



## SPS Super News - September 2016

Greetings!

Welcome to the 2016/17 school year! This year we are launching a new format for the district's monthly newsletter, Super News. You are receiving this newsletter because you signed up for school alerts. You may opt out at any time by clicking on the link at the bottom.



### Strategic Planning at the Salem Public Schools

This summer, the Salem Public Schools launched a strategic planning initiative that will create a roadmap for six key levers that will guide our work as a whole and strengthen our ability to meet outcomes detailed in the Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP).

The six levers are:

- Vision for portfolio of schools in the District
- Teacher Leadership & Empowerment
- Family & Community Engagement
- Vision for Early Childhood
- The future of high school education in Salem
- Meeting the needs of diverse learners

Six work groups are forming to engage in depth discussions regarding each of the above topics. The work groups will develop strategies and areas of focus and areas of work for our schools for the next 3-5 years.

Over the next six months, there will be opportunities for everyone in Salem to become engaged, participate and shape our strategic plan. Please take advantage of these opportunities to share your voice and perspective. More information will be forthcoming about the specific times and locations of these meetings that will take place mostly in the late fall and early winter.

Please contact [Jill Conrad](#) to learn more.



## How to Help Your Child be a Confident Reader

A strong foundation in literacy is fundamental to academic success. Here are five ways you can support your reader:

1. Set a time for reading every day.
2. Read out loud to each other.
3. Let your child choose what interests them. Reading for pleasure is a gift.
4. Talk about what they are reading. Ask about the plot, the characters and what they think will happen next.
5. Reading is everywhere! Trips to the store, car rides and other excursions are all opportunities to have your child help you by reading advertisements, road signs or helping to navigate the map on your trip to the zoo.

[Great Books to Read](#)

## Shaver Hired as New Business Manager for Salem Public Schools



Salem Public Schools is pleased to welcome new Business Manager [Kristin Shaver](#) to the SPS team.

Shaver most recently served as Director of Finance for the Collaborative for Regional Educational Services and Training (CREST) based in Methuen, MA. While working for CREST, she undertook a number of initiatives including implementing a new payroll system to track student information and billing, clearing 12 major audit findings within 18 months, and working with stakeholders to manage a budget that has grown by 80% since fiscal year 2013.

“With more than 13 years of related experience, Kristin will be able to have an immediate impact, especially as we continue to work to implement systems, create efficiencies and manage our scarce resources effectively,” said Superintendent Margarita Ruiz, who presented Shaver’s candidacy to School Committee.

Shaver said, “I am excited for the opportunity to serve the Salem Public Schools and work with the School Committee and the Superintendent to ensure that the District is managing its resources in the best interest of the nearly 4,000 students we serve every school day.”

Shaver received an MBA and a BA in Management from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

## Helping Students and Families Get Ready for College

Salem Public Schools is partnering with Inversant to help families navigate the path to college. From financial aid to applying to college, from understanding your scholar's financial aid package to understanding public versus private loans, Inversant hosts monthly workshops in Spanish and English to help students and their families tackle these important issues.

Inversant is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping make higher education attainable for all, regardless of income. Each month parents participate in Learning Circles and intentionally set aside money to use for higher education. Inversant has an added incentive, if a participating family attends every monthly Learning Circle meeting and saves, Inversant will match up to \$1,000 for qualifying seniors.

[Learning Circles for 2016/17.](#)

## ICYMI - Summer Happenings



### Thank You Bates Volunteers

The Salem Public Schools would like to thank chief volunteer and Bates School PTO member Sarah Murphy and the hundreds of volunteers who came out to support the Bates Playground build over the summer. Students at Bates will have many years of outdoor fun and adventure thanks to the hard work of so many!

### Inaugural Outing for CMS at Salem's July 4th Celebration

Members of the CMS band wowed the crowd at their first appearance at Salem's annual 4th of July Celebration. Led by Salem music teacher Ben Chertok, 24 students from CMS played Jurassic Park in honor of American Composer John Williams. CMS music teacher Ellen Finn worked with Mr. Chertok to help prepare and organize students for this amazing opportunity.



### Editor's Note:

SPS Super News is published on the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you have news you would like to have considered for publication, please submit to Kelley Rice, Chief of Communications, [kellyrice@salemk12.org](mailto:kellyrice@salemk12.org)

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