

Connection

WATERFORD **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

SUMMER 2021

Bringing the accomplishments and initiatives of the Waterford Public Schools to the Town, Community and beyond to create a **Connection** that will reinforce a strong commitment to coming together to educate the whole child.

INSIDE THIS

ISSUE:	
Class of 2021	2, 6
In the Schools	3
School Based	4
Health Centers	
Effective School	5
Solutions	
WFCT Retirees	7
Free Summer	8
Meals	
Waterford	9
Rotary Student	
Leadership	
Awards	

Update from the Waterford Board of Education

The Waterford Board of Education, in alignment with the District's mission to ensure "...every student acquires the skills and knowledge necessary to be a responsible citizen, prepared to contribute and succeed in an ever-changing world.", has approved the implementation of two partnerships, United Community and Family Services (UCFS) and Effective School Solutions (ESS), to enhance and support our students' mental and behavioral health and provide necessary services for our students during these challenging times.



Waterford Public Schools will partner with United Com-UCFS | ealthcare munity and Family Services (UCFS) starting in the 2021-2022 school year to bring two School Based Health Centers to Waterford, one at Waterford High School and the

other at Clark Lane Middle School. The partnership will provide comprehensive physical and behavioral health and well care to all students who attend Waterford Public Schools.

Effective School Solutions, specializing in therapeutic day programs within a district's schools as opposed to outplacement facilities, has connected with Waterford



Public Schools to "implement culturally inclusive mental health programs that improve care, strengthen outcomes, and maintain students in-district." www.effectiveschoolsolutions.com.

We are excited to collaborate with these two organizations to provide support and care for our students and enhance the mental and behavioral health programming in our district.

Please see page 4 and 5 for more information on these valuable services coming to Waterford Public Schools.

Superintendent's Message on Maintaining In-Person Learning Model

The Waterford Public School District plans to operate with full inperson learning for the 2021-2022 school year. In alignment with guidance from the CSDE, the district has published the Waterford Public Schools' Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year. The plan can be found on the district website at

⇒ https://www.waterfordschools.org/parents-family/ policies procedures/reopening schools/ reopening schools - fall 2021.

Our district welcomes input and questions from the school community and the public regarding the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. Please email all questions and comments to the dedicated reopening@waterfordschools.org email address.



