

## Asylum Hill Back to School



Once again Asylum Hill is sending their children back to school. Preparations were everywhere, including the Asylum Hill Family Center's Jumpstart event August 21st followed by the West Middle School event at the Boys & Girls Club on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were other events as well at Grace Lutheran Church, all of them included backpacks, and all of them meant to encourage the children to be excited about this year's opportunity to learn and excel as well as to

energize the parents to support the learning.

But the students were not the only ones who came together to welcome and be welcomed into the new school year. Hartford Public Schools, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row held their Convocation at Dunkin Donuts Stadium. Teachers, administrators and staff joined with Superintendent Dr. Leslie Torres Rodriguez, School Board President Craig Stallings and Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin as well as a host of nonprofits and supporters to celebrate the beginning of another year. Nothing can be more important for the future of Hartford than the education of their future leaders. The program included the Superintendent's theme for the year "Shoulder up" as the school system enters its second year of "restructure, redesign, re-imagine".

The event included students leading the pledge of allegiance and singing the National Anthem. Then Mayor Bronin thanked and praised all those present and especially the teachers whose work he described as "one part job and nine parts mission". He charged them with the task of making sure that "every child knows through you that this entire City believes in them... that this City loves them".

The Mayor was followed by Board President Craig Stallings and then Supt. Rodriguez. Both gave inspiring speeches. The final speaker was Benjamin Carlson 2018 Teacher of the Year and a unified arts physical education teacher. He challenged his fellow academic teacher to collaborate more with the unified arts, Art, Music and Physical Education in educating the whole child. Photos of the HPS Convocation can be seen at:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/odoeej86cvgHj8FX9> And Asylum Hill back to school events at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/SJ1r9Z4pgRwz5tbW7>