

**THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS**  
*The 62nd Annual Meeting*

2013-2014 Annual Report  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL BOARD OF CONTROL**  
*Submitted by Susan Muirhead, Chair*

- Through an on-line survey of middle level administrators, the Middle Level Board identified areas of interest and concern for which members wanted support. The top three were: evaluation, implementing the Common Core, and school climate. Members were alerted as to where CAS was addressing these issues through various professional development opportunities.
- Scholar-Leader Banquet - the 2013 Scholar-Leader Banquet was held on June 6 with a gathering of over 1400 students, parents, and faculty at the Aqua-Turf. Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools in East Hartford, was the keynote speaker. For the 18th consecutive year, Scott Gray from WTIC News Talk 1080 was the master of ceremonies. The 2014 Scholar-Leader Banquet is planned for Sunday, June 8, 2014, with keynote speaker Danielle Liebl, Special Olympics athlete from Minnesota.
- Professional Studies - The CAS Professional Studies Committee is in the initial stages of redefining the principalship in light of new educator evaluation requirements, school climate expectations and the Common Core. CAS Staff is working in partnership with the Connecticut State Department of Education to create a time study of the principalship and an online data bank of best practices. They also completed work on the development of an Emergency Response Team to provide support and guidance for principals and other building leaders who are facing crisis situations that transcend a district's capacity to manage effectively. The team has reached out to five schools to date.
- Leadership Committee – The annual Middle Level Leadership Conference was held at Trinity College for the first time. The January conference was an unqualified success. Enrollment from 40+ middle schools across the state was sold out. Hundreds of students completed evaluations which were overwhelmingly positive for the experience. Wesleyan Upward Bound students, under the direction of Jen Buckley, were instrumental in making the students feel welcome and showing them around the campus. Here are a few representative quotes from student participants. “The introduction session got me thinking about being a leader.” “It was great to be with kids whose ideas and morals are the same as mine.” “I loved the school climate activity.”
- Arts in the Middle- This unique full day art workshop for middle level art students and art teachers celebrated its 13th year at the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford. CAS is indebted to Assistant Dean Robert Calafiore and his fine staff for their unflagging support.
- Honors and Awards - Several distinguished middle level educators were recipients of CAS awards. They are: Principal Joseph Scheideler, Canton Middle School, the Middle Level Principal of the Year; Assistant Principal Albert Sackey, Western Middle School in Greenwich, the Assistant Principal of the Year; Principal Anthony Menard, East Hartford Middle School, the First Year Principal of the Year; and Robert Rose, Smith Middle School, Glastonbury, the Educator of the Year. The CAS Middle Level School of the Year is Sage Park Middle School in Windsor; and the winner of the Arthur Director Leadership Award is Old Saybrook Middle School.