

SCHOOL BELL

Publication for the Watervliet Public Schools Issue 01 Summer 2022

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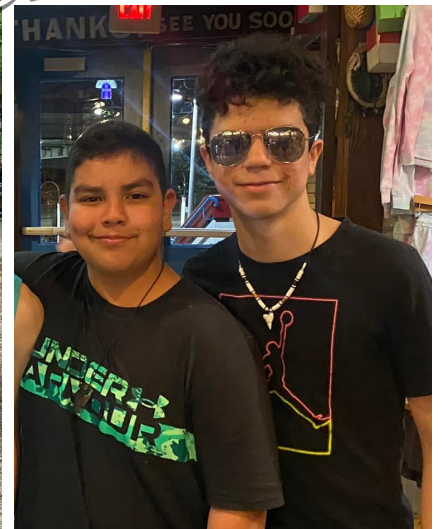
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 **Welcome back!**



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Superintendent of Schools: Ric Seager Email: rseager@watervlietps.org

Telephone: 269-463-0300

Panther Nation:

Working Together To Keep Us Together

That's the Panther Way and has been for decades! It is a simple affirmation of our unity, our focus, and our continued commitment to excellence.

At Watervliet Schools, we believe that every child entrusted to us deserves the very best we can provide academically, socially, and emotionally. Whether it's working to provide extra academic support, helping our students learn how to care for each other, teaching them how to manage conflict, seek emotional support, solve complex problems, develop their own educational development plans, or succeed at arts or athletics, every employee at Watervliet Public Schools is here to help our students be the very best they can be.



Watervliet Public Schools has refused to be defined by the challenges of the past two years. Rather, our students, staff, and community have shown extraordinary resilience and pride. While other schools were wringing their hands about the circumstances we were in, our school community was pressing forward.

- Academic achievement rebounded in most areas and most grades from the depths of the pandemic years.
- Our athletic teams had one of their best years ever - winning multiple conference and district championships, and a regional title. We also had an individual runner-up in the MHSAA Men's Wrestling Championships and finalists in Track and Field.
- Our Marching Band earned a Second Place Finish in the MCBA Flight V Championships.
- Our Art students performed exceptionally well at the KIA High School Area Show.
- Student Mentors supported elementary and middle school students throughout the district.
- Community pride in our schools shined brightly with the work of the Watervliet Foundation for Excellence in Education in the following projects:
 - Wireless hotspots for students with no or very poor access to wireless internet
 - Partnering with the Miss Watervliet Committee, provided new spotlights in the high school auditorium
 - Continues to raise funds to build a new turf field at Panther Stadium - which looks to be ready for play by September of this year!
- And that's just the beginning!

This next year, we plan to build on this foundation to provide even more opportunities and successes for our Panther Nation. I could not be prouder of our school community and I could not be more excited for our future.

The first day of school always represents a new beginning - a fresh start. As such, it is always one of my favorite days of the year. When our students come back into our schools - some walking in for the first time - full of hope and excitement for the learning adventures ahead of them, I love seeing the way our staff embrace them and make them feel at home. I am filled with pride in our community!

In this edition of the School Bell, you will find information about new staff, school schedules, bus schedules, all of our departments, and the people who make our school special. Please reach out to our schools with any unanswered questions or just to check in. We want to do everything we can to make the 2022-23 school year the best year ever! You can find more information on our district website, <https://www.watervlietps.org>.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE *continued from page 2*

We appreciate all of the support and cooperation that the Watervliet Community has given us. We invite you to stay close to our school - the anchor of our community. Ask questions and stay engaged. Be our partner as we build for the future.

Working Together to Keep Us Together is more than a tagline. It is who we are and the means by which we thrive. As long as we keep true to this tenant, Panther Pride will forever prevail.

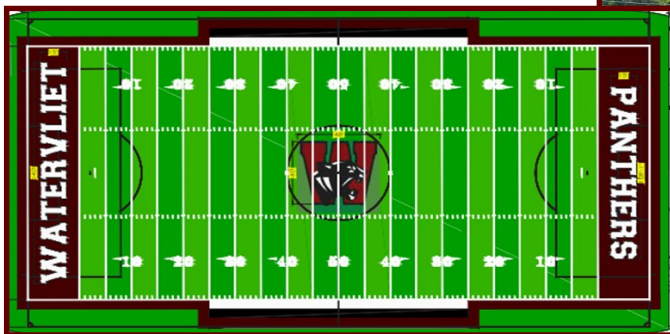
Educationally Yours,
Ric Seager
Superintendent of Schools



Waterliet Public Schools Foundation for Excellence takes on Panther Stadium Improvement Project

What is the Project?

- Phase 1: The current grass field is being updated to a rubberized field turf. This project will cut down on long term maintenance and provide an updated surface for our athletes, band and student body.
- Phase 2: Update the restroom facilities and the concession area to allow for additional bathrooms and space.
- Phase 3: Complete a new entry with replacement of the chain link fence, walkway, and ticket facility. The new grand entry will be befitting of facility of this outstanding quality.



How can You Help?

With the donations of two anonymous donors, we are half-way to paying for Phase 1. The Foundation has taken the steps necessary to finance the additional \$500,000 that is needed to complete this portion of the project. These funds will need to be paid back by the Foundation over the next few years.

In order to start on Phases 2 and 3, we need to first pay-off Phase 1 through donations and then seek additional donations to begin implementation of these two phases.

We encourage you to strive to the highest giving level possible. Remember all donations are tax deductible. We are excited to be able to recognize the donors to this project!

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Platinum	\$100,000+
Gold	\$50,000 - \$99,999
Silver	\$20,000 - \$49,999
Bronze	\$10,000 - \$19,999
Maroon	\$5,000 - \$9,999
White	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Black	\$100 - \$999

This project is a community effort, and we need everyone to make it work. With the help of our alumni, students, parents, citizens, businesses and entire community, we know that we will be successful in implementing all 3 Phases of the Panther Stadium Improvement Project!

Donate Online at www.wps-foundation.org!

Send a check to the attention of the Watervliet Public Schools Foundation
450 E Red Arrow Hwy, Watervliet, MI 49098

Complete a Pledge form indicating your willingness to donate year after year!

