

Hello Pathways Families!

I hope this message finds you well and you are enjoying a relaxing, fun, and well-deserved summer with family, friends, and loved ones. As always, there have been great things happening at Pathways throughout the summer I'd like to share with you, along with some updates regarding the upcoming 2026-27 school year.

Summer Programs:

We were very fortunate to continue our incoming New Student PREPS Program. PREPS welcomed students on June 29th and 30th. Students engaged in team and community building activities, learning all about what Pathways has to offer. This included help from our upperclassmen, who did an excellent job of leading and representing Pathways. We had an excellent turn out of students in June with 55 new students attending, an increase from last year! We are looking forward to meeting more of our new students and families on August 19, 2026 at 4:00pm for our Welcome Back Night! We would like to thank Ms. Ciccio, Ms. Garman, Ms. Rothfuss, Ms. Carta, Mr. Bonillo, Ms. Payne, Ms. Maldonado, Ms. Chamberland, Ms. Torruella, and Mr. Jernigan for their hard work in making these sessions a reality and for supporting our new students!!!

As a Distinguished NAF school, we continuously embrace our NAF Model to enhance our curriculum and course offerings, and to build the skills and knowledge to prepare our students for college and their career. The biggest part of our model entails our work-based learning opportunities. We are very thankful and fortunate to have our amazing business partners to allow us to have had another successful internship program this year. The students did an outstanding job at different businesses and corporations. We had many students who engaged and succeeded in high level and high-quality paid internships!!! A big thank you to Sorceres Rivera, ReadyCT Quality Innovation and Program Manager, and Melissa Vieira, our Pathways ReadyCT Program Manager, who have done an excellent job. Also, to our Advisory Board, and all of our partner companies for helping our students to engage in these paid internships that are the true foundation of our NAF Model, in which students can apply what they are learning in school to the real world. As part of our internship opportunities this summer, Pathways hosted the GRIT Internship Program through ReadyCT. The program



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brought together students from five area high schools including Pathways students to engage them in a month-long work-based learning, training, and internship experience. See this link to learn more about GRIT: <https://readyct.org/grit/>

The program was a great success with over 80 students participating! A thank you to Sorceres and Melissa and all of the ReadyCT staff and business partners for making this program a success!

We are very thankful and appreciative to all of our staff for taking the time during the summer to engage our students and themselves in these amazing programs and opportunities!

Communication:

Our main platform for communication will be Parent Square. You will receive important information regarding the school, events, updates, and more through this platform. We have set a year-long calendar of events and programs that will be on our website and we will send various reminders as well through the Parentsquare platform. Families can always get information about the school on our website as well as through our social media platforms, or if you need help getting signed up for Parent Square please call us at the school.

Below are the links to Parentsquare, our school website, Instagram, and Facebook pages:

[Parentsquare Login/Registration](#)

[Pathways Website](#)

[Pathways Instagram](#)

[Pathways Facebook](#)

Parent Engagement:

We are a true family here at Pathways and we love engaging our families as part of the school community. In addition to our quarterly Parent-Teacher Conferences, we will have dozens of fun events, programs, and workshops for our families. Dates will be sent through Parentsquare. We also have an amazing PTO and SGC. A big thank you to Ms. June Jenkins and Ms. Krystal Tenner from our PTO and SGC and all of our parent members for their hard work and dedication to our school community. If you are interested in joining either of these organizations, please contact us at the school and our Family and Community Support Provider Ms. Zoraida Maldonado at maldz001@hartfordschools.org



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Schedules:

Students and families will have access to their schedules through Powerschool. If you have any questions about accessing Powerschool please contact us at the school. We are still fine tuning schedules to ensure to the best of our ability that schedules are updated to address any staffing changes, results from summer school, or any shifts necessary for students to receive the classes they need. Our school counselors will be here the week before school starts and will continue working on schedules to match student's needs. When the schedules are accessible we will send out a Parentsquare message. Feel free to reach out to the school if you have questions. The login for Parent Portal for Powerschool is below, if you need any help getting logged in please contact us at the school:

