



# THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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785 Riverside Drive  
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

Tel: (860) 923-9581  
Fax: (860) 923-9638

Dear Thompson Public Schools Parents, Guardians and Friends,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your summer and excited for the school year. For those of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Scott Sugarman and I am the Director of Pupil Services for Thompson Public Schools. This will be my second year in Thompson and I am thrilled for the continuation of our important work together.

There are a lot of new items we will be working on this year. Last year, we developed a strategic plan for our department with the mission/vision of:

#### **Pupil Services Vision Statement**

We are a school district that provides an inclusive education environment for students with special needs by ensuring the maximum amount of our students are spending the majority of the time accessing the curriculum with their general education peers. We meet the unique needs of our learners through a robust and rigorous set of supports that provides high quality academic, emotional and physical support. We engage our parents and community partners as vital members of our children's successes. Through multi-leveled supports we will decrease the achievement gap between our general education population and our students of highest need.

#### **Pupil Services Mission Statement**

To provide academic, emotional and related service programming for students of special needs while maintaining and ensuring compliance according to state and federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act regulations

And our focus this year will be developing and implementing several new systems, procedures and policies that will help us reach our goals in providing a rich set of academic and related services for all our students.

There are three new changes when it comes to PPT meetings that will be in place this school year. Both of these changes are happening so we can be more proactive in scheduling PPT meetings and so I can provide more support and oversight of the implementation of IEPs within the schools and classrooms.

First, I will be attending all PPT Triennials, Outplaced PPT Meetings, New Referrals and Determine Eligibility meetings, as well as several PPT Annuals. Building Principals will be attending other PPT Annuals for their specific schools. This will allow me to observe more classrooms, provide more coaching and ensure all the resources are in place for the services our students need.

Second, we have scheduled out the entire school year's PPT Annuals and Triennials so we can be more proactive with our schedules and to provide, you, the parent or guardian with plenty of notice of when your child's PPT meeting is scheduled. ***It is important to note that these dates are tentative reminders and as the meeting date approaches, my office will contact you to officially confirm the day and time.***

Lastly, one of the important items within the Special Education Strategic Plan is the development of the special education teachers as the case managers for their students, your children. They will be leading most PPT meetings for their students and will begin to be the primary connection between the parents, students, school and our office. We want them to be seen as an advocate for your child, someone you can always reach out to get answers to your questions or help with anything related to your child.

For consistency, Elementary Meetings will be scheduled on Tuesdays, Middle School will be scheduled on Thursdays and High School will be scheduled on Wednesdays. All outplaced PPT meetings will be scheduled on either Mondays or Fridays.

Special Education is a deep passion of mine, both on a personal and professional pathway. I am a product of special education and I firmly believe all students regardless of disability can achieve amazing things in school, community and beyond. It is our job as a school district and with strong partnership with you all to provide the supports and pathways to success.

Lastly, my office is always open. It is my job to ensure you understand the PPT process, feel supportive in our district and ensure your children receive the services they need to be successful. We will be scheduling monthly parent meetings that I hope you will be able to attend. This will allow my office to share important district-wide updates, but for you to have a forum to ask questions and learn more about the special education process.

Please reach out at any time, either via email, over the phone, or in-person.

Sincerely,

Scott Sugarman, M.Ed  
Director of Pupil Services

Email-[ssugarman@thompsonpublicschools.org](mailto:ssugarman@thompsonpublicschools.org)

Phone-(860)923-9581 ext. 515 or ext. 516