



Plainville Board of Education's Community Letter

Fall 2021

Plainville Community Schools inspire and prepare lifelong learners to follow their passion, engage in their communities, and positively impact our global society.

Message from the Board of Education

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Public schools provide great value to a community. Beyond the basic education for students from Preschool to 12th grade, we provide differentiated education for students who excel and for those who struggle. We offer education for adults who are learning English or who need High School Equivalency status. We provide meeting space for Girl & Boy Scouts and numerous civic organizations. We provide space for recreation programs and musical performances. We build a sense of community through academic, artistic and athletic performances and challenges.

In addition to the value of creating an educated citizenry and future workforce, the value of public education is reflected in dollars through the value of our homes. At this exceptional time, as we strive to recover from the Covid pandemic and current political divisions, the strength of our public schools will help determine how long it takes and how successful we are.

Supporting our public schools is not an option, it's a necessity.

College and Career Pathways in PCS

As part of the school district's commitment to equip all students with the knowledge, skills and resources for success beyond graduation, an enhanced focus on College and Career Pathways provides the framework for ensuring access to a wide variety of both academic and real world experiences.

A district College and Career Pathways Committee, formed over the last school year, brings administrators, faculty and staff members together from all levels to collaborate with a common goal of creating a cohesive college and career based continuum of learning for students from kindergarten through grade 12.

These College and Career opportunities capitalize on student interests, motivations and aspirations, and are aligned to specific career pathways and college majors. From introducing career related information and experiences to our youngest learners, to offering the opportunity to take high school level courses and build critical STEM skills at the middle school level, and options to participate in job shadows, internships, college credit courses and securing micro-credentials to demonstrate industry recognized skills at the high school level, all students are provided with access to a wide variety of experiences and supports to ensure college and career readiness.



Pictured is Nick Kafka, PHS Class of 2022, serving in a Fieldwork Experience Internship in the Town Clerk's Office at the Municipal Center of Plainville.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 70% of the class of 2021 is pursuing higher education
- Of the students pursuing higher education, 78% are attending a 4 year college & 22% are attending a 2 year college
- 90% were accepted to their first choice college or trade school

Student Spotlight ...Wheeler Elementary School

As Wheeler students prepared for Student Council elections this fall, our authors shared some insights about the Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School community.



My name is Kylie Linnhoff.

I am a student from Wheeler Elementary School. I am in the 5th grade. It's my last year here at Wheeler, so I am trying to make it fun. Here are some amazing things we have at Wheeler. One of the amazing things we have is the Leader of the Pack. Leader of the Pack is a thing where Mr. B and the teachers pick out one student from each class in every grade. They get their picture taken and get a certificate. A student can earn this by doing nice things and helping out the teacher or a friend.

Another outstanding thing we have at Wheeler is the prize cart. The prize cart is a moving cart that has little prizes that you can choose. You can pick a prize from the prize cart by earning bingo cards. You earn bingo cards by doing good things, such as listening to the teacher and helping out a friend. I think this is amazing because it encourages kids to do good things. Those are only some amazing things at Wheeler. There is much more but I can't fit it all in here. Those are some reasons why Wheeler has so many positive things.



Hi, I'm Amari Robinson.

I'm in 5th grade at Wheeler School. I've been interviewing a few of my classmates about how they feel about running for Student Council. Student Council helps to plan activities like Spirit Days, collecting for charity, and other projects such as planting gardens. Two students from each class in grades 3-5 represent their class and school, and are voted on by their class. They have to make a flashy poster and read an essay that they wrote. Being part of the Student Council is very important and you have to take it seriously, and it is also a lot of fun! I have interviewed three students in my class. When I interviewed one student, I found out all about the Student Council. I also talked to them about how they felt to run against their classmates. They were a little less nervous because they had ran before another year. Another student said that she is nervous to run against others, but it is worth it and will be happy if she gets in. One boy said that he's nervous too because there are a lot more people running this year in our class which means more competition, but he would be proud if he won. I got voted into the Student Council this year and can't wait to share my ideas with them. I hope everyone has a good year and enjoys the Student Council events!



FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

SCHOOL YEAR
2021-2022



Hi my name is Logan Bailey.

I am a Wheeler Elementary School student in the 5th grade, so it is my last year at the elementary school. I am going to tell you how wonderful the school is while I have a chance to. In this article I am going to focus on one of the greatest things at Wheeler and that is the wonderful Student Council. In the Student Council we do a lot of wonderful things like food drives and nice things like putting sticky notes that have a "kind" message on students desks. This helps to make them feel good and hopefully make their day. There is much more than just that, so strap in while I tell you what we do at Student Council. I am going to list a few things like Spirit Days, recycling and gardening to help the community. We also stay after school for the Student Council and we do a lot of brainstorming for more ideas of how to make school more fun or help out the community. Those are only some things we do at the outstanding Student Council. So I will tell you a little about

those. 1. Spirit Days: Spirit Days are a big thing at Wheeler. It is when the Student Council sets up events. The most popular ones are Crazy Hair Day and Pajama Day. We ask that you donate a dollar to our charity to participate in them. Last year my grandpa and I were thinking maybe sometime we can do a food drive for people in need. So I brought it to the Council and we did it. Thanks to my grandpa's idea, people in need were given some food for the holiday. 2. Recycling and Gardening: last year we thought of an idea to help the environment, which was recycling. So we started by recycling cans and paper. After recycling all the material brought to us, we started planting and gardening. We mostly planted flowers around the school. In fact we even gave every teacher a flower to plant with their class. So as I am getting ready to move on to middle school, hopefully this message will relate with upcoming classmates. It will encourage them to follow in my footsteps by joining the Student Council to help our school and our community be a beautiful place for Plainville residents to live.

