

# BASSICK HIGH SCHOOL

1181 Fairfield Avenue • Bridgeport, Connecticut 06605

Linda Bagoly, *Principal*  
Marjorie Coble, *Principal*  
Kathryn Silver, *Principal*  
Shaun Smith, *Principal*

Telephone: 203-275-3081 • FAX: 203-337-0143

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to make you aware of a bold initiative, the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Family and Community Engagement Cadre at Bassick High School. Through the tireless work of numerous individuals we are establishing a vibrant culture and laying the groundwork to produce lasting changes at Bassick that engage all our students in opportunities to thrive.

At Bassick, this year, we have started a 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy. To increase our effectiveness, we created a small leadership team. We included not only our staff, but students, family members, and community members to give guidance and improve family and community engagement which we know directly impacts rates of student success. We have assets in our community, with our students, and with our parents we have not yet tapped. By working together, we are better able to harness all our resources for the benefit of our students.

Some of the issues the leadership team has begun to tackle are:

- What does student success look like and how can we help students become engaged in that success?
- What do families need to help their children and become more engaged?
- How do we partner with the community to offer Bassick students more support and create enriched programs for them?

The idea that two heads are better than one really is true when it comes to developing and implementing innovative ideas. By planning, looking at best practices, being informed by data, and working together, we have begun to make an impact we could never achieve alone. Additionally, to help us in this work, we have been given a grant and a wonderful opportunity to partner with the CommPACT Community Schools Collaborative.

The process of building high impact partnerships with our students, staff, families and community involves:

- recognizing opportunities for change;
- developing a vision of long-term change and short term actions to build toward that change;
- asking parents and other stakeholders what they want and see as important;
- seeking support and involvement from diverse and non-traditional partners; and
- breaking down barriers and mobilizing people and resources to create these changes.

As a result of the CommPACT Partnership, the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy has been able to improve student attendance, increase parental involvement, lower the In School and Out of School Suspension rates, lower the failure rate by providing real time interventions, and access professional development for staff, parents and the community at large.

As the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Administrator, I am fortunate to have 10 new teachers and a part time Climate and Success Specialist to keep the 230 students under my watch focused on their education. Each and every day, I keep my focus on sending the message to the masses that, “it takes a village”. I cannot make the necessary changes alone, however thanks to the support of the CommPACT Initiative, when parents, students, staff, administration and the community at large come together, we are able to move mountains.

Sincerely,

Kathy Silver