

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY



2022-2023 Pathways Theme
"Empowering Resilience"

I can be changed by what happens to me.
But I refuse to be reduced by it.
~Maya Angelou

She stood in the storm and
when the wind did not blow her way,
she adjusted her sails.
~Elizabeth Edwards

Welcome to the new school year!

The Pathways Schools is now 40 years old! Since Pathways first opened its doors in 1982, the goal has always been to build the strength and resilience among our schools, our staff, and our students and their families. As we have for so many years before, this year we will be "Empowering Resilience". We want to empower resilience in many ways to create opportunities for our schools and programs to meet the evolving needs of our students, to create opportunities for our staff to grow professionally to become a part of life changing teams, and to create opportunities for our students to become successful graduates.

We will begin our work together at the All-Staff Orientation to build on our common belief that "our students can learn, be successful, trust themselves and others, change and take charge of their lives." The Pathways mission and vision guiding our work to serve students with emotional disabilities are the same across all sites and have been unchanged for many years. We have grown to distinguish ourselves from other schools similar to ours by creating a continuum of programs and opportunities. As we aim to prepare our students for life beyond high school and for entering the workforce, we believe they all need different supports to make it happen. That is why we have school-based and community-based options. We built each program on the premise that all students can be successful while knowing that different opportunities empower each student's resilience.

I continue to be amazed to think that our entire Pathways team brings hundreds of years of experience working here!! With that kind of experience, there is no doubt we can create amazing opportunities for great things to happen! My hope for you is that you find pride in knowing, that regardless of where you work within Pathways and regardless of your role, you are part of a larger team of life changers and resilience builders. The board of directors and I encourage you to think of creative, proactive, and innovative ways to help our programs continue to change and grow. I look forward to working with you and to bringing new initiatives to life.

You will see letters and orientation schedules from each of the principals also posted today on the Pathways Employee Resources page (available from our home page at www.pathwayschools.org). You will gather at your assigned site on Monday, August 22 for the first day of orientation. We will then come together for an All Staff Orientation on Tuesday, August 23 at the Columbia Meeting House, where we will have an opportunity to learn and laugh together as well as continue our tradition of recognizing longevity among our staff.

Thank you for your commitment to returning to Pathways or joining us for the first time! I anticipate great things for us in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Tania DuBeau
Executive Director

The Pathways mission is to enable our students to acquire the skills they need to succeed in school, career and life through individualized education and supports.