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

LINDEN STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Linden **fifth graders** recently spent the day visiting Camp Sloper in Southington, where they participated in a variety of team building activities...**5th graders at Linden** partnered with United Way of West Central CT to give back to the community by hosting "Socktober." In October they collected socks and other personal care items to donate to local families in need.

LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thanks to an Elizabeth Norton Trust grant received by **Toffolon faculty members Rachel Valentine and Elspeth Poile** last year, the Toffolon outdoor playground area now includes new materials for students, featuring a "mud" kitchen and table, outdoor easels with paint cups, and balance beams!

FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A group of thoughtful and hardworking **fourth grade students at Wheeler** recently requested and volunteered to do some clean up on the school grounds... **Wheeler School staff members** collected and donated \$1,250 to the Plainville Community Food Pantry as a result of their "Dress Down Fridays."

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

Sixth graders have been creating unique self-portraits inspired by the work of African American artist, Kehinde Wiley...In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, **Middle School World Language students in Mari Martinez's class** researched a notable Hispanic American, created a slideshow and presented their information to their classmates...MSP has started an American Sign Language Club. **22 students in grades 6-8** gather weekly after school to learn how to communicate using ASL...**The Counseling Department** hosted small group sessions and "New Student Celebrations" to support new students transitioning into the school district.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Plainville Police Detective Evelyn Rodriguez recently served as a guest speaker in **Jill Miller's Forensics Classes at Plainville High School**, to share her knowledge and experience as a detective... Members of the **PHS Chamber Choir** participated in the Town of Plainville's 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony held in the town's Veteran's Memorial Park...The Community Greenhouse Project led by **PHS faculty member John Czerwinski and Special Services Supervisor Christina Kiley** was featured on WTNH NEWS8 "What's Right With Schools" segment in September.

DISTRICT

The September Plainville Community Schools' "Portrait Pioneers" award winner, **Plainville Youth Services Director, Roberta Brown**, was recognized at the September 13th Plainville Board of Education meeting and the October award winner, **Linden Street School Special Education Teacher Ryan McMahan**, was recognized at the October 12th Plainville Board of Education meeting. This award was established to honor those who exemplify and model the characteristics of the school district's Portrait of the Graduate framework, which include being: Mindful, Resilient, Communicative, Innovative and Collaborative...**The Plainville school district** was recognized with several awards from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), including their highest leadership recognition; the *CABE Board of Distinction Award - Level 2*, presented to the Plainville Board of Education for the 12th consecutive year. In addition, Plainville Community Schools also received several *2021 CABE Bonnie B. Carney Awards of Excellence for Educational Communications* including awards in CABE's Special Project AV category, Social Media category, Annual Report category, Course Selection Guide category, and the Newsletter category.

Let's Chat With...Eric Booth, Business Teacher at PHS



"Teaching is the only job I've ever had, where on Monday mornings, I wake up and look forward to going to work. The administration and other teachers in Plainville are exceptional. I drive one hour each way, every day, to teach my kids, and wouldn't give it up for anything!"

What is your professional background? Software industry and Insurance industry. I've had customers from small 'mom and pop' stores/restaurants to Fortune 100 clients.

Why did you decide to become a teacher? As a second career, I decided to introduce students to my love of sales and marketing.

What is the biggest challenge facing public education today? Funding.

What do you enjoy most about being a teacher? The interaction, the 'ah-ha' moment when students understand a complex business theory.

What advice would you give to teachers just beginning in the field of Education? Listen to your students. They know more than you think and have deeper understanding of the current business environment.

If you had one wish for your students, what would it be? Listen to my lessons, my successes, as well as my failures.

PHS Class of 2021 College/University Destinations

Albertus Magnus College, American International College, Central Connecticut State University, Coastal Carolina University, Eastern Gateway Community College (Ohio), Elms College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Fashion Institute of Technology, Germanna Community College, Hofstra University, International Institute of Cosmetology, MA College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Manchester Community College, Northeastern University, Nova Southeastern University, Paul Smith's College of Art & Science, Porter & Chester, Post University, Providence College, Sacred Heart University, Southern Connecticut State University, SUNY-College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Tunxis Community College, University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, University of Maine, University of New Hampshire, University of New Haven, University of Rhode Island, University of South Carolina-Columbia, University of Southern Maine, University of St. Joseph, University of Tampa, Western New England University, Westfield State University, Worcester State University.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Plainville High School
Class of 2021
received \$180,260
in local scholarships.



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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