



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**Avon Public Schools**

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**Gary S. Mala**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

Avon Public School's mission is to inspire in each student a joy and passion for learning and a commitment to excellence, personal integrity, and social responsibility. The Statement of Beliefs states that we educate students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically to acquire knowledge and skills, to develop creativity and character, and to pursue their interests, realize their potential, and meet the challenges in a constantly changing world.

As an important component to helping us attain our district's goals, the Flippen Group was engaged for the past few years to give our staff the tools to "build meaningful, productive relationships with every student and colleague" and "to create an environment that transforms their classrooms into high-achieving centers of learning."

I am pleased to announce the Flippen Group has recognized Pine Grove Elementary School as a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School Nominee. Schools across the country are considered for this award based on the following criteria: 1) nomination based on observation; 2) level of implementation of Capturing Kids' Hearts processes by all staff as measured by online surveys; and 3) data demonstrating that Capturing Kids' Hearts has made an impact on attendance, discipline, climate/culture, or academics.

With this award, the Flippen Group seeks to recognize and celebrate schools that "go the extra mile each day, building an environment where students and staff feel safe and connected." We celebrate with our Pine Grove staff for this significant recognition as these efforts are much in the same vein as what we aspire for all our schools as written in our Strategic Plan.

The district's Strategic Plan can be read in its entirety at: <http://www.avon.k12.ct.us/district/board-of-education/pages/mission-goals>.

I remain very truly yours,

Gary S. Mala  
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