



Concord Magnet School K-8

A place where we all learn and grow

MEDARD THOMAS, PRINCIPAL
THOMASM@NORWALKPS.ORG

JENNIFER SCANLAN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
SCANLANJ@NORWALKPS.ORG

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Dear Colleague:

My name is Medard Thomas, and I am the principal at Concord Magnet School, K-8 in Norwalk, CT. We are distinct because we are a progressive, arts integrated Magnet school. We are also the only K-8 school in the district. We do not follow an established blueprint. We are governed by creativity and flexibility. The arts are our lifeline. Art class is considered a sacrosanct time for exploring and creating. The success of our program hinges upon a teacher who is fearless, knowledgeable and willing to work with colleagues to help children find the connection between the arts and what they are currently studying in class. Thomas Turner served as that special art teacher this past school year and I am privileged to have crossed paths with this phenom!

Thomas was a true discovery. I have never met a more brilliant and passionate professional. Thomas is well versed in the various disciplines of art, and art history. Thomas' intellectual acumen is fascinating to behold. You always walk away much smarter than when you enter into a conversation. The magic is you are never being lectured or made to feel inferior. Thomas' enthusiasm about art is infectious, and you are swept up into the excitement. Thomas has the ability to get the very best out of students without making them feel self-conscious. Thomas runs a room with the highest expectations. The physical lay-out is organized, labelled and predictable. It emphasizes a safe space for students to excel. Thomas celebrates everyone. Thomas is able to get anyone to produce work. Students walk away with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

My fervent wish is for Thomas to find a school that appreciates and respects art education. It is not a standalone subject. Rather, it is on par with the core subjects because a strong knowledge of art education promotes a well-rounded student. Thomas' curiosity and zest for learning are virtues that will be passed along to students and shared with colleagues. Children will be pushed and challenged, and it will be done in a way that will leave them seeking more. If you have any questions or want more information about my gifted art teacher, Thomas Turner, please call me anytime.

Sincerely,

Medard Thomas

Principal

Concord Magnet School ♦ 21 Hunters Lane ♦ Norwalk, CT 06850