



The Connection

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUMMER 2022

*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.*

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Update from the Waterford Board of Education

At the April 28, 2022 Board of Education meeting, WHS Department Chairs presented 3 curriculum revisions and 2 course additions that will be implemented in the 2022-2023 school year. The curriculum revisions included 9-12 Mathematics, 6-8 English Language Arts, and K-12 Health and Physical Education. All revisions included an integration of Waterford's Vision of a Graduate in every unit. The course additions approved are World Language Curriculum Addition - American Sign Language I and Social Studies Curriculum Addition - Black and Latino Studies. American Sign Language I explores the language of the Deaf community and invites students to look at language through a visual manner rather than a spoken manner. Black and Latino studies, in compliance with state law, will be offered at WHS as a full year course in the Fall of 2022. Waterford Public Schools is excited to bring forth the revised curriculums and new course additions that will enhance the learning community for our students. More information regarding the curriculums and presentations can be found on the April 28, 2022 board agenda on the online program BoardDocs - <https://go.boarddocs.com/ct/waterford/Board.nsf/vpublic?open>

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC ACT NO. 19-12

An Act Concerning the **Inclusion of Black and Latino** Studies in the Public School Curriculum



Community Event - Marine Science Day



On May 31st students from Quaker Hill Elementary and Waterford High School, along with many community partners participated in Marine Science Day, an exciting event at Waterford Beach organized by the Marine Science Department at Waterford High School and Quaker Hill Elementary staff. This year included a life size whale, touch tanks, and remote operated vehicles facilitated by WHS staff and students as well as stations from Project O, Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Seaport, Save the River, Save the Hills, Diver's Cove LLC, Captain Ron Kenyon, and QH Boy Scouts Troup. Over 350 Quaker Hill students, 25 WHS student volunteers and 60 parent and community volunteers participated in this hands on learning environment.

