



# Dwight Elementary School

## 2012 National Blue Ribbon School



1600 Redding Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

**Mimi Maniscalco**  
Principal

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Dear Parents,

September 2016

I would like to take this opportunity to call you out of summer and into the start of the 2016-17 school year. I hope that you had many opportunities to enjoy extended time with friends and family. This summer, I spent time in Narragansett, RI with my family before bringing my son to college in South Carolina for a summer session. From Spartanburg, SC, my husband and I celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Charleston, SC. What an incredible city! Despite the beauty and lush nature of both vacations, I found the most special times this summer were the simple ones: cooking dinner with my son-in-law, shopping in Westport with my daughter, having dinner with my son and his girlfriend, watching TV with my daughter in her new home, and getting caught in the rain with my littlest one in NYC. I was also struck by how fortunate I am to live in our Fairfield community enjoying our amazing restaurants, juice bars, beaches and exercise establishments! In short, as I continue to discover, it is the little things that matter most.

This year, our focus at Dwight will complement the work we did last year on high level questioning, providing students with specific feedback, and developing flexible mindsets for learning. In October, our parent coffee will focus on how parents can partner with us in order to grow children who can joyously learn and meet their full potential. Fairfield Public Schools has purchased several resources that will help us accomplish our goals including Bridges for mathematics, new trade books and word work materials for grades four and five. We look forward to introducing you to those materials throughout this school year through parent letters, coffees and visits.

Our lovely "little school on the hill" as some refer to Dwight, has undergone several upgrades that I am thrilled to share. Our playground steps are being modernized and reinforced, a retaining wall is being built to keep our playground's woodchips in the playground, light posts have been installed lining the front driveway, and our common areas and several classrooms have been repainted. Dwight is sparkling brightly due to these improvements and the hard work of our custodial staff, Ms. Liz and Mr. Paul.

Dwight has many new staff members joining us this year. Ms. Barwise and Mrs. Lau will join Mrs. Winstead in the speech and language department, Mrs. Perez will be our school social worker and Mrs. Reddy will be our art teacher. We also welcome Mrs. Jones to the CLC and Ms. Hervieux as our intern. All of these "new to Dwight" staff members bring with them a wealth of knowledge and expertise. We are thrilled to have them as members of our Dwight community.

Below please find important upcoming dates:

Wednesday, August 31, 2016	11:00 AM	New Families Tour – meet in front office
Wednesday, August 31, 2016	11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	All School Visit Followed by PTA Playground Play Date
Thursday, September 1, 2016	8:45 AM	First Day of School – Bring your camera
Thursday, September 1, 2016	9:00 AM	PTA Coffee Hour - APR
Tuesday, September 13, 2016	6:30 PM	Open House
Friday, September 31, 2016	6:00 PM	Back to School Movie Night

One other date and time of which I'd like to make you aware is September 2 at 2:00 PM. We will be conducting the first of several lock down drills. I believe that it is good practice to make you aware of the lockdown drills so that you can discuss them with your child when he/she comes home from school. It is very important that we regularly practice both fire and lockdown drills. I'd like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and support in keeping our community safe and prepared.

Please regularly check your email, Infinite Campus and the PTA website for information and updates from both the PTA and from me.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Maniscalco

*You can expect communication from your child's teacher between now and early next week. This communication will include a warm welcome and any suggested materials that the teacher is requesting. School supplies are largely provided by the school so the teacher requests will be minimal.*