

# Noteworthy

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**Brass City success story** Most of Waterbury's parochial elementary schools have closed, but the Brass City Charter School is filling the breach with a quality alternative. May 2, Brass City's charter was extended four years by the Connecticut Department of Education. According to reporting by the Republican-American's Michael Gagne, Brass City students' 2017 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium test scores declined, but in many other respects – notably, low rates of absenteeism and suspension, as well as overall performance in English and math – the students performed better than the Waterbury or state average. With the extension in hand, and with the purchase of the former St. Margaret of Scotland church, rectory and convent, Brass City – now serving children from pre-kindergarten through fourth grade – will be able to complete its growth to pre-K-8. Meanwhile, there's no argument about the demand for the style of schooling Brass City offers: its waiting list now stands about 400 children. The closure of so many parochial elementary schools remains a grievous wound in the city's educational system, but the Brass City Charter School is making impressive progress in providing an alternative to the public-school system – as well as helping to buffer the public schools against the ebbs and flows of enrollment.