Congratulations to the WHS Class of 2021

PAGE 2

	AGE 2						
*	Lillie Hendry Abramowicz	*	Connor Matthew Dyer	*	Hauuah Rae Linder	*	Nicole Anne Rodriguez
*	Delvy J. Abreu Tobal	*	Ella Sage Dyjak	*	Charlie Lindo	*	Alejandro Roman
*	Kacey Nicole Alfiero	*	Mahra Elizabeth Engdall	*	Paul J. Lokken	*	Ariana Iris Rosado
*	Cooper 2. Alloway	*	Austin Scott Eshenfelder	*	Robert Carlton Lokken	*	Amanda Lita Rowe
*	Anna Irene Anderson	*	Eden Espinoza	*	Wyatt Foster Long	*	Couner Robert Rowe
*	Alexander Timothy Ard	*	Daniel Aleksandr Estrin	*	Dinahlei Lujan	*	Ethan Armando Rowe
*	Gabriel Arevalo	*	Paige Lillian Ferreira	*	Sophie Grace Marcille	*	7orin Walker Ruleman
*	Malya Faith Ashford	*	Sean Michael Fitzpatrick	*	Gavin Christopher Marrs	*	Murphy Rose Ryan
*	Logan Ashford Avin	*	Quincy Foren	*	Viviana Martinez	*	Tallah McHugh Ryan
*	Morgan Diane Bartkowski	*	Robert Foren	*	Chase Logan Mazzella	*	Ryan Angelo Salvador
*	Dante R. Beard	*	William Kostantinos Fotiou	*	Kevin Robert McEntarfer	*	Alicia Mae Sanders
*	Emma Elizabeth Beardsley	*	Nicole Fuentes Schock	sk:	Logan G. McKinsey	*	Melina Ann Santangelo
*	Skye Jacob Bedingfield	*	Emma Rose Furlan	~ ~			
*	Shiloh Emily Bergeson			т 	Alan Jordan McNeely	~ •	Michael Thomas Santangelo, 99
*	Ethan C. Black	* *	Natalia Sisa Garofalo-Iberico	т 	Kyle E. McNeil	* *	Abigail Jean Saucier
*	Zoie Elizabeth Bonefas	т 	Emma R. Geer	*	Samuel Roy Menders	т 	Marissa Danielle Scarano
*	Theodore Vincent Bourez	*	Spyridon A. Gialpis	*	Celine Elizabeth Mendez	*	Emma Caroline Schleck
		*	Tyler Addison Gmyr	*	Andrew Willard Messina	*	Sean Anthony Scotti
·	Alyssa Estelle Briggs	*	Catherine Leota Goldsmith	*	Pedro Luis Miranda	*	Oliver Grant Searle
·	Marquis 7. Brisbane	*	Sebastian Alexander Gonzalez	*	Emily Grace Mitchell	*	Alexis Marie Sellari
*	Cody J. Brown	*	Kendra Lynn Gregg	*	Aldan Mullane Moger	*	Dominick Pasquale Serafino
*	Sofia Caterina Brunaccioni	*	Pankhudi Gupta	*	Emma Rayne-Murallo Monahan	*	Vidita Jaymin Shah
*	Hannah Rose Buczkowski	*	Quinlin J. Haglund	*	Christian James Montoya	*	Alexandra Morgan Silva
*	Keyon Richard Burgher	*	Michael George Hajj	*	7adeka Lovvine Moore	*	Kevin Michael Silvia
*	Catherine Grace Calderone	*	Mackenzie Leigh Hamler	*	Gabriela A. Morel	*	Summer Sit
*	Jenna Marie Caldrello	*	Griffin J. Hanna	*	Authony Charles Moreshead	*	Anna Cecelia Smith
*	Rebecca L. Cameron	*	Aidan Grey Hanson	*	John Jack Moreshead	*	Kaitlyn Juliet Sobanko
*	Gary Alan Campbell	*	Jackson D. Harshberger	*	Joseph Todd Morgan	*	Nitya Sai Somineni
*	Christopher M. Cardenas	*	Anastasia Elizabeth Hart	*	Liam John Moriarty	*	Sreenidhi Somineni
*	Erik Raymond Carlson	*	Samuel Joseph Healy	*	Jenna Claire Morin	*	Dominic Joseph Spinnato
*	Caleb Ian Chadwick	*	William J. Heenan	*	Navoute Lyric Munoz	*	Star Victoria Sprague
*	Ethan Norin Chan	*	Christian Jacob Hightower	*	David Adam Nadeau	*	Rasheem J. Steele
*	Simon Siobbhan Chapple	*	Jaelynn Renee Hillyer	*	Jersey Janessa-Lynae Naholnik	*	Alexander Charles Stringer
*	Emily N. Cioci	*	Carly Jill Holdridge	*	Wasiq Namwar	*	Emily Rose Swift
*	Norbu Ciren	*	Brynn Casandra-Ann Holmes	*	Marcus E. Noel	*	Sabrina Tolppi
*	Andrew Kenneth Clark	*	Nathan P. Houggy	*	Scott James Olmstead	*	Haley Trehern
*	Shaelyn Noel Clarke	*	Nicholas Colby Hynes	*	Fabio Junior Ozuna	*	Rhiannon (Iann) Keonamae Treu
*	Jessica Rae Cochran	*	Sarah Catherine Johnson	*	Amanda Palmer	*	Camila Vallejos
*	Angela M. Colonis	*	Brittany Nicole Jones	*	Aidan Palmer Pepin	*	Melissa Jean Vine
*	Sean Arthur Corman	*	Megan E. Jones	*	Iulian Perez	*	Liv Waddington
*	Tyler James Couture	*	Kristopher Michael Kasper	*	Orrin Garrett Pierce	*	Paige Lauren Walstra
*	Avaleigh Cunningham	*	James Brian Kilcomons	*	Amy Cleary Pinch	*	Liam Michael Ward
*	Trevor Louis D'Amico	*	Kyle James Kogut	*	Kyleigh Renee Pinell	*	Juanai Andreas Wilbur
*	Olivia Frances Davidson	*	Gabriela Marie Kramer	*	Connor William Podeszwa	*	Isabella Lanae Williams
*	Owen Bryce Davies	*	Liliana Grace Kramer	*	Adrian Marcelo Polar Infante	*	Justin Gabriel Wujtewicz
*	Madisyn Marie Dedrick	*	Sean Wyatt Kresge	*	Cam R. Poscich	*	Joseph Thomas Wyatt
*	Samuel Riley Deflice	*	Michael Anthony Ladson, Ir.	ak:	Caleb Prentice	*	Yoseph Thomas Wyaii Liu Yang
*	Jackson Anthony DePerry	*		*		*	
*	Christopher Douglas DeWolf	*	Sara Marie Lambert	**************************************	Jacqueline Anne Puccio	т Ф	Caleb Calvin Zane
*	Jeliany Diaz	*	Jack Carsten Lange	*	Sofia Agelina Respeto	т •	Gabrielle Emily Zettler
*	yeccang Deaz Madelyn Elizabeth Dipollina		Olivia M. Larned	*	Mya Grace Rheaume	*	Nikolas Mariano Zingus
*	Madison Kate Dorunda	*	Jennifer Jean LeBlanc	*	Emily Grace Robillard	*	Emma Elisa Zito
*		*	David Benjamin Lemoine	*	William Edward Rocchetti	Tur	rn to page 6 for photos from
(Daniel Fitzpatrick Driscoll	*	Aubree Michaela Tipparpawa	*	Isabella Capri Rodriguez		Class of 2021

