



# BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Realtor's Guide 2011



### Bethel Schools Earn A Place Among The State's Elite Performers

*The Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now*, a non-partisan public interest educational research group, rated 157 school districts in Connecticut based upon overall student performance. Bethel's student performance ranked higher than Brookfield, Canton, Cheshire, Fairfield, Greenwich, Guilford, New Fairfield, Sherman, New Milford, Danbury and over 125 other towns in the State. Bethel High, Bethel Middle, and Johnson Schools were all cited as being among the 10 top schools in Connecticut in student performance. Bethel Middle School is a "New England Spotlight School." Johnson School is a finalist to be "Connecticut Elementary School of the Year."

### Bethel Schools Rank In Top 5% In National Study On "Return On Taxpayer Investment" Dollars

A report released in January 2011 by the Center for American Progress examined 9000 of the nation's school districts. The report cited the Bethel Public Schools for an exceptional "RETURN ON TAXPAYER DOLLAR INVESTED." Our students were cited for outperforming academic expectations. Bethel was listed as in the TOP TEN in Connecticut for Student Achievement Realized Per Taxpayer Dollar. Our school system was among the Top 5% in the Nation for "Return of Taxpayer Investment." The Center for American Progress states that these Connecticut school districts get the best student performance per taxpayer dollar. The State grant to Bethel is far greater than other high-performing districts which means local taxpayers make up for a small share of the total cost/student. Take a look at the following table of the top performing districts according to this report.

	<u>Overall Student Achievement Index</u>	<u>Total Cost Per Student</u>	<u>Local Revenue Per Student</u>	<u>Local % Paid/Student</u>
Bethel	0.91	13,733	10,453	76%
Ridgefield	0.97	14,381	14,321	99%
Darien	0.95	15,467	15,407	100%
Fairfield	0.93	15,533	15,693	100%
Wilton	0.95	16,154	15,696	97%
New Canaan	0.97	17,342	16,023	92%
Westport	0.96	17,697	18,584	100%

### Parents Love Our Campus Setting

All five of Bethel's public schools and athletic facilities are located in a beautiful 140-acre Educational Park near the geographical center of the community. The site is considered to be one of the most attractive and functional school complexes in this part of the nation. Parents find the proximity of the schools to be ideal for car-pooling, facilitating transitions between schools, and participating in the full scope of services offered by the school system. The complex provides two large auditoriums that host school concerts for all schools. The park is the social and recreational center of the community. Middle and high school athletic contests as well as little leagues use the facilities. Our track is one of the best in Connecticut.



### Bethel High "Aces" Accreditation!

Bethel High is a member of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. This is the regional body that accredits schools in New England. In 2010, Bethel High was visited by a team of experts who examined all aspects of its programming. The school passed with flying colors. Marie Diamond, Chairperson of the visiting NEASC Committee, concluded her commentary on the school and its programs by saying, "Bethel High is a great high school. They are doing a remarkable job for students and deserve commendation."

### Bethel Adopts Full-Day Kindergarten

Bethel elementary students have been some of the highest performing in Connecticut on the Connecticut Mastery Test. However, with the introduction of new state standards, it is clear that our kindergarteners need more than the 2 hours and 40 minutes available. In 2011, Berry and Rockwell Schools will implement a full-day (6-hour) kindergarten program. This expanded programming will ensure that more time is allotted for reading, writing, and math and will allow for the introduction of more science activities. The importance of this opportunity is that our teachers and reading specialists will be able to spend greater time with individual students and small groups to make sure that their reading skills are up to par as they leave kindergarten. This program will compliment our Circle of Friends Pre-School program that operates daily.

### Two Bethel Programs Win National Honors

We are proud to announce that the Bethel music program has earned recognition as one of "America's Top 100." The music program begins in kindergarten and continues through the elementary level where children learn to play the recorder, and the ukulele and can begin a string and band instrument. All of our students perform at numerous concerts throughout the year. The performance highlight occurs when both Bethel Middle and Bethel High Schools present musicals to standing room only crowds. The Music Educators National Congress singled out our programs performance opportunities and the consistently high quality of instruction as key factors in this recognition.

The Bethel High Naval ROTC program remains the most highly-decorated in the Northeast, having earned "Distinguished Status" almost since its inception. The program serves 20% of the high school student body introducing a wide variety of opportunities both in class and out where student sail on Long Island Sound, use flight simulators, and participate in various civil celebrations.

### College Scholarship Dollars Cut Parent Costs!

Bethel High is rated among the top high schools in Connecticut! The Class of 2010 had over \$2.5 million in scholarship dollars. These are real-dollars that taxpaying-parents saved as their children went off to college. In studying the Class of 2010, we calculated that they completed 314 three-credit college courses before graduating. We did some tuition mathematics to see what the real-dollar savings looks like to our taxpaying-parents. One three-credit course at WCSU or UCONN costs about \$975 (not including texts). Those 314 courses completed at Bethel High represents a real-dollar savings of about \$300,000 in state college tuition after paying costs of enrollment at BHS. At a typical Connecticut private university, tuition is \$2,200 for a 3-credit course (excluding texts). So our taxpaying-parents accrued a real-dollar savings of about \$680,000 in tuition after paying costs of enrollment at BHS on the basis of private school enrollment.



### Bethel Testing Continues To Be Very Strong

SAT	Reading	Math	Writing
Bethel High Average	522	520	516
Connecticut Average	509	514	513
National Average	501	516	492

**NOTE:** Bethel students outperformed those of Danbury, Brookfield, New Milford, and New Fairfield on CMT testing. Scores are comparable to Newtown and Ridgefield on state testing.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> grade CMT**

<b>Math</b>	95% proficient	88% goal	55% advanced
<b>Reading</b>	86% proficient	75% goal	24% advanced
<b>Writing</b>	93% proficient	78% goal	34% advanced

#### **6th grade CMT**

<b>Math</b>	95% proficient	89% goal	53% advanced
<b>Reading</b>	95% proficient	86% goal	36% advanced
<b>Writing</b>	93% proficient	79% goal	36% advanced

#### **4th grade CMT**

<b>Math</b>	95% proficient	83% goal	42% advanced
<b>Reading</b>	85% proficient	75% goal	24% advanced
<b>Writing</b>	95% proficient	80% goal	36% advanced

#### **7th grade CMT**

<b>Math</b>	97% proficient	78% goal	43% advanced
<b>Reading</b>	91% proficient	87% goal	50% advanced
<b>Writing</b>	89% proficient	73% goal	38% advanced

#### **5th grade CMT**

<b>Math</b>	96% proficient	88% goal	54% advanced
<b>Reading</b>	92% proficient	82% goal	34% advanced
<b>Writing</b>	96% proficient	89% goal	48% advanced
<b>Science</b>	97% proficient	85% goal	41% advanced

#### **8<sup>th</sup> grade CMT**

<b>Math</b>	96% proficient	80% goal	54% advanced
<b>Reading</b>	91% proficient	84% goal	45% advanced
<b>Writing</b>	89% proficient	77% goal	23% advanced
<b>Science</b>	88% proficient	79% goal	20% advanced

## 2010 BHS Graduates Are Accepted Into The Nation's Top Schools

(Red denotes "Most Competitive")

Alfred University	Florida Southern College	Norwalk Community College	The Culinary Institute of America
Allegheny College	Fordham University	Norwich University	The University of Alabama
American University	Franklin Pierce University	Oklahoma State University	The University of Scranton
Arcadia University	George Mason University	Pace University	The University of Tampa
Arizona State University	Georgia Southern University	Pennsylvania State University	The University of Texas, Austin
Austin Peay State University	<b>Georgia Tech University</b>	Philadelphia University	Thomas College
Bard College	Green Mountain College	Porter and Chester Institute	Unity College
Barry University	Hamilton College - NY	Purchase College	<b>University of Connecticut</b>
Becker College	Hartwick College	Purdue University	University of Delaware
Binghamton University	<b>Harvard</b>	Queens University of Charlotte	University of Hartford
<b>Boston College</b>	Haverford College	Quinnipiac University	University of Illinois at Chicago
<b>Boston University</b>	Hofstra University	Radford University	University of Maine
<b>Brandeis University</b>	Howard University	Ramapo College of New Jersey	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Bridgewater State University	Indian River State College	Randolph College	University of Michigan
Brigham Young University	Iona College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Mississippi
Bryant University	Ithaca College	Rhode Island College	University of New England
Castleton State College	Jacksonville University	Roanoke College	University of New Hampshire
Central Connecticut State	James Madison University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of New Haven
Champlain College	Johnson & Wales University	Roger Williams University	University of North Florida
Christopher Newport University	Johnson State College	Rowan University	<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>
Coastal Carolina University	Keene State College	Rutgers University	University of Rhode Island
<b>Colgate University</b>	King's College	Sacred Heart University	University of South Carolina
College of Charleston	La Salle University	Saint Joseph College	University of South Florida
College of Mount Saint Vincent	Landmark College	Saint Joseph's University	University of Vermont
College of New Rochelle	Lasell College	Saint Michaels College	University of Washington
<b>Columbia College</b>	<b>Lehigh University</b>	Saint Peter's College	Ursinus College
<b>Connecticut College</b>	LIM College	Salem State University	Utah State University
<b>Cornell University</b>	Lincoln Technical Institute	Salve Regina University	Valdosta State University
Dean College	Long Island University	Savannah State University	<b>Vassar College</b>
Drew University	Lynchburg College	Siena College	Virginia Commonwealth University
Drexel University	Lyndon State College	Skidmore College	Virginia Wesleyan College
<b>Duke University</b>	Maine College of Art	Southern Connecticut State	Wagner College
East Carolina University	Manhattan College	Southern New Hampshire	Washington and Jefferson College
East Central University	Manhattanville College	University	Washington College
Eastern Connecticut State	Marietta College	St. Bonaventure University	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Eckerd College	Marist College	St. John's University -	<b>Wesleyan University</b>
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical	Marymount Manhattan College	St. Lawrence University	West Virginia University
Emerson College	Massachusetts College of Liberal	State College of Florida	Western Connecticut State
Emmanuel College	Arts	State University of New York	Western New England College
Endicott College	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	Stonehill College	Wheelock College
Erie Community College	Moravian College	Stony Brook University	Whittier College
Fairfield University	Mount Saint Mary College	Suffolk University	York College of Pennsylvania
Fashion Institute of Technology	Mount Saint Mary's University	<b>Swarthmore College</b>	
Fitchburg State University	Muhlenberg College	Temple University	
Flagler College	New Hampshire Institute of Art	The Art Institute of Boston	
Florida Institute of Technology	<b>New York University</b>	The College of New Jersey	
Florida International University	Newbury College	The College of Saint Rose	



