



Waterbury Public Schools

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"See a Genius in Every Child"

September 21, 2009

Ms. Melissa Vanek
Director, Starbase CT
251 Maxim Road
Hartford, CT 06114

Dear Ms. Vanek:

- Since the inception of the DoD Starbase program in the Waterbury School district, we have had an excellent relationship with the Director and the teaching staff. The support is mutual because our school district truly appreciates the program, the care given to our students, and the support provided to our teachers. Each year our teachers look forward to participation in the program with their new class.
- Through Starbase collaboration with our school district, our community has become more involved in the schools. This attitude is really due to the students who describe the program to their parents and its impact on them. Furthermore, with the schools sending out the information and schedules for the Starbase program, it has now become a household word in the community.
- Starbase instruction provides a hands-on approach to teaching methodology for our teachers. We have observed that our students who participate in the program excel in their thinking and reasoning skills in the classroom. In addition, teachers also develop a framework of integrating different concepts when teaching a lesson.
- Starbase program incorporates science, mathematics and technology, in addition to language arts and social studies. It is a great exposure to teachers in the rudiments of differentiated instruction and how all learning is integrated. The highlight of this concept is to orient students to see how all things are connected in the process of learning.
- The DoD Starbase program has introduced a powerful hands-on concept to learning. It is by doing - a powerful tool to learning and retention that this program is so crucial. More importantly, the instructors in the DoD Starbase program take the time to show the relevance of what the students are learning to every day life.
- As the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, I was excited when the program was introduced in Waterbury six years ago. I saw this as an excellent avenue to bring the salient points of relevance to the urban child. I was, and continue to be impressed with the passion shown by the DoD Starbase instructors and the support from the administration. This program has exceeded all of our expectations.

Respectfully,

Paul V. Sequeira, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction