

JOEL BARLOW - THE MAN

Joel Barlow, 1754-1812, writer, diplomat and confidant of presidents, was born in Redding and was one of the area's most notable residents. He served as a chaplain in the Revolutionary Army and then entered business and journalism. Appointed as United States Consul to Algiers in 1795, he succeeded in releasing many American prisoners and negotiated treaties with Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli. He returned to Washington, D.C., in 1805, and in 1811 he was sent to Europe to negotiate a commercial treaty with Napoleon Bonaparte. Caught in the retreat of Napoleon's armies from Moscow, Joel Barlow died of pneumonia and exposure in the Polish village of Zarnowiec on December 24, 1812. Joel Barlow published numerous books of essays and poems. He was a liberal thinker, greatly concerned with education. The following is from his writings:

Ignorance is everywhere such an infallible instrument of despotism that there can be no hope of continuing even the present forms of government...but by diffusing universally among the people...instruction sufficient to teach them their duties and their rights.

JOEL BARLOW - THE SCHOOL

Joel Barlow High School opened in 1959 after the citizens of Easton and Redding voted in 1957 to establish a regional high school district. The school is situated on Black Rock Turnpike in Redding, very near the Easton line.

From the very beginning, Joel Barlow High School (Regional School District No. 9) has sought to provide a challenging program to meet the needs of students. The strength of the program has been recognized throughout its history, as evidenced by the fact that the school has received the maximum ten years' accreditation from the New England Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges each time it has been evaluated. Twice recognized as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and commended many times for academic excellence by the Connecticut State Department of Education, the Connecticut Association of Schools, and the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Joel Barlow is distinguished for its ability to sustain high standards in a mutually respectful community.

Individual attention to students' needs is a priority of the Board of Education, the administration and the staff. The range of courses is designed to meet the needs of each student, whose course of study is planned individually in consultation with counselors, parents, and teachers. Joel Barlow High School enjoys intense support from parents who are genuinely involved in the education of their children, and from members of the community, including a knowledgeable and dedicated Board of Education.