### Bethel Schools Labeled "Best Hustlers in Connecticut"

We were pleased to see a headline in the *Hartford Courant* entitled, "Best Schools? How About the Ones That Are Really Hustling?" Columnist Rick Green noted that a list of the so-called highest-performing schools in Connecticut just happens to also be a list of the most affluent towns. But Green goes on to say, "what about what really matters – districts that are showing significant achievement for students who don't have all the advantages of wealthy families?" Green reports that the *Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now* ranks the Bethel schools as the "best hustlers in the State of Connecticut." These schools were identified as having the highest rate of performance factoring the socio-economic status of the student body.

### **Bethel Graduates Are Ready To Compete**

Bethel High School has created several “transition to life” programs to change the senior year. Students have the opportunity to explore career fields of interest and put into practical use the knowledge and skills they have learned throughout their schooling. Bethel High offers many college courses, Internships, Cadet Teaching, and Cooperative Work Experience opportunities for interested seniors.

**The Bethel High School Internship Program** provides a structured, meaningful, independent internship experience for senior students. The program allows students to intern in local businesses and non-profit organizations so that they may explore potential careers and courses of study, fully understand future career expectation, and are able to make good decisions about their future career choices.



**The Cadet Teacher Program** gives students the opportunity to work with experienced teachers in the Bethel Public Schools. Students explore current educational topics and develop classroom skills that will better prepare them to make a sound career decision about teaching. The goal of the program is to provide students with current practical experiences in classrooms while, at the same time, giving them insight into the philosophy and practices of the outstanding teachers in our community.

**The Cooperative Work Experience Program** allows an opportunity for students to work in paid positions related to career interests. The emphasis of this program is on learning and building skills and knowledge through occupational tasks at the job site. This program provides relevancy and transference of learning to the work place. The CWE Program gives students the self-confidence to figure out what their strengths are, to improve oral and written communications, to work as part of a team, and to build a resume.



All of these Bethel High School Programs require responsibility, independence and decision-making skills and provide an opportunity to make use of these skills outside the constructs of the classroom. The programs require students to take responsibility for their own learning and manage their career options. These programs help the students make a smoother transition from high school to college, trade school, the work place, or the military.

**HAVE A QUESTION?** You can call the Superintendent's Office at 203-794-8601. If you have a question about our athletic program, you can call the Athletic Director at 203-794-8600 Ext. 114.

You may call any of the schools for answers to questions, to arrange for registration materials and a video to be sent to you, or to arrange a tour of any school.

Circle of Friends Pre-School Program	203-794-8686
Frank A. Berry K - 3	203-794-8686
Anna A. Rockwell K-3	203-794-8688
Ralph M.T. Johnson 4-5	203-794-8700
Bethel Middle School	203-794-8670
Bethel High School	203-794-8600

