

# Press Release

## HISTORY TO COME TO LIFE FOR BRIDGEPORT STUDENTS

## WITH AN UPCOMING VISIT FROM BRIDGEPORT'S FIRST FEMALE/AFRICAN-AMERICAN SUPERINTENDENT

**Event:** Geraldine W. Johnson Visits During History Maker Assembly

**When:** Friday, September 17, 2010, 9:30am

**Where:** Geraldine W. Johnson School – Cafetorium  
475 Lexington Avenue  
Bridgeport

**Wednesday, September 15, 2010** - Mrs. Geraldine W. Johnson, Bridgeport's first female and African-American principal and the first female and African-American superintendent, will pay students a visit **Friday, September 17**, at **9:30am** at **Geraldine Johnson School**.

During a History Maker assembly honoring African-American people who have made history, Mrs. Johnson's history, dedication, and work in the Bridgeport Public Schools will be highlighted in depth to students in an effort to enhance their knowledge about history. Students will also learn about the history of their own school, Geraldine Johnson School, which received its namesake after Mrs. Johnson herself. In addition to the assembly's enriching features, which also include music and poetry, students will also enjoy learning more about Mrs. Johnson firsthand during a question/answer session.

Ms. Johnson was born, raised, and educated in Bridgeport attending McKinley, Harding, and Bridgeport Normal Schools. She taught elementary and middle school before becoming Bridgeport's first female and African American Principal. From 1969-1976, she served as the Assistant Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools and was Superintendent from 1976-1981. She later became Interim Superintendent of Fairfield Schools and Associate Dean of Fairfield University. In addition, Ms. Johnson has served the community in many roles including Director of Developmental Programs, Title I (1964-1969), Director of the Council on Adolescent Pregnancy, Scholarship Chairperson of Ettinger Scholarships in Norwalk, former secretary of the Board of ABCD, Board member and vice president of YWCA, and is

a member of NAACP and Advisory council of HECUS. Awards and commendations bestowed on Ms. Johnson include honorary doctorate degrees from Sacred Heart University, Fairfield University, and University of Bridgeport, recognition by Former Governor Ella Grasso as one of Connecticut's 100 Distinguished Women (1976).

*The mission of the Bridgeport Public Schools and its supporting community is to graduate all students “college ready” and prepared to succeed in life. For more information about Bridgeport Public Schools visit our website at [www.bridgeportedu.com](http://www.bridgeportedu.com).*