[Powerschool Parent/Student Login](#)

We will have the same bell schedule for this year as we did last year. Here is the link to the Weekly Bell Schedule for students: [Pathways Weekly Bell Schedule: 2026-27](#) In the schedule you will see our POWER2 Block and Panther Block. POWER2 Block will occur every Tuesday and all students will have access to academic support in all areas of need. In addition to subject and content specific help, students will also have PSAT/SAT support. Our Panther Block will be held again every Friday. This will allow ALL students the opportunity to engage in Clubs and Enrichment during the school day. Every staff member will take part in leading a club so students will have a wide variety of options. Students will get the opportunity to take a survey to share their interests and the clubs they want during the first week of school. After that, students will have access to view all of the club opportunities and select the clubs that they are most interested in. Students can switch clubs each week if they want to experience multiple opportunities throughout the year.

Uniforms:

School uniforms will be in place this year. It will consist of the light blue/white short or long sleeve polo, as well as the navy blue fleece, OR on any day students can wear a t-shirt, long sleeve shirt, or sweatshirt that has the Pathways Logo/Name on it as part of our School Spirit focus! ***Students can wear spirit gear as their uniform daily and students and families can order spirit gear year round from this link: [Pathways Spirit Gear Online Store](#)

All uniform tops must be visible at all times. There are no shorts allowed. Students cannot have open-toed shoes due to safety. No sweatpants, ripped pants, or pajama pants should be worn. Important: we have embedded dress down days that will be a combination of fundraisers for



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different grades, clubs, and teams, as well as free dress down days. Students are expected to dress appropriately on dress down days, no crop tops/no showing of midriff, no tank tops, no inappropriate messaging or symbols, no headgear of any kind, or pajama pants (*except for designated "PJ Days"). Phone calls will be made home for students out of uniform. Again, students can wear their Pathways Gear on any day or they can wear the light blue/white polos or the navy blue fleece. We know there is some delay with some orders, if you have any questions, please let us know how we can support. Uniform flyer can be found in the link below with all necessary information:

[Uniform Flyer and Information](#)

Cell Phones/Backpacks/Laptops:

For all students, the policy will follow the board of education policy on cell phones. If the cell phone is seen or heard at any time, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day on the first offense. Subsequent violations will include further consequences and require a parent/guardian to come to the school to pick up the phone. The purpose of this policy is to ensure our students are focused and engaged in the classroom on their work, and engaging positively and collaboratively with their peers and teachers. Students are allowed to carry backpacks and bring them to their classes and to lunch. This will reduce the amount of visits students need to take to go to their lockers. Students will receive laptops during the first week of school.

Transportation:

Transportation is handled through the CREC Transportation and East Hartford Transportation offices. We anticipate that they will send notifications and information out the week before school starts.

ATTENDANCE: We need you here, we want you here!!! Attendance will be a major focus this year to ensure students are in school and engaged at a high level. It is essential that our students are here each and every day to allow us the opportunity to teach them, help them, and support them in every way possible. We will have regular recognitions, awards, and competitions to acknowledge great attendance and the importance of being with us here at Pathways each and every day.

POWER2 REMINDER: Who we are...As part of our goal to improve Pathways, several years ago I met with a class of students representing 9th-12th grades. During that meeting, the class was presented with our School Improvement Plan, which includes all of the goals for the school to



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improve achievement. The class engaged in a “Noticings and Wonderings” activity to analyze the school’s goals and plan for improvement, what resonated with them, and to ask questions about those goals. One question was, “Do these goals represent who we are as a school?” This led the group to ask themselves the bigger question of “who are we as a school and what do we want to be?” In other words, what is our Mission and Vision. As a school, we needed to develop a Mission and Vision that every student, parent, staff member, and community partner knows about and believes in. It should be BOTH what are our current strengths (what we are good at) and what we aspire to be (what do we need and want to get better at). As a result, the students themselves developed POWER2. We then conducted circles in Advisory in each area to share and discuss what each area should look like in our school and what students and staff can do to continue to effect positive change through these beliefs. In addition, the SGC, PTO, and Industry Advisory Board were engaged in input and feedback as well. The results of all this work:

