



The Connection

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FALL 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.*

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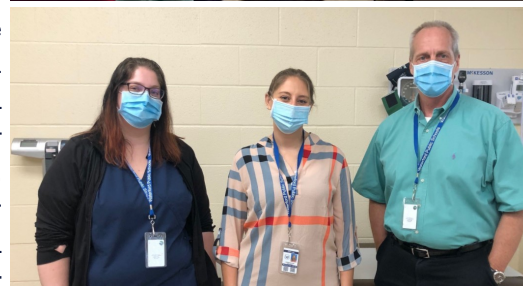
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Grand Opening - UCFS School-Based Health Centers in WPS

On October 12, 2021, UCFS (United Community and Family Services) and Waterford Public Schools celebrated the opening of the School-Based Health Centers in Waterford with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Clark Lane Middle School. The ceremony, attended by State Representatives, District Administration, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, Waterford Community representatives and UCFS personnel, highlighted the partnership with UCFS and WPS in providing in-school health and behavioral services for our students. The ceremony included speeches from attending dignitaries as well as a tour of the School-Based Health Center and introductions to the UCFS staff working at each location. State Representative Kathleen McCarty, said "with 1 in 4 children in the state having some form of health issues, the in-school centers are invaluable...they break down barriers, they help our students. It is a continuum of care with the primary care, the access is increased and our students do not go without care".

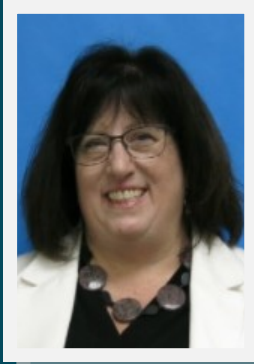


The School-Based Health Centers, located at Waterford High School and Clark Lane Middle School, are open to all Waterford Public School students PreK - 12 and provide valuable services such as athletic physicals, vaccinations, acute care visits, and yearly well-child examinations to name a few. In his remarks, Superintendent Giard noted that "United Community & Family Services' SBHCs will benefit all our students and families ...it is imperative to meet the growing needs of our community. These centers will allow our students to gain meaningful access to care that is both safe and convenient and allow us, together, to address the array of growing needs our students face...convenient access to care, with an emphasis on early detection and reducing future risks is so important. These centers are also a viable strategy for achieving health equity for our students and families."



We are very excited to launch this exciting collaborative endeavor between UCFS and WPS and encourage families to register students now for access to the School-Based Health Centers and their multitude of services.

See page 5 for more information on UCFS



New Director of Human Resources

On August 23, 2021 Ms. Nancy Sudhoff started her new role as the Director of Human Resources at Waterford Public Schools.

Ms. Sudhoff brings a multitude of professional experiences in the Human Resources field to this new position in Waterford. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science from Albertus Magnus College, a State of Connecticut Business Administrators Certification 085 Endorsement as well as SHRM certification from Central Connecticut State University. Ms. Sudhoff is a member of the American Association of School Personnel Administrators and is on the Executive Board of the Connecticut Association of School Personnel Administrators.

Nancy has served as the Human Resources Specialist for the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) in New Haven, CT prior to coming to Waterford. In this role she was the Human Resources liaison assigned to seven programs and schools, providing guidance and support to principals and directors. Prior to her work at ACES, she also worked in a Human Resources capacity at Westport Public Schools and Albertus Magnus College providing staffing support in a demanding educational environment.

Colleagues and supervisors remarked that Ms. Sudhoff is a "trusted advisor to administrators and employees". She has been praised for her "compassion and ability to listen keenly to the challenges of each person ...making her one of the most trusted and sought after human resources professionals in our agency". Others said "her integrity and unwavering ability to maintain the standards and beliefs of the organization served her well in recruiting a diverse workforce with wide ranging skillsets and abilities."

Ms. Sudhoff has been a great addition to the Waterford team in this new role and has brought a great sense of leadership and continuity to the Human Resources Department and the district.

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Former Colleagues

See pg. 8 for Hiring Opportunities in WPS

Check out "Waterford Public Schools in the News" for media interviews and local newscasts/podcasts of the great things happening in the District and the schools.