Email us at wps-foundation@watervlietps.org or contact a Foundation Member for more information!

Foundation Provides Funding for New Spot Lights!

The WPS Foundation is pleased to provide the funding for two follow spot lights for the WHS Auditorium. In conjunction with the Watervliet Pageant Organization, the Foundation recognizes the need to upgrade the lighting resources for our auditorium and Fine Arts Department. Not only will our theater productions benefit from the new lighting but so will the band and choir when performing their many concerts. We cannot wait to see the results!

Class of '65 Reaches Fundraising Goal!

In 2022, the WHS Class of 1965 reached their fundraising goal of \$12,500. Funds will be used to provide classroom grants to WPS Teachers. The goal will be to provide one grant per building per year in the amount of \$500. The first grant applications will be distributed in the fall of 2022 and we hope to award grants before year-end. The WPS Foundation for Excellence cannot thank the generous donors from the Class of '65 for their support of our schools and we look forward to being able to announce the 2022/2023 grant recipients!

Join US!

The Foundation is always looking for new members to help us reach our goals, support our projects and support our schools. If you are interested in joining us, our next meeting will be September 14, 2022 at 6:30pm in the WHS Media Center. We look forward to your attendance and welcoming new members! Without the support of our community both financially and physically, we cannot reach our many goals!



WPS School Bell

Watervliet Public Schools
450 E. Red Arrow Highway
Watervliet, MI 49098
BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE
Editor: Nancy Scowcroft

WPS Mission Statement

The Watervliet Public Schools will prepare all students with the academic and personal skills necessary to become life long learners and productive members of society.

The School Bell is issued free of charge and provides information about the Watervliet Public Schools to the community.

2022-2023 District Calendar

Fri	Aug 19	New Teacher PD
Mon	Aug 22	Floating Teacher Work Day
Tue	Aug 23	District Staff Breakfast & Kick-off, Freshman Orientation
Wed	Aug 24	Staff Professional Development, District Open House 4:00—6:00 PM
Thurs	Aug 25	District Professional Development Day - All Staff 8AM - 3PM
Mon	Aug 29	1st day of school- 1/2 day students, District PD in PM - 3 hrs
Fri-Mon	Sept 2,5	No School - Labor Day Weekend
Wed	Sept 21	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Friday	Sept 30	Mid Marking Period Progress Report (MS/HS)
Wed	Oct 5	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Fri	Oct 7	Mid Trimester Progress Report (Elem)
Wed	Oct 19	1/2 day Elem only- Afternoon and Evening Conferences
Thurs.	Oct 20	1/2 day Elem only Students and staff (comp time for teachers)- Eve Conf.
Thurs.	Oct 20	Full Day MS/HS- Evening Conferences
Fri	Oct 21	1/2 Day - Students and staff (comp time for teachers)
Wed	Oct 26	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Oct 28	End of 1st MP- (HS/MS)
Wed	Nov 2	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Wed	Nov 16	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Nov 18	End 1st Trimester (Elem) 1/2 Day (Virtual Records)
Wed	Nov 23	1/2 day Students and Staff- Day before Thanksgiving
Thur-Fri	Nov 24-25	Thanksgiving Break
Wed	Nov 30	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Fri	Dec 2	Mid Marking Period Progress Report (MS/HS)
Wed	Dec 14	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Mon-Fri	Dec 26-Jan 6	Christmas Break
Mon	Jan 9	Students Return
Wed	Jan 11	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Wed - Fri	Jan 18-20	1/2 day HS/MS Exams (Virtual Records)
Fri	Jan 20	Mid Trimester Progress Report (Elem); End Semester 1 (Secondary)
Wed	Jan 25	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Wed	Feb 1	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Thurs	Feb 9	1/2 day Elem- Afternoon/Evening Conferences
Thurs	Feb 9	Full Day MS/HS- Evening Conferences
Fri	Feb 10	1/2 day All students and staff
Mon	Feb 13	No School- Mid Winter Break
Fri	Feb 24	Mid Marking Period Progress Report (MS/HS)
Wed	Mar 1	2 hr- Early Release District SI

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2022 - 2023 District Calendar (continued)

Fri	Mar 3	End of 2nd Trimester (Elem) 1/2 Day (Virtual Records)
Wed	Mar 15	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Mar 17	1/2 day Students and Staff- Start of Spring break
Mon-Fri	Mar 20-24	Spring Break
Mon	Mar 27	School Resumes
Fri	March 31	End of 3rd MP - Secondary
Wed	Apr 5	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Fri	Apr 7	Good Friday - No School
Wed	Apr 19	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Apr 28	Mid Trimester Progress Report - Elementary
Wed	May 3	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Fri	May 5	Mid Marking Period Progress Report (MS/HS)
Wed	May 17	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Mon	May 29	No School-Memorial Day
Tues	June 6	1/2 day all Students- HS/MS Exams, Elem EOY Parent meetings



2022-2023 School Building Hours and Contact Information



South School

Doors Open at 7:20
 7:40 - 2:50 Full Day
 7:40 - 11:20 Half Day
 7:40 - 12:50 Early Release

North School

Doors Open at 7:25
 7:45 - 2:55 Full Day
 7:45 - 11:25 Half Day
 7:45 - 12:55 Early Release

Middle School and High School

Doors Open at 7:45
 8:10 - 3:10 Full Day
 8:10 - 11:40 Half Day
 8:10 - 1:10 Early Release

GSRP

Monday - Thursday
 1st Day: 9/7 Last Day: 5/26
 8:00 - 3:10 Full Day
 8:00 - 11:40 Half Day
 8:00 - 1:10 Early Release

W-A-Y Lab Hours: Monday 10:30 - 12:30 & 1:00 - 3:00, Tuesday 9:00 - 11:00 & 11:30 - 1:30,
 Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 & 12:30 - 2:30, Thursday 8:30 - 10:30 & 1:00 - 3:00,
 Friday 8:30 - 10:30 & 11:00 - 1:00