In the Schools...



Great Neck Elementary students and staff embarked on a chick hatching project this spring that brought the Great Neck community together during a challenging year. Students throughout the school were able to witness, through a livestream setup by the WPS IT Department, the egg development and hatching as well as the chick growth over a number of weeks. As part of the chick hatching project the reading students presented the Cluck Cluck Report each morning as part of the morning announcements. Erika Bassett, Literacy Intervention Teacher noted that "It was a wonderful experience and one that helped them [students] to gain confidence in reading out loud to the entire school." The reading students also were able to name the chicks and read to them each day.



In the News...

Check out the Principal's Newsletters and Local Newscasts for information on exciting school events and initiatives:

- ⇒ QH News 8 Broadcast Former Quaker Hill Elementary students write children's book about a biracial family
- ⇒ WHS NBC 30 News Broadcast <u>Damage from Tropical Storm Isaias Turned Into A</u>
 <u>Unique Learning Opportunity For Students</u>
- ⇒ WHS NEASC Accreditation Visit WHS April 2, 2021 News Update



"Having SBHC's
[School Based Health
Centers] at two of
our schools will reduce barriers to
health and through
our collaboration
offer a model of continuum of care necessary for students."

Thomas W. Giard III, Superintendent

Waterford Public Schools & UCFS Healthcare Partner to Open Two School-Based Health Centers

Waterford Public Schools and UCFS Healthcare have partnered to open two School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) located at Waterford High School and Clark Lane Middle School. The partnership will provide comprehensive physical and behavioral health and well care to students who attend Waterford Public Schools. Both School-Based Health Centers will be available for **ALL** Waterford Public Schools' students starting in the 2021-2022 school year.

An APRN (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse) and two Behavioral Health Clinicians who are experts in adolescent health and employed by UCFS Healthcare will offer services. SBHC services and care will supplement and coordinate with services and care provided by private pediatricians. Parental consent for services will be required in accordance with all laws. Services are billed to insurance carriers, and assistance is available for those who are not insured.