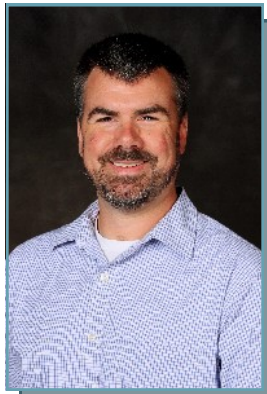
- ⇒ News 30 Broadcast - [What's Right in Schools - October 12th feature of WHS College Credit Courses](#)
- ⇒ Podcast - Connecticut East this Week - October 16th Edition - Coverage of UCFS Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at CLMS. Check out timecode 25.19 to hear the UCFS story with comments from Representative Kathleen McCarty and Superintendent Giard - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otQxk60Go_I&t=3s
- ⇒ Be sure to check out the weekly school newsletters that can be found on the school websites at the following locations:
 - ◇ WHS - https://whs.waterfordschools.org/ourschool/news/announcements/w_h_s_news
 - ◇ CLMS - https://clms.waterfordschools.org/OurSchool/news/announcements/clms_newsletter
 - ◇ GN - https://gn.waterfordschools.org/OurSchool/news/announcements/great_neck_newsletter
 - ◇ OSW - https://osw.waterfordschools.org/OurSchool/news/announcements/o_s_w_newsletter
 - ◇ QH - https://qh.waterfordschools.org/OurSchool/news/announcements/quaker_hill_newsletter

Go to pg. 6 for more information on what's happening "In the Schools"

Ed Crane, Director of the Information Technology Department at Waterford Public Schools, retired on October 1, 2021 after 23 Years of Service at Waterford Public Schools. Ed began his career with Waterford as a Certified Network Engineer in July of 1998 and was appointed to the position of Director of IT in 2003. In his role as the Director of IT, Ed juggled responsibilities with the district and the Town, always taking on tasks and assignments with mindfulness and consistency. His efforts to assist employees providing efficient technology as well as keeping the district and town on the cutting edge of a rapidly changing technological environment has been appreciated by many. In the last few years, during the time of school closure, distance learning and new educational avenues, Ed's commitment to our district and our staff was unwavering and he filled an essential role in creating a distance learning environment that enabled continuity of instruction for our students and staff. We would like to thank Ed for his dedication to the district and for his commitment to our team. We wish him well in retirement.



Waterford Public Schools has implemented a [one-to-one device program](#) in the 2021-2022 school year. The goal of the one-to-one device program in Waterford is to promote the use of technology to enhance the educational program for all students and provide equitable access to technology. The implementation of a one-to-one device program will ensure that our students will be provided with an innovative and equitable education and be prepared to leave with the knowledge and skills to be successful in today's digital society. More information on this program can be accessed via the [WPS One-to-One Device Program Website](#). Many thanks to Laura McCue and Lauren McKenna, District Technology Specialists for their work launching this project.



With the retirement of District/Town IT Director Ed Crane on October 1, the existing department underwent some organizational changes to better meet the needs of the Board of Education and the Town.

With that said, we are pleased to announce Mr. Mark Geer as the new Director of Information Technology at Waterford Public Schools.

Mark recently served as the IT Systems Administrator for Waterford, providing onsite support for the district and the Town of Waterford. Since 1997 Mark has been an integral part of the Waterford Team, serving as the project manager on many initiatives that have kept Waterford up to date in a rapidly changing environment. He has taken the lead on numerous projects and has been an asset in building successful programs in the department and the district.

Colleagues and supervisors in Waterford remarked that Mark has "the ability to multitask and prioritize the district's needs in a fast paced environment". He "played a major role during the COVID-19 crisis by managing the new district leaning environment". Others said "Mark has encountered many different situations that have required him to think outside the box " and "his abilities and work ethic are well suited for this position".

Mark assumed the position of Director of Information Technology for the district on October 4, 2021. We are confident that Mark will be a great addition to the community of staff, students, and families of Waterford Public Schools. We are excited to see the direction that he provides to the IT Department and the path forward in technology for our district.

