



Plainville Board of Education's Community Letter

Fall 2019

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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The fall season is upon us. Trees are losing their colorful leaves and crisp, chilly air approaches. Outdoor activities are coming to a close, only to be replaced with indoor events, such as concerts, basketball, swimming, and more! Among the seasonal changes, there remains a constant: Plainville schools have dedicated administrators, teachers, counselors and citizens. We continue to work towards the district's vision: **To inspire and prepare lifelong learners to follow their passion, engage in their communities, and positively impact our global society.**

-Deborah Hardy, Plainville Board of Education

BOE Member Foster White Recognized

Plainville Board of Education member Foster White has earned the CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) "Certified Board of Education Member" designation. In order to achieve this designation, White earned the required 20 credits in the areas of board relations, policy, curriculum, school finance, school law, labor relations, and board operations. In a congratulatory letter from CABE, it was noted that White's attendance at numerous CABE /CAPSS Conventions, CABE workshops and programs, and other events, resulted in the accrual of a wide variety of skills, knowledge and abilities, noting that his commitment to public education and to children in the Plainville community is admirable. White was recognized at the October 15th Plainville Board of Education meeting. He has been a Board member since February, 2013.



Superintendent Steven LePage, Foster White, and Deborah Hardy

Homecoming 2019



Plainville High School celebrated Homecoming Weekend beginning on Friday, October 24th. This year, in lieu of the traditional class float competition, the high school organized and sponsored an "Around the World" themed carnival before the Homecoming Football Game. The carnival featured a variety of games, booths, trick or treating and activities for children. Following the carnival, the PHS Blue Devils Football Team faced Berlin High School, and the Homecoming Court was announced at half time, featuring Phoebe Gediman (Queen) and Brady Beausoleil (King). Rounding out the weekend's festivities was the Homecoming Dance held on Saturday, October 25th.

Photo: Members of the PHS Spanish Club hosted a booth at the Homecoming Carnival.



You enter Wheeler School from the new parking lot by the fields. When you enter the door, everything is so new and bright. There is a lot of open space and large windows that the light shines

through. When you open up the front door, you have to take a left to go in to the new front office.

The office has two new huge desks and a large TV. The white counter is almost the size of the whole room. Once you leave the office, you'll see a dark wood wall. The hallways are still bricks, but they're painted white and bright blue. Our school looks very different, but we know that it is so close to being finished. When we walked into the new school for the first time, all we said was, "Wow!"

It has many different rooms and equipment, such as air conditioners, tan rubber floors in the gym and a brand new K-2 playscape. The grey metal and plastic

playscape has a zip line and new swings, and a new obstacle course. We also have a new cafeteria.

The cafeteria has a new open kitchen, new light wood tables, and a new ceiling. The ceiling has colorful blue, orange and green circle lights that hang down.

There are also some new little items such as hallway boards and light blue and white paint on the classroom walls. Those little touches make it even more awesome. Misha K., a fifth grader at Wheeler, said, "It looks way better than before and it is much cleaner!"

The outside of the school looks great as well. The courtyard/patio that we have looks amazing. When you look at it, you see small pine trees, six silver picnic tables with blue umbrella tops, tall wood poles, lots of tall grass, fake green grass, and two circle stone walls that you can sit on. The courtyard is perfect for eating with friends and teachers. We think it is a great place to have lunch with friends and maybe read a good book in the sun! Mrs. Hitt, a third grade teacher said, "It is more beautiful than I ever imagined!"

Social Studies

State Representative William Petit Jr., recently visited fifth grade students at Louis Toffolon Elementary School as part of their Social Studies unit about the Constitution. He discussed his role and responsibilities.



Let's Chat With...David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent



"I have three school-aged children, so all my educational decisions are rooted in what's best for children. My wife is also an educational administrator, so education is of the utmost importance in my family!"

-David Levenduski

What attracted you to this position?

I have been a school and district administrator for over 10 years, so the assistant superintendent position was the next logical step for me in my administrative career. Prior to being hired in Plainville, my entire educational career was in one district. Because of that, I was very selective as to which assistant superintendent positions I would apply. After researching more about the Plainville Community Schools, I was very interested in working for this great school district!

What are your primary responsibilities as assistant superintendent? I have many responsibilities, but my most important is supporting administrators, teachers and other staff members to create a safe and effective learning environment for all our students.

What professional accomplishment are you most proud of? I am most proud of being awarded the *Jesse Lewis Choose Love Award* from both the Rotary Club in my previous district and Scarlett Lewis, mother of Jesse Lewis, for my district-community collaboration. This accomplishment was special due to the meaning behind the award--to choose kindness and love in all that we do. This award was established by Mrs. Lewis on behalf of her son, Jesse, who was one of the students that died in the Sandy Hook tragedy.

Describe your leadership style. I would describe my leadership style as collaborative. I believe strongly in the need to continuously improve, but in a supportive and collaborative manner that engages all constituents in the change process.