See pg. 5 for more photos from Marine Science Day

Congratulations to the WHS Class of 2022

* Jamie Adams	* Jakob B. DonBrosky	* Owen D. Lanuza	* Anthony Francis Sandora
* Zubin Agrawal	* Emily Marie Dreyfus	* Jack Mitchell Lathrop	* Haylie Margaret Jade Santangelo
* Mehroze Ahmad	* Alexis Renee Dayan	* Ethan Young-il Lee	* Gerardo Sebastian Santillana Gonzalez
* John - Anthony Joseph Andriola	* Connor Matthew Dyer	* Nicole Li	* Norah Catherine Scott
* Adriana Illari Arias	* Jordan Nelson Elci	* Jiawen Lian	* Kathryn Rose Scullion
* Alexa Marissa Arnold	* Giovannina Daniela Fioravanti	* Natalie Ann Lombardi	* Samantha Renee Seidel
* Colby Shepard Arnold	* Shea Elizabeth Flaherty	* Austin Michael Long	* Anne Leigh Seltzer
* Helen Rose Arrieta	* Mason Duane Fleming	* Jackson Jesse Long	* Mikayla Lee Senkewitz
* Ahsan Arshad	* Sofia Phyllicia Folino	* Eric Joseph Lord	* Julia Silva
* Spencer Bailey	* Isabella Helene Fraser	* Rashan K. Lugaresi	* Timothy Alan Silva
* Jadeen Noel Barber	* Zachary Gamble	* Joyce Audrey Mak	* Tara Mae Smith
* Patrick M. Barrs	* Alizae Larae Gaston	* Emma Grace Marelli	* Mia Juliana Sobanko
* Jackson Foster Bartelli	* Emily Victoria Gates	* Lily Andrea Marelli	* Domenick Putnam Sollima
* Isabella Virginia Ann Bass-Wright	* Madison Marie Gates	* Abigail Elizabeth Maynard	* Anthony Phillip Stone
* Jaglicena D. Bates	* Erin Renee Gerboth	* Evan Jacob McCue	* Aidan M. Stratton
* Zachary T. Beardsley	* Hunter Curtis Gibbons	* Angela Catherine McIntire	* Teak Bartlett Sturgill
* Arfa Begum	* Jeremy Ryan Gibbs	* Kayli Amber McMahon	* Aidan Cait Sturm
* Angelina Marie Bergstrom	* Aimee Lauren Girard	* Kiera Rose Michna	* William Patrick Sutman
* Justin Billings	* Shaqna Marie Gladstone	* Ava Jeanne Middleton	* Aidan Kay Swansen
* Nathan Way Booth, IV	* Avital Rose Goldberg-Curran	* Mariacamila Molina	* Zaiun Joseph Sylvia
* Isabelle Sophia Bove-Dumin	* Nolan Garrett Gollweider	* Julie Ann Morrison	* Jack Bruce Thompson
* Maria Florencia Breuman-Almaraz	* Mariana Gomes Borges	* Sean David Morrison	* Dodjie Pilas Pilas Tobias
* Autumn Marie Brothers	* Nayara Lohana Gonzales Aguilar	* Alexis Elisabeth Myers	* Danilo J. Torres
* Katlyn M. Brown	* Courtney Nicole Gouvin	* Madelyn Grace Myers	* Hannah Victoria Trocchi
* Thayden C. Broughton	* Holly Marie Gray	* Seada A. Napoles	* Derek Valencia
* Rocco N. Brucoli	* McKenzie Alise Gregory	* Brooke Alexa Nasser	* Jonathan Antonius VanderPutten
* Michael John B. Bucoy	* Aiden Matthew Grimsey	* Ethan T. Neal	* Julio Velez
* Griffin Michael Burdick	* Enzo Holden Guarneri	* Colin David Noyes	* Milena Brianna Walker
* Jarson R. Burridge	* Klive Shadrach Obas Guevarra	* Danielle Elizabeth Nykyforchyn	* Caden Luther Waters
* Madeline Rae Burrows	* Ethan R. Hall	* Sean L. O'Connell	* Nikoli Orion Weir
* Noah Ryan Cable	* Sophia Hathaway	* Colin R. Palazzo	* Max Edward Whitlock
* Katherine Rose Cannon	* Ariana Jennelle Hernandez	* Gabriel James Parent	* Bryan Gary Wielachowski
* Adele Dauphin Chadwick	* Gavin Xavier Hernandez	* Genevieve Benedicte Perruccio	* T'siona M. Williams
* Zin Yan Chen	* Kayla Ann Hill	* Liam Joseph Pescatello	* Ava Debbon Yeomans
* Mia Nicole Chiappone	* Savannah Lea Hoff	* Gage T. Phillips	* Aleena Yousafzai
* Evan Jennings Childs	* Kylie Lyrac Hopkins	* Tyler David Piccolo	* Andrew David Zanghetti
* Juan Collado	* Natalie M. Huhn	* Liam James Pickett	* John Kevin Zimmermann
* Caleb Mitchell Collins	* Peter Charles Hynck	* Ian Spencer Pierce	* Sierra N. Zolkowski
* Mason James Concaschia	* Tyler Charles Shelburn Ingemi	* Christopher A. Pond	
* Madison Eleanor Costa	* Mack James Jackson	* Jacob Kevin Pope	
* Colin Peter Crump	* Alex Joshua Johnson	* Jesse M. Price	
* Sofia A. D'Agostino	* Madalyn Zhigan Johnson	* Thomas Benjamin Quiles	
* Tessa L. D'Agostino	* Madison A. Jones	* Leona Ann Riffle	
* Cody Michael-Ellsworth Davis	* Theodore R. Joseph	* Nyanna Lee Rivera	
* Brooke DeGiacomo	* Esther Victoria Kiefer-Espinoza	* Hailey Alyssa Rodriguez	
* Alison Rose DeMarco	* Kevin Warren Kilcomons	* Dylan James Rosado	
* Maya S. Desai	* Madelyn Elizabeth Knowles	* Connor Charles Rowbotham	
* Willmary Isabel Diaz Eufrazio	* Andrew Labrie	* Taylor Anderson Roy	
* Isabella Marie Diglio	* Kate Brenna Lange	* Justin David Saad	
* Adrianna C. Donahue		* Sean Alexander Salvador	
* Cooper J. Donahue		* Corey Michael Sammataro	