POWER²

Professional
Opportunities
Work-Ethic
Empowerment
Respect & Responsibility

You will continue to hear a lot about this as our goal is to have POWER² be the one thing that every student, parent, staff member, business partners, and member of our community can rally behind to say “this is Pathways!” We will be recognizing students daily, weekly, and monthly, who exemplify one or more of these areas including a student of the month in each area. Show your POWER²!!!

School Climate and Culture: *INCENTIVE PROGRAM:**

This year at Pathways, we will be focusing on **POSITIVE INCENTIVES** for our students who are exemplifying POWER2 each day. From the first day of school and on, students who are in uniform daily, have no cell phone violations, and no behavior violations, will be able to participate in dances, sports, activities, events, dress down days, and field trips. Students in violation of any of the above may not be able to participate in these activities. The purpose is to recognize and acknowledge students who are consistently doing the right thing each day and are contributing to a positive environment here at Pathways.



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We have worked hard over the last several years to continuously build a positive and safe learning environment for all here at Pathways through positive relationships and school spirit. We are emphasizing our Positive Incentive Program, and will be conducting safety drills each month to practice our protocols and procedures to analyze and improve our practices to make our school as safe as possible. To that end, the district security office has provided us with a metal detector to be placed at the main entrance. We believe that this will add an additional level of safety and security for our students, staff, and families. We believe these practices will help Pathways to have a safe and positive climate and culture for all. More information to come in the next few weeks.

Sports at Pathways

Pathways students have the opportunity to participate in multiple CIAC sports. We have partnered with Sport & Medical Sciences Academy and it has been a huge success with over 50 Pathways Students participating in sports across the three seasons. This includes for the first time last year our championship winning ESports Team!. The sports opportunities and conferences they are in are listed below:

Fall Sports - Football (Pequot), Girls Volleyball (NCCC), Boys Soccer (NCCC)

Winter Sports - Boys Basketball (NCCC), Girls Basketball (NCCC), Coed Indoor Track (NCCC), Coed Cheerleading

Spring Sports - Baseball (CRAL), Coed Outdoor Track (NCCC), Girls Flag Football, Coed Golf (NCCC), Boys Volleyball (CVL)

All sports registrations must be completed on **F**inal Forms, here is the link: [Final Forms Sports Registration Link](#)

If students are interested in ESports here at Pathways they can get information and sign up when the school year starts.

All sports will follow the HPS academic eligibility requirements for participation. Final Forms is set up to have all of the SMSA sports programs linked to the same programs at Pathways when students register. Students should register under Pathways as their school of enrollment, and it will automatically be linked with SMSA.



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Welcome Back!

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students, staff, and families to start the 2026-27 school year. Along with our returning staff, please join me in welcoming our new amazing staff to the Pathways Family:

Blaise Brescia, Special Education Teacher
Genesis Gully, Student Engagement Specialist
James Brown, Technology Teacher, Room 225
Greg Jackson, School Security (Welcome Back!)

We are so excited to have these outstanding staff join our Pathways Family!!!

Upcoming Important Dates:

Wednesday August 19, 2026: Welcome Back Night and for students and families: 4:00pm

Special First Week Schedule: 8/24/26-8/28/26

Tuesday August 25, 2026: **First Day of School for ALL Students**

***Early dismissal for students at 11:00am

Wednesday August 26, 2026: **Second Day of School for ALL Students**

***Early dismissal for students at 11:00am

Monday September 7, 2026: NO School: Labor Day

Thursday September 10, 2026: Meet the Teacher/Open House Night: 5:00-7:00pm

More information will follow in the upcoming days and in the first weeks of school. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing our new and returning students for the **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL on Tuesday, August 25th** to kick off the 2026-27 school year!

Sincerely, Mike Maziarz, Principal



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