



*Clear Paths. Bright Futures. No Limits.*

50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107  
Phone: (860) 561-6600

April 23, 2015

Dear Charter Oak International Academy Parents, Faculty, and Staff,

It is with great excitement that I announce that Mary Thompson will be the new Director of Gifted and Talented for West Hartford Public Schools. Ms. Thompson's experience introducing and piloting the IB program to great success at Charter Oak International Academy makes her uniquely qualified for this position. She will ably lead the department, as we seek to broaden our QuEST programs to not only include more students, but to inculcate many of the characteristics that have made the International Baccalaureate program so rewarding and exciting to students. Ms. Thompson's experiences across all levels during her career will allow her to direct our gifted and talented program in a way that will challenge and prepare our students for the world they will be entering upon graduation.

Ms. Thompson's results-oriented leadership has shepherded Charter Oak not just through the International Baccalaureate accreditation program, but through the planning and architectural phase of the construction of our new building. In her decade at the helm, Charter Oak International Academy has found great success as a World School that is held up as an example for other schools to emulate. I am excited to add her to my town-wide leadership team, and I know that she is ready for this new challenge in her career.

As Mary Thompson moves to central office for this opportunity, I am happy to also announce that Juan Melián will be the next principal of the Charter Oak International Academy. Mr. Melián has a deep understanding of the role our magnet schools play in West Hartford, as he has been the principal of the Smith STEM School for the past four years. During Mr. Melián's time at Smith, he has created a partnership with the Connecticut Science Center and helped to make his school a very popular choice for families who reside all across the district. In my discussions with him, Mr. Melián's excitement at the opportunity to open a new school with an International Baccalaureate accreditation is palpable. Families and staff will find him to be an approachable leader who wants to be a vital part of their community.

Mr. Melián has been in West Hartford for eighteen years, having worked at Conard and Sedgwick as a World Language teacher and also was assistant principal at Sedgwick before his time at Smith. He has lived in many parts of the world, and truly represents the benefits of a global education that he will bring to Charter Oak International Academy. In the coming days, you will have opportunities to meet with him, to say hello, and to welcome him to the Charter Oak family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Moore".

Tom Moore  
Superintendent