SBHC's services will include yearly well-child examinations, vaccinations, sports physicals, and acute and chronic care visits with an emphasis upon prevention through early intervention and education. Behavioral Health will offer services in mental health assessments, substance use screenings and counseling.

Waterford Public Schools Superintendent Tom Giard stated, "We are thrilled to partner with UCFS Healthcare to bring vital services to our schools. Having SBHC's at two of our schools will reduce barriers to health and through our collaboration offer a model of continuum of care necessary for students. Valuable time is not lost as students can be seen during the school day and return to their schedule as permitted."

"We are very excited about expanding our partnership with Waterford Public Schools," said Jennifer Granger, President and CEO of UCFS. "Our experience providing school-based services at Norwich Free Academy, Norwich Technical High School, Montville High School and in the Norwich Public Schools for the past several years has shown how value-added in-school access to medical and behavioral health services can be for active students and their busy families. We are a local health and human service agency who knows this community well and are proud to contribute further to the health and well-being of its youth through the UCFS SBHC at Waterford Public Schools."

For more information, please call 860-822-2803 or visit the UCFS website at www.ucfs.org. More information from Waterford Public Schools will be sent out as well to families in the near future.

What services are provided at a SBHC?

- > Yearly well-child examinations
- Vaccinations
- School/sports physicals
- Acute care visits (e.g. sick visits, lacerations, injuries, etc.)
- Chronic care visits (e.g. asthma, ADHD, etc.)
- Mental health assessments
- Substance use screenings
- > Evidence-based behavioral health treatment

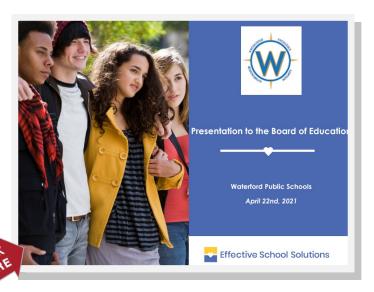
Top 5 Reasons to use the School Based Health Center



- 1. Convenient same day appointment.
- 2. Removes barriers to care such as lack of transportation.
- 3. Decreases time away from the classroom which improves academic success.
- 4. Improves students' achievement by taking care of behavioral health needs that can make learning difficult.
- 5. Connects students and their families with insurance coverage.

Click on the image above for the UCFS Presentation delivered to the Board of Education on May 27, 2021.

Waterford Public Schools Investment in Behavioral Health Support for Our Students



Click on the image above for the ESS Presentation delivered to the Board of Education on April 22, 2021.

At the April 22, 2021 Board of Education meeting, Effective School Solutions presented on their intensive mental health programming designed to assist districts with clinical support for students facing emotional and behavioral challenges. This program, currently working in over 70 schools across 9 states and meeting the needs of over 2,000 students a year, is shown to increase academic and behavioral health performance amongst students.

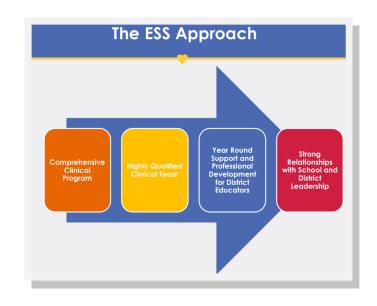
With funding available through the American Rescue Plan, Waterford Public Schools pursued avenues to address the rising mental health needs of our students. Due to the extraordinary challenges faced by our students, we continued to

be concerned about our student support center population with high mental health needs. Dr. Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Education stated that "We need to make sure that through this American Rescue Plan we utilize those resources to provide intervention and support, not only with the academic but almost more importantly the social and emotional needs that our students are going to come to school with . . . ". Waterford Public Schools will implement ESS services beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.