Celebrating the Class of 2022



The Waterford High School Class of 2022 Graduation was held on Friday, June 17, 2022 on the Waterford High School field. The event can be viewed on the WHS YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/gEauhn4ojwA>.

The WHS Senor Awards and Scholarships Ceremony was held on June 7, 2022. We are very proud of our Seniors - their hard work, commitment to excellence and support of our community is greatly appreciated.

- * Total Amount of Awards \$136,500
- * Total # of Awards 254
- Total # of Recipients: 115



Avery Point Transition Program Graduates

*Congratulations to our Waterford/Avery Point Graduates: **Dominic Piccione, Frankie Orlando, and Bryce Dorunda**.* The graduation from Waterford's UConn Avery Point Transition Program was held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 on the Avery Point Campus. The Avery Point Transitional Readiness Program is an initiative that prepares students, ages 18—21, with vocational opportunities while fostering independent living skills and community interactions for students with disabilities. These three students have all brought their individual talents to the transition team and have acquired skills to lead them to be successful in their future endeavors.

The following is an excerpt of the graduates provided by the staff at the Avery Point Transition Program: "Congratulations to Bryce Dorunda, Dominic Piccione and Frankie Orlando for completing the Waterford/Avery Point transition program and earning their High School diplomas. Bryce is polite, respectful, cooperative, well- behaved, and a hardworking young man and has done an exceptional job when at the transition program. Currently, Bryce is employed at Pet Smart in Waterford. Dominic is an outstanding individual who excels in both his academic and personal pursuits. While working on a job site Dominic was appointed to be our team leader to assist and direct other students. Dominic has taken this role very seriously and has shown he can take on the additional responsibility to instruct, guide, and watch over others. Frankie Orlando's on the job accomplishments are rivaled only by his positive personal strengths of caring and showing empathy for his friends and co-workers, a very kind heart indeed. Frankie is a dedicated and reliable individual who will be an asset to any place of employment he decides to pursue as a career."



It is often said that a dog is man's best friend! But did you know that dogs, cats, birds and pretty much any animal can be a friend to a child learning to read...even an adorable little duckling! A reluctant reader plus a loving animal can be a powerful combination for reading practice and success. Reading to a dog, or any pet, provides students with a safe environment to practice their reading, make mistakes, and grow as a reader. Reading to animals removes the mental block and increases the chance for reading to occur. At Great Neck this spring we hatched baby ducklings! 8 tiny, adorable ducklings hatched that were loved, read to, and cuddled by our students at Great Neck. The students in the reading room picked their names: Petunia Pickle Bottom, Louis Vuitton, James Pond, Daisy, Tommy (named after Tom Thurlow), Starlight Mercedes, Dilly & Dally!



Each day the reading students presented the Quack Quack report on the morning announcements which included lots of science, some duck jokes and interesting facts about ducks. The IT department even set up a live link so that everyone in school and in town could watch our ducklings hatch live! These may have been the most loved little ducklings ever! By the time these little ducklings left Great Neck they had been read to for numerous hours, taught the Foundations Letter Sound cards and learned many new sight words. But most importantly they provided a lot of love, happiness and smiles to all of our students and our staff. We celebrated them by having a Duckling parade on their last day with us. They waddled throughout the halls of Great Neck as all of the students and staff cheered them on saying, "Go Ducky Go!" It truly was a wonderful experience to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Article provided by Erika Bassett, Literacy Support Teacher at Great Neck Elementary School



The National Circus Project Artist in Residency program came to Oswegatchie Elementary School in May providing a week long of activities for students as well as a culminating 5th grade performance for parents.



