noticed)

**Friday, August 27:** All day – Site-based activities for certified staff and para-educators.

(Para-educators are expected to attend full day activities on Thursday, August 26 and Friday, August 27. This will fulfill the para-educator agreement requirements for in-service days for 2010-11.)

This school year will be a great opportunity in so many ways. Welcome back! I look forward to visiting with you.

Sincerely,

Donna Bernard, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools