

Ivy Drive Elementary School in Bristol selected as the CAS Elementary School of the Year for 2010-2011

The Connecticut Association of Schools has selected Ivy Drive Elementary School in Bristol as Connecticut's 2010-2011 CAS Elementary School of the Year. Ivy Drive is truly a collegial learning community that serves approximately 400 children from kindergarten through fifth grade. It houses the district medically-fragile program and a district preschool speech and language program. Each day, everyone works diligently to achieve the school's mission, to perform at optimal levels, and achieve the school's high standards and expectations.

When notified of the award, Ivy Drive Principal, Rosie Vojtek, was ecstatic to hear they were selected. "WOW! What a tremendous honor for the Ivy Drive School Community! I am so proud to be able to work with such a talented and dedicated faculty and staff." Vojtek added, "I have known since the first day I walked through the doors of the School in 1999 that Ivy Drive was a special place. It is awesome to be recognized and celebrated for doing what we all love to do – helping students learn, grow, and achieve."

Vojtek went on to say that "Our school wouldn't be the great place it is without the help and support from our parents. All we have to do is ask and they are at our school selling pencils to support field trips, making copies, working in learning centers, planning enrichment activities, listening to children read, and organizing fun family events. But, what I love best about the school is how happy the students are." Vojtek added, "They come to school eager to learn. They walk through the halls with smiles on their faces, and each day they really do strive to *Be The Best They Can Be.*"

Bristol Superintendent, Dr. Philip Streifer, shared his excitement in hearing the news of Ivy Drive's selection. "It's distinctive, so many schools are worthy, and we are so pleased Ivy Drive has been selected as CAS Elementary School of the Year. The staff has a fundamental and relentless focus on instruction. They continue to succeed with all the challenges presented to them. We see that in their NCLB, as they achieve at high levels. The school is an exemplar in their integrating and leading in technology."

Dr. Streifer acknowledged the tremendous parent involvement in the school. "The parents are actively involved and engaged in the school. Ivy Drive School and their community engagement truly exists each day, night and weekend. It's a great school."

The criteria used to judge the school included the following:

1. Providing an educational program conducive to meeting the needs of all of its students.
2. Providing student opportunities that go beyond those that are part of the typical school day.
3. Providing educational programs that are consistently reviewed and improved.
4. Providing an atmosphere that welcomes participation from all constituencies.
5. Playing an active role in the community.
6. Encouraging strong parent-school involvement.

Under the leadership of Principal Dr. Rosie Vojtek, the school has provided educational programs conducive to meeting the needs of all of its students. This school's sense of community, its outstanding programs, its level of academic achievement, and the overwhelming positive feeling one enjoys at Ivy Drive Elementary School has made it the choice of the Connecticut Association of Schools Outstanding Elementary School of The Year Award. Ivy Drive School will receive their award at the **Connecticut Association of Schools Elementary Program Recognition Banquet held at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington on November 22, 2010.**