Building	Address	Phone (269)	Grades	Principal	Building Secretary
High School	450 E. Red Arrow Hwy.	463-0730	9-12	Christina Powers	Teri Richcreek
Middle School	450 E. Red Arrow Hwy.	463-0780	6-8	Dave Kindt	Dana Morris
North School	287 Baldwin Avenue	463-0820	3-5 & Preschool	Bill Tiefenbach	Desiree Davis
South School	433 Lucinda Lane	463-0860	K-2	Sherry Wheeler	Shannon Martinez
Watervliet W-A-Y	450 E. Red Arrow Hwy.	463-0897	9-12	Jason Oetjens	N/A
Central Office	450 E. Red Arrow Hwy	463-0300	Superintendent Ric Seager / Executive Assistant Deah Muth		

SCHOOL BUS ROUTES

Transportation Director: Ryan Price Email: rprice@watervlietps.org

Telephone: (Office) 269-463-0720

BUS 3 - Tina Tucker

6:30	Leaving Bus Garage
6:37	South on M-140 at corner of Danneffel
6:39	South on M-140 turning East on Territorial
6:40	East on Territorial Rd turning South on Arent
6:43	South on Arent Rd turning East on Napier
6:44	East on Napier Ave turning North on Nichols
6:45	North on Nichols Rd turning East on Yund
6:49	West on Yund Rd turning North on Nichols
6:51	North on Nichols Rd turning East on Territorial
6:55	East on Territorial Rd turning North on County Line/70th
6:57	North on County Line Rd/70th St at corner of 84th
7:08	North on County Line Rd/70th St at 66th
7:17	Middle/High School Bus Loop - SHUTTLE TO NORTH and
7:25	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle/High School

BUS 4 - Heidi Knight

6:39	Leaving Bus Garage
6:48	South on M-140 turning West on Empire
6:50	West on Empire Ave at corner of Bainbridge Center
6:51	West on Empire Ave turning South on Morgan
6:52	South on Morgan Rd turning East on Napier A
6:54	East on Napier Ave turning South on Bainbridge Center
6:57	South on Bainbridge Center Rd turning West on Meadowbrook
7:07	East on Meadowbrook Rd turning North on M-140
7:11	North on M-140 turning West on Territorial
7:14	West on Territorial Rd turning North on Bainbridge Center
7:14	BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP HALL - SCHOOL OF CHOICE
7:17	North on Bainbridge Center Rd turning East on North-Branch
7:19	East on North Branch Rd turning North on M-140
7:25	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle/High School

BUS 10 - DeAnna Eisen

6:45	Leaving Bus Garage
6:47	East on Red Arrow Hwy at corner of John Goff
6:49	East on Red Arrow Hwy turning North on County Line Rd/70th
6:50	Shar Sue Dr - pick up and turn around
6:52	South on County Line Rd/70th St, turning West on Red Arrow Hwy to Sadler Drive
6:55	West on Red Arrow Hwy at corner of Lewis
6:58	North on M-140 at corner of E Parsons
6:59	North on M-140 turning East on Airport Rd
7:01	Continue around loop to Baldwin
7:03	West on Baldwin Ave turning North on Forest Park
7:05	East on Forest Beach Rd turning North on N Watervliet
7:10	North on N Watervliet Rd turning West on Hagar Shore
7:13	Continue straight across M-140 to stay West on Hagar Shore
7:25	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle/High School

BUS 5 - Sue Grzanich

6:40	Leaving Bus Garage
6:46	West on Territorial Rd turning South on Bainbridge Center
6:49	South on Bainbridge Center Rd turning East on Napier
6:52	PICK UP AT MARATHON GAS STATION - SCHOOL OF CHOICE
6:57	West on Napier Ave turning North on Bainbridge Center
7:00	North on Bainbridge Center Rd turning East on Territorial
7:03	East on Territorial Rd turning North on M-140
7:06	North on M-140 turning West on N Branch
7:07	West on N Branch Rd turning North on Bainbridge Center
7:08	North on Bainbridge Center Rd at corner of Hill
7:09	North on Bainbridge Center Rd at corner of Carmody
7:10	North on Bainbridge Center Rd at corner of Dan Smith
7:13	North on Hennesey Rd turning East on Red Arrow Hwy
7:15	NORTH AND SOUTH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY AT PLEASANT VIEW ESTATES
7:25	Sutherland & Verlynda
7:30	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle/High School

SCHOOL BUS ROUTES

Continued

BUS 7 - Donald Higginbottom

6:25	Leaving Bus Garage
6:31	South on M-140 turning East at Dan Smith
6:35	East on Dan Smith Rd continuing East on 68th
6:39	West on 68th Ave turning South on County Line Rd/70th
6:41	South on County Line Rd/70th St turning West on Carmody
6:44	West on Carmody Rd turning South on M-140
6:46	South on M-140 turning East on Danneffel
6:48	East on Danneffel Rd turning North on County Line Rd/70th
6:50	North on County Line Rd turning West on N Branch
6:58	West on N Branch Rd turning North on M-140
7:00	North on M-140 turning East on Hill
7:02	North on Hill Rd turning West on Carmody
7:05	West on Carmody Rd turning North on M-140
7:08	North on M-140/Main St turning East on Red Arrow Hwy/St. Joseph St
7:11	West on Red Arrow Hwy turning North on Cherry
7:12	North on Cherry St turning West on Elm
7:13	West on Elm St turning South on Chestnut
7:13	South on Chestnut St turning East on Red Arrow Hwy
7:16	MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS <u>ONLY</u> AT PLEASANT VIEW ESTATES
7:25	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle/High School

Shuttle Buses

South to North: #8 AM / #4 PM
 South to HS/MS: #8 AM / #4 PM
 North to South: #9 AM / #10 PM
 North to HS/MS: #9 AM / #10 PM
 HS/MS to South: #3 AM / #3 PM
 HS/MS to North: #3 AM / #9 PM



