Dear Students, Families, Friends and Community Members,

I am honored that the Stoughton Public School District has appointed me as the new principal of the Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School. I welcome and am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve the Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School learning and teaching community and look forward to working with a dynamic staff, dedicated parents and involved community members. Most of all, I look forward to working with our students and continuing the outstanding work at the Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School.

I come to Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School after completing a two year administrative internship for the Stoughton Public School District during which I had the opportunity to hold the position of Assistant Principal at the J.H. Gibbons Elementary School here in Stoughton, develop the curriculum program and act as the Supervising Lead Teacher for the Extended School Year’s Pre-Engineering Program, and was able to hone and strengthen my leadership skills and abilities throughout a wide variety of other administrative and leadership experiences and roles. Prior to my administrative internship aforementioned, I served as a 5th grade classroom teacher for six years at the J.H. Gibbons Elementary School, I also taught for a few years in the Brockton Public School District, and I held the position of Camp Director at Camp West Woods here in Stoughton as well.

I know that the Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School has a history of great administrators and leaders. I fully understand that I have some big shoes to fill. Rest assured that my goal will be to continue building on what everyone has worked so hard to achieve, and to use that strong foundation to move the Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School to the next level. Together we will continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities and academic excellence for all of our students.

On a personal note, I have both grown up and lived in the great town of Stoughton since the age of 5 years old. I graduated from Stoughton High School and continue to live in Stoughton with my wife, Vanessa, my 6 month old daughter, Bella, and my two Labrador Retrievers, Cooper and Mia. My wife, Vanessa, is also a lifelong Stoughton resident and is a teacher at the Helen H. Hansen Elementary School in Stoughton. After graduating from the Stoughton Public Schools and working in this wonderful district as a teacher, I have developed a great pride in this town. I am completely aware of the responsibility that comes with being the Principal at the Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School and because of my commitment and strong connection to this
community; I can assure you I will do whatever it takes to make sure our school continues with its history of excellence.

An excellent education is not possible without the great collaboration of students, parents, families, community members and staff. Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of getting to know some of the amazing students, parents, and staff at the Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School, while also learning about the rich school history and success. One of the greatest takeaways from these conversations has been the immense enthusiasm and pride for the school and community. It is through that same enthusiasm and pride that I look forward to becoming an integral part of the community with my own family and working with each of you to continue the great successes.

As part of my regular routine once school begins, you will find me curbside and at the front entrance of the school during morning arrivals, afternoon dismissals, and throughout the day I will be interacting with the students during their lunch time, recess, transition times in the hallway, and will be visiting them frequently in their classrooms. I look forward to the opportunity to meet and begin my relationship with the students, staff, and families of the Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School community. I can be reached via email at r_cancellieri@stoughtonschools.org, or, just stop by to introduce yourself any time as my door is always open to you.

Finally, please be on the lookout for an email coming your way soon that will list some important dates I wanted to bring to your attention (i.e. Open House & Principal Chat), and also an official “Welcome Back Letter” as we get closer to the start of the school year. I hope that you are able to attend these events so that I can converse with you and learn more about the Dawe Elementary School and your experience here. Your feedback helps me to gain a better insight as to the great strengths of the Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School and areas that you may identify as requiring some attention. Your opinion matters a lot to me and I truly believe that the goal of reaching excellence is only possible if we all work together as one.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Cancellieri
Principal