

Danbury has 13 elementary schools, each offering exceptional educational opportunities. Our teachers and educators are experienced, motivated and inspiring. Each school is unique in that some are neighborhood facilities where most children walk to and from school while others attract students from all over the district. Some schools focus heavily on programs with a specific theme while others participate in community outreach and extracurricular activities. What these schools share is that they each leave a unique handprint on their students. Scattered throughout the district, these 13 elementary schools together form a united yet diverse learning community. Enrollment at the elementary schools ranges from 350 to 450 students.

### **Academy of International Studies (AIS)**

**Principal: Christopher Roche**

Located on property adjacent to the Westside campus of Western Connecticut State University, the AIS magnet school was named “Elementary School of the Year” in 2014-15 by the Connecticut Association of Schools. The school’s

mission is the development of socially responsible global citizens. International studies is integrated into the curriculum with world language instruction beginning in kindergarten as well as the development of peace-keeping skills. Students at the school are selected through a lottery system.

### **Ellsworth Avenue School**

**Principal: Dr. Anna Rocco**

A neighborhood school across the street from the Midtown campus of Western Connecticut State University, Ellsworth is also adjacent to the Education Learning Center. Built in 2009, the school is one of the newer additions to the district. Students at Ellsworth participate in educational programs connected with the university and have also worked together to build an impressive community garden. Additional funding and supportive volunteers help support this school’s multi-cultural setting and it has shown in student success.

### **Great Plain Elementary School**

**Principal: Keshia Smith**

A neighborhood school with a diverse population, Great Plain has four Spanish bilingual classes, two special education self-contained classes and one pre-school class. An active PTO works with school staff to provide extra instructional materials and programs to enhance student knowledge. The PTO has an ongoing emphasis on

exposure to cultural programs and expanded opportunities for children. The Community Learning Groups lead by the Pupil Services Team along with the staff emphasize a safe school and positive education.

### **Hayestown Elementary School**

**Principal: Stephanie Furman**

Hayestown Avenue School is a team of students, parents, staff and community members respectfully challenged to achieve socially, emotionally and academically to their ultimate potential in a secure and caring environment. Hayestown’s staff and students always try to show good character traits in all aspects of the school community. A strong PTO encourages monthly discussions on topics such as literacy, math and Common Core. The school has many field trips and participates in the state’s Invention Convention.

### **King Street Primary School and King Street Intermediate School**

**Principal: Dr. Tina Hislop**

These two schools make up the King Street Campus and together educate a total of 800 students. The primary school, which teaches students in kindergarten through third grade, and the intermediate school, grades four and five, create a diversified, unified community dedicated to educating the whole student in a safe and positive environment. The King

Street Campus has a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family and community. The PTO works with the school to equip the classrooms with technology to support teaching skills for today. The faculty and staff strive to ensure that each student becomes a successful, productive member of an ever-evolving global society.

### **Mill Ridge Primary School**

**Principal: Dr. Mary Cronin**

Mill Ridge Primary School attracts students from every corner of the district and has a population rich in diversity. This kindergarten through third-grade school boasts strong parent involvement, a varied education background within its faculty and staff. MRP operates with a modified 'looping' program, where students in first grade remain with their class and teacher for second grade as well. This provides a sense of continuous growth, both socially and academically. Mill Ridge is working in conjunction with the state’s Alliance Project and has received many accolades for the management and progress accomplished. Mill Ridge had the most students identified in the district's 2014 Otis Lennon Assessment for advanced students.

## **Morris Street School**

**Principal: William Santarsiero**

This neighborhood school was identified as the number one school in Fairfield County for sustained academic achievement for a seven-year period. The school's culture is welcoming and friendly. Despite having the highest number of children who live in poverty and who don't speak English as a first language, the school's educators go above and beyond to provide a nurturing environment in which their students thrive.

## **Park Avenue School**

**Principal: David Krafick**

The vision at Park Avenue School is to be a world-class school where students, families, teachers and staff work together to reach their full potential. This school underwent major renovations in 2014. An additional 20,000 square feet included 12 new classrooms and a new media center equipped with a Smart board, and plenty of places for students to cozy up with a book.

## **Pembroke Elementary School**

**Principal: Dr. Sharon Epple**

The Pembroke Elementary School's mission statement is to inspire and empower a community of problem-solvers and lifelong learners. Working together for the academic success and personal achievement of all, the school also has developed successful afterschool programs that enhance and reinforce student learning. Students are encouraged to participate in

helping the community with a variety of outreach projects, which include helping those in need, shelter animals and overseas orphans.

## **Shelter Rock School**

**Principal: Dr. Jamal Gibson**

Named a "success story" in 2014 by the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN), this neighborhood school is making a difference in not just the children, but their families as well. Shelter Rock promotes family literacy programs and for 20 years has boosted 100 percent parent participation in parent-teacher conference attendance. The efforts the school makes in teaching the whole child is shown in marked scholastic improvement over the years.

## **South Street School**

**Principal: Carmen Vargas-Guevara**

South Street School is a neighborhood elementary school located in the district's downtown. Students from a variety of backgrounds work to become lifelong thinkers and learners. The school prides itself on its sense of community and family. All parents are encouraged to stay involved in the education of their children through school events, such as literacy and math nights. All events are held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The faculty has worked hard with this school of English language learners to ensure they attain the math, reading and writing skills necessary to continue marked improvement.

## **Stadley Rough School**

**Principal: Lenny Cerlich**

A safe and caring community with high expectations, Stadley Rough School respects each student as an individual and creates an engaging learning environment that fosters lifelong learners with the goal of being successful in the world. Educators at Stadley Rough take great pride in differentiating their instruction to meet the needs of all students. This includes having a school psychologist and social worker provide social skills lesson to all students. The school provides a number of extra-curricular opportunities such as a school store, school newspaper, monthly principal lunch table, monthly principal community time, spelling bee club, Invention Convention, Junior Achievement and Kindness & Compassion club. These opportunities and a wide variety of field trips help support and expand the curriculum.

## **DANBURY PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Kindergarten through Grade 5



***EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE***