Check out OSW in the News...

⇒ [Mohegan Tribe expands resources to help with Native American curriculum](#)

⇒ [What's Right With Schools: Waterford elementary school combines learning with play](#)



At the end of May, Quaker Hill Elementary Kindergarten student Arden LaLonde wrote a letter to Principal Discordia trying to persuade him to make her the Vice Principal at QH. As Arden's class had begun their persuasive writing unit a few weeks prior, their teacher Ms. Gardner had explained to the class that in order to persuade someone you need to give them reasons that will convince them to do or believe the thing you are asking. Arden wrote Mr. Discordia a letter and said that she wanted to persuade him to make her vice principal and that she would help him take care of the school. That day Mr. Discordia and Superintendent Giard surprised Arden and made her the Assistant to the Principal, bestowing her with an official badge with her photo and title. Mr. Discordia told the class that it is always important to remember that they have the power to make things happen. He said, "All of this happened because Arden wrote me a letter, remember that." Ms. Gardner noted that "The kids were on a high for the rest of the day and could not stop talking about how they wanted to write letters to try to persuade Mr. Discordia as well. The fact that the Superintendent took time out of his day to be a part of it all as well speaks volumes about the way this district is run. This is just one small example of why this is most certainly the best district ever."



Marine Science Day Photos



Moving? What do I do with my child's school issued device? (Grades 4-12)



If you plan to move your child to another school outside of Waterford or withdraw your child from Waterford Public Schools for the 2022-23 school year, you will need to return your chromebook and charger before June 24th. You may also return it during the summer months to the school office when you officially withdraw your student.

If your student is returning to Waterford Public Schools next year, you will not turn in your Chromebook at the end of this school year. Please find a safe place to store your student's Chromebook and charger over the summer so that it can be used for next school year. *Please continue to charge the Chromebook over the summer. Chromebooks falling below 3% battery life will not charge or turn on.*



Free Summer Meals

Free Meals for Children...

Childhood food insecurity remains at unacceptable levels across the country and children are most acutely at risk in the summer when they do not have access to school meals. All Children ages 18 and younger may visit Open Summer Meals sites anywhere in the state to receive a meal. There is no application, identification or commitment to participate in Summer Meals.



<https://www.endhungerct.org/services/summer-meals/>

For sites near you call: 211

Rotary Student of the Year Awards



The Waterford Rotary recently recognized students in all of the Waterford community service. The Waterford Rotary, founded in 1973, is part of an "I Am Rotary Self". One student from each elementary school, one student from each middle school and one student from Waterford High School received the Rotary Student of the Year Award.

Elementary

- ♦ **Great Neck ~ Amelia Secchiaroli**
- ♦ **Quaker Hill ~ Ivanka Haglund**
- ♦ **Oswegatchie ~ Grace McDonald**



Clark Lane Middle School

- ♦ **6th Egrets ~ Brielle Cole**
- ♦ **6th Herons ~ Logan Couture**
- ♦ **7th Ospreys ~ Sofia Hynek**
- ♦ **7th Coral ~ Marlena Childs**
- ♦ **8th Terrapins ~ Adyson Wiseman**
- ♦ **8th Sea Stars ~ Jameson Smith**



Waterford Board of Education Honors Retirees

On June 23, 2022, the **Waterford Board of Education** will celebrate staff members who **retired** after the 2021-2022 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!