WPS transportation crew
at annual safety training

BUS 8 - Angie Warren

6:45	Leaving Bus Garage
6:50	North on M-140 turning West on Forest Beach
6:51	West on Forest Beach Rd at corner of Wakazoo Way
6:53	South on Forest Beach Rd turning West on Paw Paw
6:56	North on Wil-O-Paw Dr, East on Curtis Dr. to YDC
7:00	YDC - SCHOOL OF CHOICE
7:02	South on Curtis turning East on Paw Paw
7:03	East on Paw Paw Ave turning North on Stanley
7:04	West on Florence Ave turning North on Forest Beach
7:05	East on Forest Beach Rd turning South on Huntoon
7:06	South on Huntoon Ave turning East on Paw Paw
7:07	East on Paw Paw turning North on Peach Tree
7:08	West on Riverside Dr turning North on Richard
7:10	North on Richard Ave turning West on Van Atter
7:11	West on Van Atter Ct turning South on Western
7:12	South on Western Ave turning East on Riverside
7:13	East on Riverside Dr turning North on Richard
7:14	North on Richard Ave turning West on Courtyard
7:15	West on Courtyard turning South on Western
7:15	South on Western Ave turning East on Twin Hills
7:16	East on Twin Hills Dr turning South on Richard
7:17	South on Richard St turning East on West Parsons
7:18	East on W Parsons Ave at corner of S Prospect Ct
7:25	Drop South School - SHUTTLE TO NORTH and MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle/High School

BUS 9 - Rhonda Mannino

6:40	Leaving Bus Garage
6:44	North on M-140 at Watervliet Township Hall
6:46	North on M-140 turning East on Dwight Boyer
6:50	East on Dwight Boyer Rd turning North on County Line /70th
6:52	North on County Line Rd/70th St turning West on Hagar Shore
6:55	West on Hagar Shore Rd turning North on M-140
6:57	North on M-140 turning East on 48th
7:04	West on 48th Ave turning South on Paw Paw Lake
7:10	South on Paw Paw Lake Rd turning East on Blatchford
7:11	East on Blatchford Rd turning South on M-140
7:16	North School - SHUTTLE TO SOUTH and MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL
7:25	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle/High School

Important Notes from Transportation Director Ryan Price

Kindergarten/Young 5s Special Bus Information

When delivering Kindergarten/Y5 students home, **someone must be seen** or the driver will bring the student back to South School. **K/Y5 will not be dropped off if the driver does not see anyone home!**

Two Pleasant View Estate Pick-Ups & Drop Offs

As shown on the bus schedules, there will be two buses stopping at Pleasant View Estates both in the AM and PM - one for MS/HS students (#7) and another for Elementary students (#5). Stops have been scheduled so that the younger children are to be picked up first and dropped off second so that the MS/HS students can be there with them when they leave and arrive.

WPS welcomes Ryan Price as our new Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation. He is pictured here with his wife, Sarah.



NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

Parents of students new to the district may register their children at the appropriate school building anytime beginning August 4.

Parents should bring the following items:

- The student's original birth certificate
- Immunization record
- Residency Documents (2)

You must provide ONE of the following:

- ⇒ Purchase Agreement (if closing occurred within the last 6 months)
- ⇒ Lease Agreement
- ⇒ Rental Agreement with name and property address of the person enrolling the student (or)
- ⇒ Current property tax bill with name and address

And you must ALSO provide ONE of the following:

- ◇ Michigan Drivers License or State ID with current Watervliet In-District Address
- ◇ Current* utility bill in the name and address of person enrolling the student (gas, electric, water or cable bill only). Mailing address MUST match the service address
- ◇ Current U.S. Passport or Michigan Voter ID Card

*A current bill covers a service period ending within 30 days of the current date.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Watervliet Public Schools' Great Start Readiness Program free preschool is staffed with a full-time certified teacher and a full-time teaching assistant who provide our littlest Panthers with learning experiences that get them ready for kindergarten. **To qualify for this program, students must be four years of age on or before September 1, 2022.** Eligibility is also based on additional factors (including rural residency, single-parent home, teenage parent, family income level, etc.).

Transportation to and from the full day session must be provided by the parent. To obtain more information and/or an application, please stop by or call North School at 463-0820, or email twilliams@watervlietps.org



Watervliet Public Schools Board of Education

Bill Spaulding - President

Brian Gruszczyk - Treasurer

**Amanda Morlock-Fisher -
Trustee**

Eric Laws - Vice-President

Kimberly Adams - Trustee

John Oliphant - Secretary

Wendy Hart - Trustee

It is the desire of the Board of Education and the Superintendent to keep open the lines of communication between the community and the Watervliet Public Schools. As questions arise, citizens are encouraged to contact the Superintendent of Schools at 269-463-0300.

The Board of Education conducts regular meetings on the second Monday of each month beginning at 6:00 PM in the high school media center. The 2022 –2023 schedule for regular meetings is below:

August 8

October 10

December 12

February 13

April 10

September 12

November 14

January 9

March 13

May 8

Getting to Know Your Board of Education

Kimberly Adams: Trustee

Term expires December, 2026

email: kim.adams@watervlietps.org

Kimberly has been a member of the WPS Board of Education for one year. She serves on the Board Policy and Board Goals committees. She is a wife and mother with children in our school district. Kimberly has an Associates degree from Southwestern Michigan College and she enjoys cooking and reading.

Kimberly says she loves that WPS is a small school with grand academics, sports, and clubs. You will often see her at Panther sports events supporting her family and friends. Kim was inspired to serve on the board by her children. She wants to ensure that they have the best educational opportunities possible.



Brian Gruszczyk: Treasurer

Term expires December 2022

email:

brian.gruszczyk@watervlietps.org



Brian has served on the board for two years. He serves on the Audit/ Finance Committee, Negotiations/Personnel Committee, and the Capitol Projects

Committee. Brian holds a BS in Chemistry from Ball State and a MS in Biochemistry from Purdue University. He works as an account manager for Eli Lilly and Co. His hobbies include bicycling, boating, fishing, and spending time with family. Brian became a BOE member because he wanted to take an active role in shaping our school system for our children. His son is a band member, so you will find him at any event where the band is performing and also at outdoor events such as soccer and football.

Getting to Know Your Board of Education (continued)

Wendy Hart: Trustee

Term expires: December 2022

wendy.hart@watervlietps.org

This will be Wendy's third year on the WPS Board of Ed. She serves on the Curriculum Committee and is our Berrien RESA Board Representative. Wendy has a Bachelors degree from WMU in elementary education and Masters degree in reading and literacy.