"Effective School Solutions is a "symphony" of interventions, proven and designed to work together to positively impact students." Through their 3 tiered program, the district will receive support on multiple levels for students.

- ⇒ Tier 3 Intensive, In-School Clinical Support for students with emotional and behavioral challenges
- ⇒ Tier 2 lower level of care and crisis screening for students with mild to moderate challenges
- ⇒ Tier 1 support that provides teachers and staff with mental health awareness and prevention training to support students' social-emotional needs.

We look forward to this partnership with Waterford Public Schools and Effective Schools Solutions and the positive impact received through this service for our students.



Celebrating the Class of 2021





The Waterford High School Class of 2021 Graduation was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 on the Waterford High School field. A recording of the ceremony can be viewed on the WHS YouTube channel.

The WHS Senor Awards and Scholarships Ceremony was held on June 8, 2021. We are very proud of our Seniors - their hard work, commitment to excellence and support of our community is greatly appreciated.



* Total # of Awards 249

* Total # of Recipients: 113



WHS SENIOR
AWARDS
and
SCHOLARSHIPS

2021



Waterford Board of Education Honors Retirees

CLICK HERE

On June 8th, the Waterford Board of Education had the privilege of honoring staff members who retired after the 2020-2021 school year. We are thankful for the years of service that the following staff dedicated to the Waterford Public School district and students. We wish them well in retirement!



ENGLISH TEACHER AT WATERFORD HIGH **SCHOOL**

26 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**

View meeting at:

SECRETARY AT WATERFORD HIGH SCHOOL

17 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**



LATIN TEACHER AT WATERFORD HIGH **SCHOOL**

15 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**

SCIENCE TEACHER AT WATERFORD HIGH SCHOOL

22 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**



COMPUTER TEACHER AND TECHNOLOGY COACH AT CLARK LANE MIDDLE **SCHOOL**

24 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**

ASSISTANT COOK MANAGER AT CLARK LANE MIDDLE SCHOOL

26 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**



PARAPROFESSIONAL AT **CLARK LANE** MIDDLE SCHOOL

21 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT CLARK LANE MIDDLE SCHOOL

22 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AT CLARK LANE MIDDLE SCHOOL

29 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**



SECRETARY AT OSWEGATCHIE **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

27 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**



PARAPROFESSIONAL AT QUAKER HILL **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

22 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**



PARAPROFESSIONAL AT **OUAKER HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

ENE WIGGINS

19 YEARS OF SERVICE AT WATERFORD PUBLIC **SCHOOLS**

Free Summer Meals

The Waterford
School Dining
and Nutrition
Services will offer Free Summer
Meals from June
22nd through
August 13, 2021
at Clark Lane
Middle School
on Tuesdays and
Thursdays via
curbside pickup.





What are Summer Meals? The Free Summer Meals Programs are an extension of the Federal School Meals Programs when school is not in session. They are federally funded programs through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and are administered by the CT State Department of Education. Public schools or non-profit organizations typically make and distribute the meals throughout the community.

Where are Summer Meals Offered? Summer Meals sites can be located in places like schools, playgrounds, parks, and even libraries. They are available at over 500 locations throughout Connecticut during the summer. In Waterford, meals will be offered at Clark Lane Middle School, 105 Clark Lane, Waterford. Waterford Public Schools will continue serving FREE Grab & Go meals for Breakfast and Lunch two days a week during the summer. Starting June 22nd families can pick up 3 breakfast and lunches on Tuesdays from 9:30am-11am every week curbside at CLMS. Daily Monday through Friday Meals (Breakfast & Lunch) will also be available to all Camp Dash and Summer Academy participants.

* IMPORTANT! For the safety of all, if driving please stay in your car and drive up for distribution. Drive up, pop your trunk for distribution and a Waterford staff member will bring your meals to you!

To find other locations near you: Call toll-free 211 or Text "CTmeals" to 877877

What food is served? Similar to the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Summer Meals Programs must meet federal nutrition guidelines. A nutritious meal composed of fruits/vegetables, grains, protein, and milk is served. For menus, visit the Waterford Public Schools website at https://www.waterfordschools.org/parents family/food services/menu prices.