Throughout the year, parents/guardians have reached out with questions on the District's COVID-19 protocols on positive cases, close contacts, contact tracing as well as when students have symptoms. Below are a few FAQs to help provide guidance on our district protocols in alignment with the State of Connecticut, DPH, and LLHD.

What should I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

- ◆ Isolate your child immediately and [follow steps](#) to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in your household. Contact the school nurse or building principal to provide information on testing date, symptom date and close contacts. The school will provide isolation dates as well as return to school dates and will work with your child to provide remote learning opportunities during the time of isolation.

If my child is in contact of a positive case outside of school, can my child still go to school?

- ◆ If your child is not fully vaccinated, they will be considered a close contact and will need to quarantine. Please contact the school nurse or building principal to learn quarantine dates and return to school dates. Note - If your child is designated as a household close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, is not able to isolate at home (own bedroom/bathroom away from positive case), and has ongoing contact with the positive case, then the quarantine date is extended for the 10-day isolation period plus an additional 10 days.
- ◆ If your child is fully vaccinated and the school has verified the vaccination documentation, then your child may attend school as long as he/she is symptom free. It is a CDC recommendation that your child is tested 3-5 days post-exposure and wear a mask in indoor public settings for 14 days following exposure or until receiving a negative test result. If your child tests positive, please contact the school nurse immediately and have your child isolate for 10 days.

How is contact tracing conducted in the schools and what does it mean if my child is identified by the school as a "close contact"?

- ◆ Contact tracing is conducted by the school administration in conjunction with classroom teachers, the bus company as well as other designated staff. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines a close contact as someone within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, cumulatively, over 24 hours, indoors or outdoors regardless of masks. For students (not teachers or others) in a classroom setting only, if both parties wore masks for entire duration of their contact, a close contact is a student within 3 feet for 15 minutes or more (cumulative over a 24 hour period).
- ◆ If your child is determined to be a close contact of a positive case in the school, you will be contacted immediately and asked to quarantine your child for 10 days after the last contact with the positive. The school nurse or building principal will provide information on quarantine dates as well as return to school dates. Your child's teacher(s) will provide remote learning opportunities for your child during the time of quarantine.

My child has symptoms of COVID-19. Should I still send them to school or what are the procedures?

- ◆ We encourage students to stay home when they are sick. Please call the school nurse to report the sickness/absence. Students may return to school with a negative COVID-19 test or an alternate diagnosis from a doctor.
- ◆ Reminder - Students are encouraged to self-screen before leaving for school. Check to ensure temperature is below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID-19 as outlined by public health officials.

How does the district determine the policies and procedures set forth for isolation, quarantine and contact tracing?

- ◆ The Waterford Public School district implements strategies based on recommendations, guidance, and requirements as articulated by the CDC, CT DPH, CSDE, Governor's Executive Orders, our local health district and our district medical advisor.

How do I provide my child's vaccination documentation to the school?

- ◆ Parents/guardians may upload the vaccination documentation via the online form. The form will be automatically routed to the school nurse for review. LINK - <https://schools.scriptapp.com/#/workflow-submission/142524383375eae46aa6664346b04084785750e1b5>.

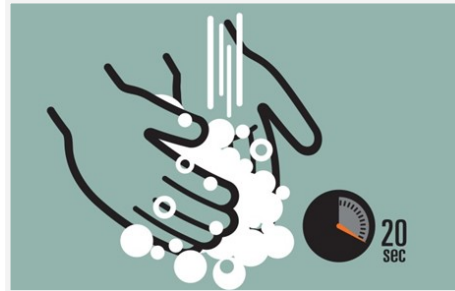
More information can be found in the [Waterford Public Schools Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2021-2022 School Year](#).

Back to Basics Hand Hygiene

UCFS is thrilled to be part of the Waterford School Community. A new year is upon us and Covid-19 is unfortunately still here. One of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of illness, including Covid-19 is to perform basic hand hygiene.