She is a 4th grade teacher and loves boating, walking her dogs, spending time outdoors, and watching her kids play sports. You'll see her at all kinds of WHS athletic events.

Wendy believes that her 19 years of experience in education is an asset to many of the issues facing the BOE. She also feels its important to give back to the community she loves.



John Oliphant: Secretary

Term expires November 2022

joliphant@watervlietps.org

John has served on the Board for six years. He is on the Personnel, Capital Projects, and Curriculum Committees. John is employed by the Pokagon Band Tribal Government in the IT department. He is also a sports writer for the Tri-Cities Record, covering Panther athletics. His hobbies include photography, bowling, and attending WHS sports events.

John notes that the spirit of cooperation at WPS is amazing; when something needs to be done

the entire school and community is willing to make it happen. John says being an effective board member is an extraordinary amount of work, but the progress being made to make the schools even better makes it worth the effort.



Amanda Morlock-Fisher: Trustee

Term expires: December 2024

afisher@watervlietps.org

Amanda has served for four years on on the BOE. She serves on the Board Policy Committee, the Capital Projects Committee, and the Negotiations/ Personnel Committee.

Amanda holds a Bachelors Degree in Organizational Communication from WMU and Masters Certification in Food Safety from MSU. She works as an agricultural food safety consultant and global food safety auditor.

She also teaches tap, jazz, ballet and lyrical dance. Amanda enjoys family time and helping on her family's farm, JW Morlock & Girls.

Amanda enjoys attending musical productions in the HS auditorium and catching a few athletic events with her husband and two children. She is



pleased to have the opportunity to help maintain tradition and create growth for our future generation of Panthers by serving on the WPS Board of Education.



Eric Laws: Vice President

Term expires: December 2024

elaws@watervlietps.org

Eric is beginning his 7th year on the Board. He serves on several committees - Policy, Goals/Strategic Planning, Finance, Superintendent Review, and Curriculum Review. Eric holds a BS in engineering from Arkansas State University, studied agriculture at the U of Tennessee and has a diploma in drafting and design from Tennessee Technology Ctr. He works as an engineer at Whirlpool Corporation. Eric's hobbies include horseback riding, hunting, fishing, wood working, and trying to play golf. He appreciates that each student is genuinely cared about and also the many opportunities available to students at WPS.

He is proud to give back to our community by serving on the Board of Ed.



Bill Spaulding: President

Term expires December 2026

bspaulding@watervlietps.org

Bill has been serving on the board for 21 years, currently on the Superintendent Review Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Goals and Strategies Committee. Bill is a WPS graduate and attended Michigan State University and Lake MI College. He is a General Manager for Pepsico Beverages Co. Bill's hobbies include golf, water sports, working out, reading, and watching sports. He loves that we offer so many different activities and opportunities for our



students growth at WPS and claims his inspiration for serving on the Board of Education is intense Panther Pride!

NOTICES

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1975 gives parents/guardians of an eighteen-year-old or younger student the right to review the student's educational record. This may be done by contacting the school for an appointment. The school may not disclose information in a student's record without prior consent of the parent, guardian, or adult student, except in the case of directory information such as used in honor rolls, athletic programs, school newspapers, and yearbooks. Directory information could include a student's name, address, date and place of birth, dates of school attendance, participation in school activities, and honors and awards. This information will routinely be released, unless the parent, guardian, or adult student requests otherwise.

Annual Education Report Notice

The Annual Education Report (AER) for all school buildings within the district is available online at:
www.watervlietps.org.

Printed copies are also available at Central Office and in the main office of each school building. The Annual Education Report provides key information on the 2021-2022 educational progress for Watervliet Public Schools and addresses the complex reporting information required by federal law and some requirements of state laws. Our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact your child's principal or Brandon Waggoner at Central Office (269-463-0741) if you have questions about this report.

Student Accident Insurance

Watervliet Public Schools provides families with the opportunity to purchase accident insurance for their students at a nominal cost. Several plans are available including School-Time Coverage, 24-Hour-A-Day Coverage, Sports Accident Coverage, Football Only Coverage, and Extended Dental Coverage. Please follow the instructions below to learn about the benefits and limitations of these policies and to determine if purchasing one of these plans would benefit your family.

1. Visit the website www.1stAgency.com
2. From there, go to "Find Your School". Select the state and hit "Go". Find and select Watervliet Public Schools.
3. From here, you can download and print the information brochure/enrollment form and enroll via regular mail,

Notice of Pesticide Applications

As part of the Watervliet Public School's Pest Management Program, pesticides are occasionally applied. In compliance with the Department of Agriculture, Pesticide and Plant Management Division, Regulation No. 637, the Watervliet Public School District is providing notification of any pesticide applications made to the school buildings and grounds. Watervliet Schools have arranged to have the pesticide treatment of buildings applied after school on the third Friday of every month or during the day on that Friday if that day is a vacation day. During the summer months, the pesticide application will be during the day of the third Friday. This article is intended to serve as prior notification of pesticide applications to the Watervliet Public Schools buildings and grounds. In certain emergencies pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following such applications.

If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Price, Maintenance and Transportation Director at 463-0720.

SOUTH SCHOOL SCOOP

Principal: Sherry Wheeler Email: sherry.wheeler@watervlietps.org

Telephone: (South School Office) 269-463-0860



Saying Goodbye and Sending Well Wishes



Mrs. Collis

So many of our teachers here at South Elementary devote many years to the children and families of the Watervliet community. Two such teachers are Sherry Cullitan and Diane Collis. Both Mrs. Cullitan and Mrs. Collis joined the Panther family in the fall 1997. After 25 years of dedicated service, they have decided to retire. Words cannot express just how much we they will be missed and just how great their legacy here is at South Elementary School. We wish them both all the best!



Mrs. Cullitan

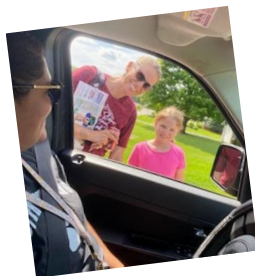
Welcome Back South Panther Families!

We sure are ready to see everyone and hear about your summer adventures. My hope is that you have all made some wonderful family memories but have still carved out a little time to keep reading!!