What is the cost? It's FREE for all children 18 and younger.

What do you need to register? Children do not need to be registered for any programs to receive a summer meal. All children and teens 18 and younger are welcome at any location. There is absolutely no cost to the child or family for the meals, and there is no ID, paperwork, or registration required.

ALL MEALS ARE FREE NEXT YEAR ALSO!!



*Our 2020- 2021 Award Winners

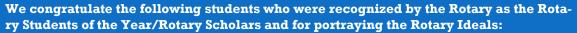
Rising Star Manager: Melissa Lambert, Waterford

Congratulations to Melissa Lambert, cook Manager at Quaker Hill Elementary School on receiving the honor of being named the 2021 Rising Star Manager by the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT). Recipients are awarded based on their "accomplishments and sustained contributions to programs that advance good nutrition in our schools and communities." https://snact.org/page/Awards



Rotary Student of the Year Awards

Every year to highlight Education Month in May, the Waterford Rotary recognizes students in all of the Waterford Public Schools who have exemplified leadership qualities as well as community service. One student from each elementary school, one student from each team at Clark Lane Middle School, and one student from each grade level at Waterford High School received the Rotary Student of the Year Award. Four Juniors from Waterford High School were also awarded the Rotary Scholar Award. This year the Rotary award ceremonies were held via Zoom and all students were recognized with a congratulatory letter and certificate that was delivered to them by their building principal.





- * Great Neck Elementary School Grace Payne-Smith
- * Oswegatchie Elementary School -Lily Palazzo
- * Quaker Hill Elementary School Cecelia Foss
- * Clark Lane Middle School Grade 6 Egrets Team -Antonia Stefano
- * Clark Lane Middle School Grade 6 Herons Team -Hannah Hall
- Clark Lane Middle School Grade 7 Osprey Team -Aneeb Mirza
- Clark Lane Middle School Grade 7 Coral Team -Jennifer Macca-Barnes
- Clark Lane Middle School Grade 7 Kingfishers Team -Albert Wilson
- Clark Lane Middle School Grade 8 Terrapins Team -Jonathon Dorunda
- * Clark Lane Middle School Grade 8 Sea Stars Team -Hazel Siu

- * Clark Lane Middle School Grade 8 Whelks Team Nicole Hoff
- Waterford High School Grade 9 -Payton Smith
- Waterford High School Grade 10 -Kyle Palmer
- Waterford High School Grade 11 -Madelyn Myers
- Waterford High School Grade 12 -Jack Lange
- * Waterford High School Rotary Scholar -Zachary Gamble
- Waterford High School Rotary Scholar -Madison Gates
- Waterford High School Rotary Scholar -Abigail Maynard
- * Waterford High School Rotary Scholar -Anne Seltzer



Waterford Public Schools

Craig R. Merriman, Board of Education Chairperson Thomas W. Giard III, Superintendent

15 Rope Ferry Road Waterford , CT 06385 Phone: 860-444-5852 Fax: 860-444-5870

Contact: Caroline Whittaker - Executive Administrative

Assistant to the Superintendent

E-mail: cwhittaker@waterfordschools.org

Waterford Public Schools is a community of learners that fosters and supports high aspirations, ensuring every student acquires the skills and knowledge necessary to be a responsible citizen, prepared to contribute and succeed in an ever-changing world.

Stay Connected...

- ♦ WPS Website Visit

 <u>www.waterfordschools.org</u> for up to date

 BOE, school and event information.
- BOE meetings are held on the 4th
 Thursday of each month. For the
 complete schedule of meetings, go to
 the BOE section of the WPS Website.
- Download the <u>WPS App</u> to 'stay abreast' of all the happenings at our schools.
- Follow us on <u>Twitter: @WPS CT</u> and <u>@WaterfordSuper</u>