We should wash our hands often with soap and water and for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. It is especially important to wash:

- Before eating or preparing food
- Before touching your face
- After using the bathroom
- After leaving a public place
- After handling your mask
- After caring for someone who is sick
- After changing a diaper
- After touching animals or pets



If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

The CDC identifies these statistics when proper hand hygiene is performed:

1. Reduces the number of people who get sick with diarrhea by 23-40%
2. Reduces diarrheal illness in people with weakened immune systems by 58%
3. Reduces respiratory illnesses, like colds, in the general population by 16-21%
4. Reduces absenteeism due to gastrointestinal illness in school children by 29-57%

Feeling sick?

Need a sports physical?

Need a vaccine?

Do you have other medical concerns?
 The School-Based Health Centers at Waterford Public Schools is the place to go!



SERVICES PROVIDED

- Yearly well-child examinations
- Vaccinations
- Acute care visits (e.g. sick visits, lacerations, injuries, etc.)
- Chronic care visits (e.g. asthma, ADHD, etc.)
- Mental Health Assessments
- Substance Abuse Screenings
- Counseling (individual, group, and family)

We encourage early intervention and prevention through prompt medical treatment and education. The APRN and Behavioral Health Clinicians work closely with the school nurse to ensure effective communication.

School-Based Health Centers will be located at Waterford High School and Clark Lane Middle School and will be open to all Waterford Public School students.

For questions, please call the School-Based Health Center line at 860-822-2803.

 **UCFS Healthcare**
SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER
 at Waterford Public Schools

Why enroll in the School-Based Health Center?

- Students stay in school to receive needed care rather than have to leave campus. Services include Sport's physicals and well-child examinations that are performed right on campus.
- Improve students' academic achievement by taking care of medical, dental and behavioral health needs that can make learning difficult.
- School-Based Health Centers eliminate the barriers to treatment including access to care, scheduling conflicts, and transportation limitations.
- Students will receive behavioral health counseling from licensed professionals trained in working with children.
- The counseling will take place in school during the school day.
- UCFS counselors will do their best to work with each student's schedule to provide care during non-academic classes when possible.
- Clinicians will also be available for crisis intervention as needed for students enrolled in the SBHC.

Adapted from <https://www.ucfs.org/services/school-based-health-centers/>

**CLICK
HERE**

Register today at <https://www.ucfs.org/services/school-based-health-centers/>

Waterford High School partnered with Atlantic Broadband (ABB) in a tree planting event on September 25th. In an effort to give back to our local communities, Atlantic Broadband has gifted twenty schools with new trees in their school yard. Waterford is fortunate to be one of the chosen schools and received three trees that were planted in the front of the high school. At the tree planting event, five volunteers from ABB worked with our WHS Garden & Landscaping Club members and advisors to help make this a successful event.

Great Neck Elementary School completed a 9/11 Stair Climb Challenge to observe the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Students gained sponsorship to climb 110 flights of stairs OR take 2071 steps to honor the first responders. With the support of the students and the community Great Neck raised \$1,500 for the James Greenleaf Scholarship at WHS. Great Neck also collected snack donations to make baskets that they donated to Goshen Fire Department and the Waterford Police Department to thank them for all they do for our community.



Explorer's Café has returned to CLMS! Students in the Community Explorer's Class perform a wide variety of jobs while working in the café such as greeter, server, busser, and cashier. The café provides students with real world hands-on experiences that align with students transitional goals. All profits made at the café are put back into the CLMS Unified Fund to purchase materials needed for all Unified Activities.

Waterford High School hosted an assembly, "I Am Dirt," by John Morello on September 21st. "Dirt is a one-man show that explores the challenges and decisions that young people face every day...[it] gets to the heart of issues related to drugs, bullying, self-esteem and other sensitive topics in a real and meaningful way". Students were captivated as Morello portrayed various characters and took students on "a journey that challenged them to think about the choices they make and how those choices impact their own lives and the lives of those around them". Adapted from <https://www.johnmorello.com/the-shows>

The WHS Student-Athlete Advisory Board brought students together to discuss the importance of sportsmanship and positive fan behavior online and in the stands. This important message broadcast the SAAB's motto "be loud, support our Lancers, but stay positive". SAAB works to "empower student-athletes to promote sportsmanship, provide leadership opportunities as well as support tolerance, acceptance and respect". The advisory board recently planned Officials Appreciation events to recognize and thank the officials who play a vital role in our athletic events.