This summer has been a busy one at South Elementary. Summer school provided many students the opportunity to keep learning and growing during the break. Students worked on reading and math skills while engaging in fun activities including making s'mores using solar power!



Through a grant provided by the United Way Great Start Collaborative we were able to get books into the hands of our students through a couple initiatives. Pop Up libraries were held at both North and South school and at various locations throughout the community. Our final Pop Up library will be held Wednesday August 24th during our Open House here at South Elementary. Make sure to come visit your new teacher and pick a free book! Home visits were also a fun part of the grant. South staff delivered books to 55 South students and their siblings three times during July and August. Students and families enjoyed the visits and the book selections that were delivered right to their door.



Drop Off

In the morning you may drop your child off in the car rider lane (off of Silver Terrace in the back of the building) beginning at 7:20 a.m. A staff member will be stationed at these doors to welcome your child to school. We ask that adults not exit their vehicle. Please remember to place their child seat on the passenger side of your vehicle. You may also drop them off at the front door however, you will need to park and walk them up to the building.

Pick Up

All K and 1st grade students (who do not ride the bus), will be picked up in the car rider lane off of Silver Terrace at the end of the school day (2:50 pm). Walker students will be picked up in the back of the building as well. Walkers will be dismissed after car riders and will be strictly limited to those families that live within walking distance to South School. Young 5's and 2nd grade students will be picked up in the car rider line in front of the building on Lucinda Ln. Families with students in multiple grade levels will utilize the pick up line assigned to the youngest student in the family. *****Please make sure to write your students' first and last names on a piece of paper to display in the window to make the line move more quickly.***

SOUTH SCHOOL SCOOP

Principal: Sherry Wheeler Email: sherry.wheeler@watervlietps.org

Telephone: (South School Office) 269-463-0860



Upcoming Important Dates:

Wednesday, August 24: Open House @ South School from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Students and Families will be able to tour the school and visit their new classroom. The PTO will be sponsoring a bounce house for students from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 29: First Day of School / Doors Open at 7:25 a.m. / Half Day / Dismissal at 11:25 a.m.

Tuesday, August 30: Full Day of School

Friday, September 2: No School Labor Day Break

Monday, September 5: No School Labor Day Break

Reminders:

- As always, it is very important this year to keep your email address and telephone numbers current so we can stay in close contact with you! If these change at any time, please call the South School office (269-463-0860).
- Make sure to check out the South Student & Parent Handbook this fall. Please read this document carefully to familiarize yourself with our rules and procedures.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!

My name is Amber Milius and I'm excited to become part of Watervliet schools. This will be the start of my 8th year teaching. Most recently, I taught a self-contained classroom of middle schoolers at Sodus Township River School. I also have experience with 2nd grade and Kindergarten. I'm excited to work with second graders again! My husband, Adam, and I have three kids- Alexander is 11, Luke is 8, and Claire is 5. We love to be beach bums in the summer, travel, hike (okay, the kids aren't really into that yet), and have popcorn and movie nights. I also love to read and drink coffee.



I'm looking forward to the upcoming school year and working with you all! Happy Summer!

South Elementary Hours

Arrival

7:20 - Doors Open

7:40 - Class Starts

Dismissal:

2:50 - Dismissal Normal Full Day Schedule

11:20 - Dismissal ½ Day Schedule

12:50 - Dismissal 2-Hour Release Schedule

Huge Shout Out To.....

- Alex Litaker, Michelle Mast, and Angie Warren for the AMAZING job they have done getting South Elementary cleaned and ready for the school year.
- Our Summer School Staff for providing our students with the opportunity to have some fun while continuing to learn and grow academically over the summer. *Sherry Cullitan, Heather Trapp, Heather Pisarsky, Stephanie Hauch, Heather Tag, Laurie White, and Emily Burke*
- Our AMAZING North and South secretaries that worked ALL summer updating contact information in Powerschool for the district: *Shannon Llamas and Dana Morris*

NEWS FROM NORTH

Principal: Bill Tiefenbach Email: wtiefenbach@watervlietps.org

Phone: 269-463-0730 / Facebook @WatervlietNorthElementary

web page: www.watervlietps.org/north/

Welcome to a brand new school year! We would like to extend a warm welcome to our incoming 3rd graders and welcome back our 4th and 5th grade students. The 2022-2023 school year is just around the corner! The staff at North Elementary couldn't be more excited to begin a new school year. We are also excited for our little preschool students.

If you are on Facebook, please "like" or join our page. [@WatervlietNorthElementary](https://www.facebook.com/WatervlietNorthElementary)

Mr. Tiefenbach will be sending out the North Elementary family newsletter weekly through email. If there is a need to update any contact information, please reach out to our office. The newsletter provides information such as schedules, handbook, important dates, activities, etc....

If your child has any medical issues or has prescription medications,, please be sure to let the teacher and our office staff know.

As always, it is very important this year to keep your email address and telephone numbers current so we can stay in close contact with you! If these change at any time, please call the North School office (269-463-0820).

The first day of school is Monday, August 29th.

7:25 - Doors Open

7:40 - First Bell

7:45 - Class Starts

Dismissal:

2:55 - Dismissal Normal Full Day Schedule

11:25 - Dismissal ½ Day Schedule

12:55 - Dismissal 2-Hour Release Schedule

Upcoming Important Dates:

- **Wednesday, August 24:** Open House / 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. / IN PERSON
- **Monday, August 29:** First Day of School / Doors Open at 7:25 a.m. / Half Day / Dismissal at 11:25 a.m.
- **Tuesday, August 30:** Full Day of School
- **Friday, September 2:** No School / Labor Day Break
- **Monday, September 5:** No School / Labor Day Break
- **Monday, September 12:** First Day of Preschool (GSRP)
- **Monday, September 12:** School Board Meeting from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, September 21:** Early Release Day / Dismissal at 12:55

Drop Off for Car Riders

Parents that drive their child to school are to drop them off at the **north entrance** by the office on Baldwin Avenue. Parents may not park on the north side of Baldwin Ave.. Students are not allowed to cross Baldwin to load in cars.

Students that Walk or Bike to School

Students that walk or bike to school may enter through the north entrance by the office or the south entrance of the building. Students will not be let into the building until 7:25.

