

Message from the Board of Education

In this issue...

- BOE Message, 1
- Superintendent, 1
- Spotlight, 2
- Let's Chat With, 2
- Good News, 3
- Class of 2023, 3
- Career Pathways, 4

Fall is upon us and our 2023-2024 school year in Plainville is well underway. Our buildings are bustling with activity as we focus on students, teaching and learning. This start of the school year brings many new beginnings – from our preschoolers starting with us for the first time, to introducing our new faculty, staff and administrators at Convocation, and welcoming our new Superintendent of Schools, Brian Reas, who joined us on October 16th! We are grateful to Interim Superintendent Kevin Case, who led our schools over the summer months and through the beginning of this new school year. Our Facilities Department worked very hard over the summer to prepare our buildings for the first day of school, and they continue to shine throughout the year. Our new branding efforts are visible in all five schools, reinforcing our culture, character, and values, and enhancing our school district climate. We welcomed parents and families back into our schools through open houses, parent conferences, and the Experience PHS event. We are grateful for the many parent and community

volunteers who join us once again this year to support our students as tutors, mentors, classroom helpers, reading partners and through our Parent Teacher groups. Our partnerships with the community continue to grow as evidenced in the more than 100 professionals from throughout Connecticut who participated in the high school's Career Gallery event on October 13th, and the wide variety of colleges, universities and programs represented at the high school's College Fair on October 16th. We look forward to an exciting new school year, with new beginnings, continuing traditions, and our collective focus on our Plainville Community Schools' Vision: *To inspire and prepare lifelong learners to follow their passion, engage in their communities, and positively impact our global society.*

Welcome Superintendent Brian Reas



Plainville Community Schools welcomed new Superintendent of Schools, Brian Reas, on October 16th. He has held a variety of positions in the field of education, most recently serving as superintendent of schools for the East Haddam, Connecticut school district. Mr. Reas holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Connecticut and a master of education degree from the University of Hartford. Additionally, he earned both a sixth year certificate and an executive certificate in Educational Leadership from the University of Connecticut.

The Plainville Board of Education contracted with Cooperative Educational Services (CES), one of six Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) supporting public schools in Connecticut, to oversee the Plainville Community Schools' superintendent candidate search which began in the spring; Reas was named the candidate of choice at a special Board of Education meeting held on August 16th.

Student Spotlight: Frank T. Wheeler School

“We chose Miss Coyle because she is new to Wheeler Elementary School and we wanted to welcome her and get to know her.”

Q: What is your favorite part of teaching? **A:** Helping students learn and grow to be successful and I love to see them grow as learners.

Q: What inspired you to teach? **A:** My mom was a teacher and I grew up going to her school and loved helping, and her love helped me to teach.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher? **A:** My third grade teacher who made learning fun. I remember the science lessons we did.

Q: What is your favorite part of Wheeler School so far? **A:** The staff and students are so welcoming! They are so fun and everyone works together and helps each other out which is amazing to be a part of!

Charlee Battista and Mia Brown are fifth grade Student Council members. They recently interviewed Second Grade Teacher, Miss Coyle, at Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School.



Q: When you aren't in school what do you like to do for fun? **A:** I like to spend time with family and friends and go to the beach. I also like to go on walks and work out. I love to try new restaurants and coffee shops.

Let's Chat With...Plainville High School Principal



*Jennifer DeLorenzo
Plainville High School Principal*

What attracted you to the position of principal at PHS?

I started my career at PHS 23 years ago. I have filled many roles; math teacher, coach, advisor, instructional leader, and assistant principal. When the principal position opened it felt like a natural transition for me. I think all my previous roles have prepared me for this next chapter in my career. I approach the role of principal from a variety of perspectives.

What is your top priority as principal?

My top priority as principal is to ensure a safe and orderly school environment for teachers to deliver their instruction and for all students to reach their full potential. PHS offers so much support for its entire school community and I will work hard to continue to provide additional opportunities for all.

How would you describe your leadership style?

I consider PHS as a TEAM very strongly rooted in family values. I know going into the role, that I will rely heavily on the people around me that I value and trust in their opinion. That is why I will seek out the perspective of our teachers, students and the school community often.

What one piece of advice would you give to PHS students?

I would say to make the most of every opportunity you have. Whether it's taking a challenging course, attending a club we offer, joining an athletic team or attending a school function, do not let these opportunities pass you by. I know they have all heard it before, but the four years they will spend with us at PHS will go by quickly. I would encourage them to fill that time with experiences that will provide memories for a lifetime!

How would you describe your experience thus far as the PHS principal?

My experience so far as principal has been humbling. I have enjoyed each and every day. I know there will be good days and not so good days, but my commitment to make PHS the best place to teach and learn will be my driving force each day. I am proud to be the principal of Plainville High School.

Good News! Great things are happening in our school district.

LINDEN STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As part of the school district's branding initiative, **Linden students and staff members** voted on a new name for the school's cafeteria, now dubbed the "Dolphin Diner"...A group of **Linden students** were recognized by the UCONN Athletics program for making a positive difference in the school community. The students were selected from each classroom and were invited to attend a UCONN football game in October....**Linden faculty and staff members** raised \$1,510 in donations which will be distributed to the Plainville Community Food Pantry and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Toffolon first grade faculty member Rachel Miller and her students are participating in an "Adopt a Cow" program and have "adopted" Piper, a calf growing up on the Mapleleaf Farm in Hebron, Connecticut. The class will receive monthly updates, lessons and activities related to her growth, how she is cared for on the farm, and how milk is produced on the farm...**Toffolon fourth graders** learned about landforms and erosion on a field trip to Chatfield Hollow...**Toffolon's new early childhood playground** groundbreaking and installation began in October and is tentatively slated for completion in November.

FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wheeler fifth graders enjoyed a visit to Camp Sloper in Southington, Connecticut, to foster their team building skills...As part of Hispanic Heritage Month recognition, **Wheeler fourth and first grade students** learned the cultural significance of Latin America's Day of the Dead, and created artwork to share their learning...**Wheeler's Chorus, led by music teacher Victoria Picciano**, will be performing at the Hartford Wolfpack Game on December 2nd.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

Students in Laura Meehan's Art classes were surprised by a generous donation of art supplies and personal care items from the Plainville Rotary Club, in support of the school's "Giving Shelf" initiative for students in need...**The Middle School of Plainville** is one of 18 schools in Connecticut that earned the 22-23 designation as a "school of distinction" for the Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Plainville High School was named to the 2023-24 U. S. News and World Report's "Best High Schools List" earning a ranking in the top 40% of public high schools nationwide...Representatives from a wide variety of colleges, universities, and programs participated in the high school's "College Fair" for juniors and seniors, held on October 16th...**A group of Plainville High School students** spent the day exploring Goodwin University and the world of manufacturing at the Goodwin University Manufacturing Pentathlon & Expo held on October 4th. The event, part of National Manufacturing Month activities, featured teams of students from various school districts who participated in a tour of the university facilities, followed by a series of interactive STEM related activities.

DISTRICT

The September Plainville Community Schools "All-Star" award winners were recognized at the September 11th Plainville Board of Education meeting. They include: **Facilities Director, Mike Smith, and Custodial Manager, Sandy Bouchard**. The October "All-Star" award winners were recognized at the October 10th Plainville Board of Education meeting. They include: **Technology Department staff members Kevin Ross, Karel Zettergren, Dan Demur, Chuck Warner, Nick Midolo, and Zach Santini**. The "All-Star" award recognizes students, faculty, staff and community members who go above and beyond in modeling the school district's Portrait of the Graduate characteristics and demonstrating excellence in alignment with the school district's team goals... **Plainville Community Schools' Volunteer Coordinator Sue Bradley** hosted a "Welcome Back" breakfast for the school district's volunteer mentors on September 20th... **Plainville Community Schools** received a grant to support the expansion of college credit offerings for students through the State's Dual Credit Expansion Grant program...M&T Bank volunteers are offering a series of Financial Literacy lessons to **Adult Education students**...The "Monster Dash" fun run for **Plainville's elementary school students** was held on November 4th at the Middle School of Plainville coordinated by **elementary Physical Education teachers Rob Siliman, Michael Turcotte Jr., and Zack Smith**, with music provided by **Toffolon Music Teacher Greg Wilfrid**. In lieu of an entry fee, a food drive to support the Plainville Community Food Pantry was held as part of the event.

WWW.PLAINVILLESCHOOLS.ORG

Post Secondary: Class of 2023

Albertus Magnus College, Central Connecticut State University, Husson University, Jacksonville University, Lesley University, Lincoln Tech, Lineman School, Maine College of Art & Design, Manchester Community College, Marist College, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Merrimack College, North Carolina State University, Penn State University, Plymouth State University, Purdue University, Quinnipiac University, SC State University, School of Visual Arts, Southeastern NH University, Southern CT State University, Tunxis Community College, University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, University of Maine, University of Massachusetts, University of Memphis, University of New Haven, University of Northwest Ohio, University of Rhode Island, University of Saint Joseph, University of Southern Maine, University of Washington, Vermont State University, Western Michigan University, Western New England University, and Worcester State University

DID YOU KNOW?

The PHS class of 2023 received \$157,250 in local scholarships!



Career Pathways



More than 100 professionals from local businesses and organizations, representing the 16 National Career Clusters, participated in the Plainville High School "Career Gallery 2023" event held on October 13th. The Career Gallery event, held in the school's Wood Gymnasium allowed high school students to visit "career tables" organized by Career Cluster, to discuss vocational pathways of interest with visiting professionals. Additionally, Plainville High School will host a "Career Focused Learning Adventure Day" on November 8th, where students will have the opportunity to visit professionals on site at their workplaces and / or attend interactive vocational exploration sessions at the high school hosted by visiting professionals.

Plainville Board of Education
 Plainville Community Schools
 1 Central Square
 Plainville, CT 06062
 Phone: 860.793.3200
 Fax: 860.747.6790
 www.plainvilleschools.org

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT # 416
 FARMINGTON, CT
 06032

PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brian Reas
 Superintendent of Schools

Rachel Buchanan
 Cassandra Clark
 Lori Consalvo
 Roberta Lauria
 Rebecca Martinez
 Jered Bruzas
 Crystal St. Lawrence
 Becky Tyrrell
 Foster White



Belief Statements... We believe:

- Our public school system is the core of the community and has a fundamental responsibility to develop productive, educated citizens in a democratic society
- Optimal achievement for each learner is a responsibility shared by students, home, school, and community
- We must provide each student with a comprehensive curriculum and effective instruction to ensure meaningful engagement in the learning process
- A safe, caring learning environment promotes the academic growth, health, and emotional well-being of each student
- Communication and collaboration serve to increase knowledge, trust, and respect, and are the responsibility of everyone in the community
- Professional Learning Communities foster teamwork that results in the continuous improvement of teaching and learning outcomes