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HARTFORD SCHOOLS LAUNCH LITERACY CURRICULUM

HARTFORD – At the start of the school year, students at the Health Professions Academy may not have known the connection between mythology and aging, but they found out on Sept. 4. Soon, similar connections will be made at all of Hartford’s Public Schools.

The Hartford Public Schools have introduced a number of curricular initiatives that seek to promote literacy at every grade level in every subject. Among those initiatives are Literacy Across the Curriculum and Literacy Through the Arts. Both reinforce the importance of literacy through non-traditional subjects

Dr. Gail K. Rowe utilized the story of Eos and Tithonus to explain the dynamics of aging. Eos’ infatuation with Tithonus prompts her to ask Zeus to make Tithonus immortal, but the goddess forgets to also ask that he also not age. Frustrated with his physical deterioration, Eos ultimately turns Tithonus into a grasshopper. Rowe relayed the story during a workshop on caring for the aging at the Health Professions Academy, where Aetna CEO John Rowe was the keynote speaker. But the tactic will be used throughout the Hartford Public Schools curriculum.

“Traditionally, schools have taught content knowledge and literacy skills separately,” Superintendent Anthony S. Amato said. “By using fiction, not only will students learn about the subject matter in a new way, but they will also be encouraged to read to learn more about the story.”

Literacy will also be encouraged through the arts and physical education, as well as through reading sources available via the Internet.

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