School Departure

Students must exit the building and be picked up as soon as possible by parents/guardians. **All students must exit the building by 2:55.** Students who ride the bus will exit the south entrance or the gymnasium. Students that are picked up by vehicle will be coordinated by the personnel at the north entrance on Baldwin Avenue. If you need to pick up your child before 2:50, please make sure that they are picked up by 2:30 so to not be blocked in by the end of the day traffic line.



NEWS FROM NORTH

CONTINUED

BE Safe BE Responsible BE Respectful

At North School, we are working hard to promote our three positive behaviors. Our Positive behavioral matrix is located within our student handbook.

Throughout the year, as staff members see students showing positive behavior, they hand out Panther Pride tickets. Mr. Tiefenbach pulls one ticket per grade level every Friday, and those lucky students are treated to a special surprise or reward.

New Staff

Hello! My name is Amy Moffatt. I am the new Fourth Grade Teacher at North School. For the last 19 years, I have been teaching at Covert Elementary. During that time, I have had the privilege of teaching Kindergarten, First, and Third grade. For the past two years, I have been a K-5 Title 1 Reading Teacher and K-3 Literacy Coach.

I absolutely LOVE what I do and creating a safe, fun, and engaging learning environment for students to thrive is my #1 goal!

A few fun facts about me: The beach is my happy place, I love the color pink, sour patch kids are my favorite, and spending time with my family is priceless!



Watervliet North School would like to welcome Sarah Busick as the new Special Education Paraprofessional. Sarah is no stranger to the school system with four children currently enrolled in Watervliet. When she is not at the softball field or another event for her children she enjoys creating works of art, camping, and spending days at the beach. She is currently pursuing a teaching degree and cannot wait to share her love for learning with our students.



Huge Thank You's!!!!

- Terry Adams, Ann Lucas, Danny Isbrecht, Brianne Smithley, April Shindeldecker and our entire Food Service Department for the meals they provided to our summer school students and community!!
- Peggy Lloyd and Curt VonKoenig for the AMAZING job they have done getting North Elementary cleaned and ready for the school year. Our students and staff will be very pleased.
- Our Summer School Staff for providing our students with such a well planned and fun experience. Ashley Bobay, Lori Pline, Beth Morse, Amy Helgren, Lori Romeo and Tj Hoffman.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS

Principal: Dave Kindt

Email: dkindt@watervlietps.org

Phone: 269-463-0780

MS Secretary

We would like to welcome our newest member, Mrs. Dana Morris. Mrs. Morris you may recognize was at the same position in North Elementary and now comes to the Middle School. She also spent some time in South elementary school as a paraprofessional. She and her family have been part of the district for quite some time. We look forward to working with Mrs. Morris and to her contributions to our MS family.

Summer School

The Middle School held summer school and students who participated has a great deal of success. Most, if not all, learners improved their NWEA spring scores!! This is fantastic that over 80% of our students improved. With YDC and summer cleaning in the Middle School, the High School was gracious enough to host us - thank you Mrs. Powers and your building! Many thank you's go out to our Summer School teaching staff who gave up a good chunk of their summer break to continue the learning process for a few dozen Middle School students who committed themselves to enhancing their learning. Next time you see Mrs. Wilson, Ms. Crowe and Mrs. Mantei, give them a shout out for going above and beyond!

6th Grade Orientation

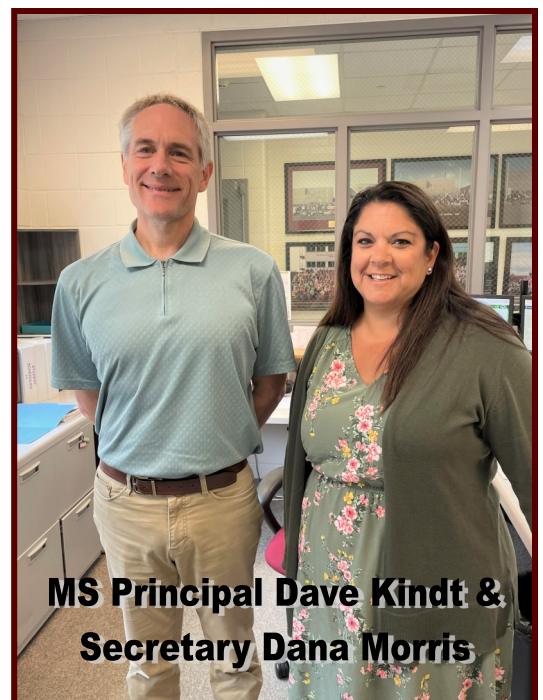
We are really getting ambitious and transforming our orientation process. New this year will be a separate day set aside to help our new incoming 6th graders transition from elementary to middle school learning environments. We are excited to host a few hours on Tuesday, August 23rd (11:00 - 3:00) for our new 6th grade! 6th graders will be escorted around that day by 8th grade ambassadors who will also stay connected with their group for the entire year. The 8th graders will take their 6th grade group around to different classrooms (their schedule), help them to learn their locker combinations, meet their teachers, and learn about all the opportunities in middle school. The new 6th graders will also get information about behavioral expectations, how to stay organized, and lastly will end the day by getting their Chromebook! We are so excited to get this going!

PBIS

Positive Behavior Intervention System will be implemented at the start of this year in the middle school. As students they have seen this in the elementary schools and now it will follow them in the middle school - so the 3 basic principles of Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible will be district wide.

PBIS frameworks can significantly reduce disruptive behaviors, bullying, and help facilitate the learning process. It will also lead to better student engagement, better attendance and overall increases in test scores. Most importantly, it can create a positive learning culture where students feel safe, secure and enjoy learning. PBIS focuses more on what students "can do" vs. what students "can't do". Instead of a list of "do's" and "don'ts", it focuses on behavioral expectations that keep students safe. It builds responsibility and it encourages respect.