District

- Joanne Sturges

WHS

- Tessa Castleberry
- Marissa Rocchia

CLMS

- Sandra DelGrosso
- Jeanne Morgan
- Martha Perkins
- Dorothy Murtha

OSW

- Catherine McDonald

QH

- Kathleen McBryde

Avery Point Transition Program

- Kathleen Grillo-Dow
- Susan O'Farrell

Special Services

- Tami Sposito

Food Services

- Gail Welch

Buildings and Grounds

- Bruce Bordner
- Syrja Kutrolli
- Roland Langlois
- Elizabeth Pisapia
- Michael Winslow

CLICK
HERE

View meeting on June 23, 2022 at:

[https://www.waterfordschools.org/
board-members/meetings/meeting-videos](https://www.waterfordschools.org/board-members/meetings/meeting-videos)

Waterford Public Schools who have exemplified leadership qualities as well as community service organization that prides itself on the motto "Service Above Self". Each team at Clark Lane Middle School, and one student from each grade level at Waterford High School. Four WHS Juniors received the Rotary Scholar Award.



Waterford High School

- ♦ WHS Freshman ~ Angeles Pina-Rodriguez
- ♦ WHS Sophomore ~ Brianne Kilcomons
- ♦ WHS Junior ~ Alyse Puccio
- ♦ WHS Senior ~ Kylie Hopkins
- ♦ Rotary Scholars ~
Briana Smith
Katrina Casteel
Luke Bartlett
Charlotte Morin

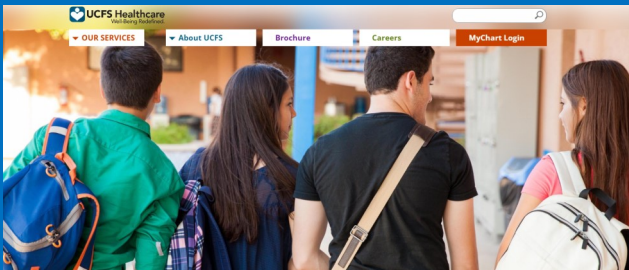


Service
Above Self



School-Based Health Centers - Partnering with Families in the Summer

Summer has the potential to be our children's best ally as it provides rest from the academic world, time to relax



with late summer nights allowing their minds to unwind and recharge. It also has the potential to be our children's biggest challenge as routines are changed, schedules are varied and the comforts of "What to expect" can leave uncertainty.

At our School Based Health Center, we understand and support each family in the continuous journey of their children's health. We respect each other's individual want and importance to have fun over the summer and stay consistent with the care that goes into not only a healthy body but mind. That is why when school is out our School Based Health Center stays active with you. We offer counseling sessions, and we have clinicians who will continue to work with you and your child over the summer.

Additionally, when summer begins to unwind and the scheduling of doctor visits, yearly school physicals begin to find their way back on the calendar our School Based Health Center is here for your support. We offer full pediatric medical appointments and work in conjunction with your family's primary care doctor. We value the importance of one's time and that everyone wants what's best for their children. Please feel free to visit our website at UCFShealthcare.org for more information or call our School Based Health center at (860) 822-2803 because any time of the year we're here for you.

Article provided by Leslie Strekel, LPC, SBHC BHS Supervisor

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS Job Fair



The WPS Human Resources Department hosted a Job Fair on June 20, 2022 at Clark Lane Middle School. Onsite interviews were



Employment Opportunities

held for a number of open positions within the district. Interested applicants may still complete an online application at www.waterfordschools.org and take the first step to being a part of the Waterford Team. For more information, contact the Human Resources Department at 860-440-1863.

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



One Team, One Purpose,
Putting Our Students First

Paid training & competitive rates...
Paraprofessionals, Substitute Teachers,
Food Service Workers,
Van Driver Positions

Complete an online application
WWW.WATERFORDSCHOOLS.ORG
Contact HR to RSVP (860) 440-1863



Waterford Public Schools

Pat Fedor, 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**
www.waterfordschools.org 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 [WPS App](#) to 'stay abreast' of all the happenings at our schools.**
- ◆ **Follow us on [Twitter](#) : [@WPS_CT](#) and [@WaterfordSuper](#)**