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

LINDEN STREET SCHOOL

Second grader Jaxson Niedzwiecki completed the Healthy Plainville Summer Fitness Challenge and won the program raffle prize--a \$75 gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods. Healthy Plainville Co-Chairs Roberta Brown and Linda Coveney surprised Jaxson in his second grade classroom at Linden on October 9th, where he was presented with a certificate and prize...Inspired by the short film, "Caine's Arcade," **Linden Street School students** participated in the Global Cardboard Challenge on October 16th. This annual event encourages students of all ages to use their imagination and create anything using cardboard and recycled materials.

LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fifty students, faculty members and Principal Lynn Logoyke gathered over the summer at the Plainville Public Library for three summer "Reading Nights." As part of the read aloud program series, students received copies of the featured books and a special book bag...**Louis Toffolon Elementary School Principal Lynn Logoyke and Toffolon School faculty member Norma Olson-Bartley** were recognized as the district's Everyday Heroes for the month of October. Both were honored at the October 15th Plainville Board of Education meeting.

FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The After School Program at Wheeler is off to a great start with **18 Wheeler students** participating in Maker-Space activities. In addition, **16 students from Wheeler** are participating in the Town Wide Jazz Band. These students travel each Monday and Thursday to Toffolon School to practice with other **fifth graders** across the district...**Wheeler fourth graders** recently practiced math skills using pumpkins in a variety of estimating, measuring, and graphing activities.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

As part of the Plainville Community Schools Summer School Program, **a group of MSP students in faculty member Karen Troiano's class** participated in team building exercises through a variety of STEM related activities. The students were tasked with building bridges out of marshmallows and toothpicks, creating games from a variety of unusual items, and building boats from straws and duct tape. They conducted several scientific experiments using candy and other materials, and created mazes with marbles to share with district elementary school students...**The MSP School Counseling Department and Administration** welcomed 28 new students and families to the middle school at a breakfast event held on October 23rd.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Faculty member Sarah Centore introduced new therapy dog in training "Willow" a year old "chocolate lab" who has joined the high school community this year...**The PHS Class of 2020** enjoyed a "Senior Breakfast" on September 6th before the start of the school day. The event was sponsored by Chick-fil-A of Southington...**PHS** hosted a College Financial Aid Night Workshop for parents, family members and guardians on October 23rd...**The PHS Science Department** hosted world renowned speaker Dr. Sam Rhine at the high school's annual Genetics Conference. During the conference, students had the unique opportunity to hear one of the top educators in the nation present the most current genetic information...**The PHS Spanish Club** sold bracelets as part of the Pulsera Project connecting artists from Nicaragua and Guatemala with students throughout the U.S, through the sale of colorful, hand woven bracelets, or "pulseras" in Spanish. The funds raised will benefit Central Americans, raising money for scholarships, secondary education programs, human rights issues, environmental projects, youth shelters, and social enterprises, in addition to sustaining employment for 200+ artisans in Nicaragua and Guatemala...**The PHS Counseling Department** hosted the annual College Fair on October 25th with over 100 colleges and technical schools in attendance, as well as several branches of the military, the Main Street Foundation of Bristol, the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain and the CT Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority.

DISTRICT

The United Way of West Central Connecticut and the Rotary Club of Plainville partnered with **Plainville Community Schools** over the summer to ensure that **Plainville students** in need started the school year on September 3rd with a backpack, school supplies, and an outfit for the first day of school, as part of the Adopt-A-Child Back to School Program. As a result, **41 students across the Plainville school district** from elementary school through high school, each received a back pack with age appropriate school supplies, as well as an outfit for the first day of school...**The district's Mentor Program** welcomed volunteer mentors back with a breakfast hosted on September 24th by **Volunteer Coordinator Sue Bradley...Adult Education students, Vanso Marady and Kyle Dougherty** both had articles published by the *The Change Agent*, a national Adult Education magazine and website: changeagent.nelrc.org

Class of 2019 Higher Education Destinations

Albertus Magnus College, American International College, Benedict College, Bryant University, Central CT State University, Colby-Sawyer College, Concordia University Montreal, Dickinson College, Eastern CT State University, Emmanuel College, Fairfield University, Inspiration Academy, Ithaca College, Johnson & Wales University, Lehigh University, Lincoln Technical Institute NB/EW, Manchester Community College, New England Inst. of Technology, Norwalk Community College, Norwich University, Nova Southeastern University, Porter and Chester Institute, Purdue University, Rensselaer Polytech Institute, Rhode Island College, Rochester Institute of Technology, Sacred Heart University, Salve Regina University, Southern CT State University, Southern NH University, Springfield College, Temple University, Tunxis Community College, University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, University of New Haven, University of Rhode Island, University of Saint Joseph, University of South Carolina, University of Tampa, and Western CT State University.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Plainville High School
Class of 2019
received \$177,113
in local scholarships!

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Crystal St. Lawrence
Becky Tyrrell
Kathy Wells
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