Start With Hello Week

hello	hai
ciao yassou	hola selam
hej nǐhǎo	sveiki
ahlan hoi	anyoung
habari	buna
oi bonjour	namaste
cześć swabona	kon'nichiwa
sziasztek privet kamusta hallo marhabaan	

START with
Hello

Creating an environment where all cultures are included.

www.sandyhookpromise.org/startwithhelloweek

All three elementary schools participated in "Start with Hello Week", an initiative through the Sandy Hook Promise foundation that celebrates "building socially inclusive environments for all students" and promotes activities that connect and unite the school community. Schools planned special events like 5th grade greeters who welcomed students and staff each day, Say Hey Day where all students and staff wore nametags to promote greeting each other by name and also recording acts of kindness and sharing with classmates and staff.





Ms. Dianne Houlihan, Director of School Dining and Nutrition Services has been meeting with a group of Waterford High School students this year to work collaboratively to promote the initiatives and events set forth from the Food Services Department in conjunction with federal/state guidelines. This group of students has been working to plan programs and organize marketing platforms to get the word out to students regarding nutrition and wellness. On September 27th WHS students celebrated "National World Milk Day" with a candid photo booth to encourage and educate students on the healthy benefits of calcium and the school milk program.



FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Reminder that the district will continue to provide free meals to **ALL** students for the entire 2021/22 school year! Check out the School Dining and Nutrition Services Department menus for all of the healthy and delicious options available - https://www.waterfordschools.org/parents_family/food_services/menu_prices. Please note that some menu options may change due to the nationwide food supply chain issues.

WPS is honored to recognize the following staff for dedication of service to the students of Waterford Public Schools for Years of Service

30 Years



•Sandra DelGrosso – *History Teacher @ Clark Lane Middle School*

•Colleen Lineburgh – *Special Education Teacher @ Waterford High School*

•Lauren McKenna – *Technology Specialist @ Waterford Public Schools*

•Robyn Willard – *Grade 2 Teacher @ Quaker Hill Elementary School*

•Kelly White – *School Counselor @ Waterford High School*



35 Years

50 Years

•Clyde Ingram – *Master Carpenter/Locksmith @ Waterford Public Schools*



WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

One Team, One Purpose Putting Our Students First



WPS is hiring qualified

Join the Waterford Team!

- ⇒ **Paraprofessionals**
- ⇒ **Substitute Teachers/Paraprofessionals**
- ⇒ **Substitute Food Service Workers**
- ⇒ **Van Drivers**

**Earn up
to \$600
a Week**

**CLICK
HERE**

Apply online at www.applitrack.com/waterfordschools/onlineapp or 860-440-1863 ~ EOE

Required Notifications

Annually school districts are required to notify parents and students of important policies and procedures in the district. At the beginning of the school year, WPS families received the Annual Notification Manual and School Handbooks either electronically or hard copy. The Waterford Public Schools would like to remind parents and students that the Annual Notification Manual and School Handbooks can be found online at the WPS website at:

- ⇒ https://www.waterfordschools.org/parents_family/policies_procedures/AnnualNotificationManual
- ⇒ https://www.waterfordschools.org/parents_family/policies_procedures/SchoolHandbooks

Please refer to these manuals for pertinent information on District and School Policies and Procedures. All students and parents are asked to review these important documents. If parents/students would like a hard copy of either manual, please contact the school offices where the student attends. As a reminder all of the Board of Education Policies can also be found on the WPS website at:

- ⇒ https://www.waterfordschools.org/board_of_education/district_policies

2021 – 2022
Annual Notification Manual



This manual covered within this handbook is intended to communicate to parents and students general district information, rules and procedures and is not intended to alter, amend or establish any Board policy, administrative regulation or negotiated agreement. Manual content should only be updated by each Board policy, administrative regulation or negotiated agreement. Please contact administration for a copy of specific Board policies or visit the district website at www.waterfordschools.org



Waterford Public Schools

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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](#)**