

PRESS RELEASE



CONTACT

Kathleen C. Greider, Superintendent of Schools
(860) 673-8268
greiderk@fpsct.org

For Immediate Release: May 7, 2019

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF
RUSSELL CRIST TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF
FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019**

AND

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT
OF SUSAN McMAHON TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
OF IRVING A. ROBBINS MIDDLE SCHOOL EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019**

**MR. RUSSELL CRIST IS APPOINTED ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF
FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, 2019**

Superintendent Kathleen C. Greider and the Farmington Board of Education are proud to announce the appointment of Mr. Russell Crist to the position of Assistant Principal of Farmington High School (FHS) effective July 1, 2019 replacing Mr. Curt Pandiscio who is retiring effective June 30, 2019.

A national search was conducted in early March and Mr. Crist was selected from a pool of 196 candidates.

In his current role as English teacher, Mr. Crist establishes high expectations for all of his students within an active and engaging environment for learning. Mr. Crist impacts the entire school community in his role as Student Activities Coordinator. The wide range of clubs and activities available to students at FHS continues to grow and flourish under his leadership. Together with students and colleagues, Mr. Crist launched an equity-focused “Social Justice Week” which has given voice to our students’ beliefs, passions, and interests. Russ Crist is a true collaborator and community builder. The relationships he has cultivated with students, faculty, and parents will serve him well as he transitions into an administrative role.

Superintendent Greider states, “Mr. Crist has been an outstanding contributor and leader in Farmington for the past eighteen years. Through his collaborative work with colleagues, students and parents, he has made a positive impact on students' academic success as well as contributed to a culture of student belonging at FHS. In his roles as teacher, leader and athletic coach, Mr. Crist has approached his work with both care and high expectations. He will be an excellent addition to the outstanding FHS leadership team and stellar faculty and staff.”

Board of Education Chair Christopher Fagan shared, "On behalf of the Board of Education, I enthusiastically welcome and congratulate Mr. Crist on his appointment to the position of Assistant Principal of FHS. It is a point of pride for the Board of Education to appoint Mr. Crist to this leadership position as he is a Farmington graduate. The Farmington schools have been a part of his life for many years in his roles as student, teacher, coach and leader. This is a proud day for the Board of Education and Farmington community.”

Farmington High School Principal Scott Hurwitz said “We are thrilled to have Russ Crist joining the administrative team in Farmington as we embark on the transition in leadership at FHS. Mr. Crist’s deep understanding of Farmington High School combined with his passion, energy, and integrity will allow him to continue to positively impact students, families, faculty, and staff in our community. His commitment to partnering with stakeholders across Farmington will help us continue to foster a positive school climate that promotes engaging learning experiences and deep and lasting healthy relationships. On behalf of the current and future building leadership team at FHS, we congratulate Mr. Crist. We look forward to collaborating to ensure all of our students realize Farmington’s Vision of the Graduate, achieving success at FHS and beyond!”

Upon his appointment, Mr. Crist commented, “As a product of the Farmington Public School system, I am honored to serve the district in my new role as the assistant principal of Farmington High School. I have been fortunate to spend the last eighteen years at FHS surrounded by dynamic students, talented colleagues, and dedicated mentors in leadership positions. I will continue to put relationships first as I collaborate with students, parents, faculty, staff, and the leadership team to promote a learning environment that supports Vision of the Graduate skills and social, emotional, and academic success for all.”

Brief Bio:

Mr. Crist received his Bachelor of Arts, English Teaching from the University of New Hampshire, a Master’s of Arts and Teaching from Quinnipiac University and his Sixth Year Certificate from Central Connecticut State University.

Mr. Crist is the Co-Executive Director of the CT Association of Student Councils through which he works to unify student councils across the state, offering leadership opportunities and experiences for students, while providing support and professional development for advisors.

**MS. SUSAN McMAHON IS APPOINTED ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF
IRVING A. ROBBINS MIDDLE SCHOOL BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019**

Superintendent Kathleen C. Greider and the Farmington Board of Education are proud to announce the appointment of Ms. Susan McMahon to the position of Assistant Principal of Irving A. Robbins (IAR) Middle School effective July 1, 2019 replacing Ms. Nilda Irizarry who has been appointed to the position of Principal of Irving A. Robbins Middle School effective July 1, 2019.

A national search was conducted in early March and Ms. McMahon was selected from a pool of 196 candidates.

In her current role as Special Education teacher and team leader, Ms. McMahon supports teachers and students alike. She brings a positive spirit and great expertise to the classroom and to her work with colleagues. Her leadership skills in the area of social and emotional learning as well as responsive instruction are strengths which have contributed to the development of positive school climate and high achievement. Ms. McMahon understands that an effective home school partnership results from clear, consistent, and open communication with families. She is a visible, collaborative, and thoughtful leader.

Superintendent Greider states that “Ms. McMahon brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge to the position of Assistant Principal at IAR. She will join an exceptional leader, Principal Nilda Irizarry and an outstanding faculty and staff at a time of innovation at IAR. Ms. McMahon is a deeply caring, collaborative and talented educator who understands the importance of developing the whole child, especially at the middle school level. She will bring this knowledge and expertise to her leadership work in partnership with all constituencies. Ms. McMahon's ability to foster strong and lasting relationships with all members of the school community and her strong expertise in meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of all students make her the ideal candidate for this important leadership position at IAR.”

Board of Education Chair Christopher Fagan commented, "Ms. McMahon began her career at IAR twenty-one years ago. Her appointment to the position of Assistant Principal of IAR is a very special moment for Ms. McMahon as well as the entire faculty and staff of IAR. On behalf of the Board of Education, I enthusiastically welcome Ms. McMahon back to IAR as the new Assistant Principal. I am confident that Ms. McMahon's collaborative leadership style and deep knowledge of educating the whole child will enhance and continue IAR's tradition of academic excellence and strong student belonging.”

Irving A. Robbins Middle School Principal Nilda Irizarry said “It is with tremendous pride that I welcome Sue McMahon to the wonderful and thriving IAR school community. Sue has committed over two decades of service to Farmington Public Schools and its stakeholders. Over the course of her career, Sue prioritized students and their individualized needs. The IAR school community will benefit from her strong focus on personalized instruction and her unparalleled support of all learners. Sue started her career at IAR, and in this new role, she is coming back home. I am honored to have Sue as a teammate and co-leader. We will forge a strong and lasting partnership in order to continue IAR’s positive trajectory. Together, we hope to create

meaningful relationships with students, parents, faculty, and staff, so that all members feel empowered and valued.”

Upon her appointment, Ms. McMahon commented, “It is with great enthusiasm, honor, and humility that I accept the appointment of Assistant Principal of Irving A. Robbins (IAR) Middle School. I have spent my entire career in this innovative district, operating under the core belief that *Relationships Matter*. Building positive relationships with the teachers, staff, students, and parents of the IAR community, as well as with the district leadership team will be my first priority. I look forward to partnering with Principal Irizarry in fostering resourceful, resilient, respectful, future-ready learners and citizens through the continued development of a supportive, nurturing, safe learning community. Twenty-one years ago, I began my career in education at IAR, to say I am excited to be named their new Assistant Principal, is truly an understatement.”

Brief Bio:

Ms. McMahon received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Connecticut, her Master of Arts in Special Education from The University of St. Joseph and her 6th Year Degree in Educational Leadership from Southern Connecticut State University.

Ms. McMahon has served on several committees including the Dyslexia Committee, School Climate Committee, Learning to Learn Committee, Professional Development Committee, and the Director’s Advisory Committee. In addition, she has presented on de-escalation strategies in the classroom and was a presenter for the Differentiated Instruction Workshop.

###