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## Message From The Superintendent March, 2010

To students, faculty and families:

This has been an eventful year. Having begun the year with the consolidation of elementary schools – closing Oak Haven Elementary, we were informed soon after the start of school that our schools would be hosting H1N1 flu clinics after school for Grades K-5 and during school for Grades 6-12. While these efforts were underway, Coventry also underwent a State review of its special education program and services. I am proud to report that all of these efforts appear to have been achieved with a high level of success.

In addition, in November, 2009, Coventry High School hosted a 75<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of its opening. In December, Coventry High underwent a Commissioner's review of its high school proficiency program. I am happy to report that the Commissioner commended Coventry High and the district for developing an effective program in compliance of the State regulations. Later in April, 2010, Coventry High will undergo a NEASC accreditation visit. This is a 10-year review of the progress of Coventry High School in preparing students to be competent graduates with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to be successful in post-secondary programs or the world of work. The NEASC accreditation qualifies the CHS diploma as evidence that students met quality, rigorous standards.

We are now moving towards graduation and the close of the school year. By Spring, the school performances will be planned and held. The high school will hold its proms and the middle and high school will hold their award ceremonies including the National Honor Society. While each grade level promotion marks a time of celebration for each family, the Coventry High School graduation exercises, held at the Ryan Center at the University of Rhode Island, is the most notable graduation ceremony of the school system because it marks the culmination of up to 13 years of schooling and the beginning of a student's entrance into post secondary studies, the world of work or the military. Coventry is one of the few communities that also hosts a second graduation ceremony in early August for those students who need some extra time to complete the requirements for a CHS diploma.

If you have followed the newspaper, you may know that I announced my intent to retire at the end of the school year in June. For me, this will be my last set of graduation exercises and award ceremonies in Coventry. The last eight years have provided me with the opportunity to meet some wonderful educators, staff, families and students. I would certainly and honestly report that the quality of the educational programs in Coventry are among the highest of any that I have experienced over the past 38 years in education. You should be very proud of the education provided in Coventry Public Schools.

I attribute the excellence in Coventry Public Schools to a School Committee that remains focused on the needs of students; administrators who are willing to do whatever it takes to ensure a quality education for every child; teachers who are dedicated and committed to student success; support staff who know they are an important part of the educational team helping students achieve their goals; and parents and families who remain engaged in their children's education. There is no substitute for family support when it comes to student success.

### **“Working Together To Improve Our Schools”**

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