Dave Kindt
Watervliet Middle School Principal



**MS Principal Dave Kindt &
Secretary Dana Morris**

WATERVLIET MIDDLE SCHOOL

1st Semester - at a glance

Aug 2-Aug 6 Band Camp 8 AM -6 PM
 Aug 9 Fall Sports Start
 Aug 23 Sixth Grade Parent Orientation 11 AM
 Aug 24 Open House 4 PM -6PM
 6th Grade Parents Meeting 6:00 - 7:00 PM
 Aug 27 First home football game and Hall of Fame Night
 Aug 28 Home volleyball tournament
 Aug 29 First Day of School ½ Day Students and Staff
 Aug 30 First Full Day of School
 Sep 2-5 NO SCHOOL Labor Day Weekend
 Sep 12 Patriots Day
 Sep 15 Technology Night for Parents (MS and HS) 6-7 pm
 Sep 16 Constitution Day
 Sep 20 - 24 NWEA Testing
 Sep 21 Early Release
 Sep 26 - 30 Homecoming Week
 Sep 29 Parent Night!
 Sep 30 Mid Marking Progress Reports
 Oct 5 Early Release
 Oct 13 PSAT 8th
 Oct 20 Parent Teacher Conferences 4-7 pm
 Oct 21 Half Day for Students and Staff
 Oct 25 Band Concert **in the Auditorium 7 pm**
 Oct 26 Early Release
 Oct 27 Choir Concert **in the Auditorium 7 pm**
 Oct 28 End of MP 1
 Nov 2 Early Release
 Nov 10 PSAT/SAT Informational Night for Parents 6-7 pm
 Nov 11 Veterans Day
 Nov 16 Early Release
 Nov 23 ½ Day for Students and Staff and Start of Thanksgiving Break
 Nov 23-25 Thanksgiving Break
 Nov 30 Early release
 Dec 2 Mid Marking Progress Reports
 Dec 8 Grades 6-12 Winter Jazz Band Concert **7 pm**
 Dec 14 Early Release
 Dec 15 Grades 6-12 Winter Choir Concert **7pm**
 Dec 26 - Jan 6 Winter/Holiday Break
 Jan 9 Return to School
 Jan 11 Early Release
 Jan 18-20 Half Day Exams
 Jan 20 End of Semester 1
 Jan 23 Start of Semster 2
 Jan 25 Early Release
 Jan 27 WinterFest
 Jan 30 - Feb 2 NWEA Testing



HIGH SCHOOL HEADLINES



Principal: Christina Powers

Email: cpowers@watervlietps.org

Telephone: (High School Office) 269-463-0730

Dear Panther Parent:

August 2022

Welcome to the 22-23 school year at Watervliet High School! Along with our AWESOME faculty and staff, I am thrilled to welcome you back to a new school year! We are privileged to continue to work with an outstanding teaching and support staff aimed at supporting the success of all students!

We have been hard at work all summer preparing for the new school year. Some important things to know about the 22-23 school year are:

- We remain in a **7 period day**. This allows space in your child's schedule to earn elective credit, to dual enroll, and to recover any lost credit.
- We continue to be able to support a **number of electives** including: Theater/Performance Arts, Speech/Debate, Girls' Weight Training, In Depth US History class, Jazz Band, AP Biology, and a support GRIT class for students in danger of failing classes.
- Three **ON-SITE dual enrolled courses** will be offered at WHS: National Government, Music Appreciation, and Public Speaking.
- Over **120 classes** were recovered this summer in **summer school** by dozens of hard working Panthers!
- Continue to check your email every Friday for a **newsletter from the principal** with important updates and information!
- Our **bell schedules** remain the same for all regular, half day, and early releases.

Full Day: 8:10AM -3:10PM (building opens at 7:45AM, all students must remain in cafe until 8 AM and enter through cafeteria-side doors)

Half Day: 8:10AM-11:40AM

Early Release Day: 8:10AM-1:10PM

Save these important dates for the start of the new school year !

--**Aug 23 Freshmen Orientation** All freshmen should report to the cafeteria side of the building by 11:00 AM for a fun-filled and educational day intended at preparing and supporting our Panthers in a successful new school year. An agenda has been emailed and mailed to all freshmen families. Freshmen will attend a number of educational sessions, play games with their Junior/Senior mentors, get all of their needed materials for the new school year, and participate in an assembly led by comedian Craig Tornquist.

--**Aug 24th Annual Open House 4:00-6:00 PM** All 10-12 graders will pick up a schedule, a device, eat dinner, meet and greet teachers, tour the building, and try out a locker. Enter through the cafeteria side of the building.

An optional orientation to the high school for the parents of the Class of 2026 and any other new students will take place at 6:00 PM in the high school media center.

--**Aug 29th First Day of School** Students can start entering the building at 7:45 AM and wait there until 8:00 AM. All students enter through the cafeteria-side of the building every morning. Class starts at 8:10 AM and students are dismissed at 11:40 AM. Students can grab a sack lunch as they exit the building for the day.

--**Aug 30th First FULL Day of School** Regular school day hours are 8:10 AM-3:10 PM

--**Sep 2-5 NO SCHOOL** for students and staff; LABOR DAY WEEKEND

As always, we are here to serve and support your high school student. Should you have any questions or concerns before the start of the year or at anytime during the year, please reach out by email or phone. We are excited to have your Panther in the building this year and are looking forward to a terrific year !

Christina Powers
Watervliet High School Principal
269.463.0730 cpowers@watervlietps.org

WATERVLIET HIGH SCHOOL

1st Semester - at a glance

Aug 8 Fall Sports Start
 Aug 22 Senior Mentor Training 9 AM -2 PM
 Aug 23 FRESHMEN Orientation Day 11 AM -7:15 PM
 Aug 24 Open House 4-6 PM Cafeteria (Also Student Check in Time for 10-12 graders)
 Aug 24 Parent Orientation to the High School Class of 2026 6 PM
 Aug 29 First Day of School Half Day 11:40 AM Dismissal
 Sep 2-5 Labor Day Weekend; No school for students or staff
 Sep 7 MS/HS Technology Night for Parents (Canvas) 6 PM
 Sep 14 Parent Advisory Council 6 PM
 Sep 20 NWEA Testing periods 1-2
 Sep 20 Blood Drive
 Sep 21 Early Release 1:10 PM Dismissal
 Sep 21 MCTI (Michigan Career Technical Institute) Informational Night for Parents 6 PM
 Sep 22 NWEA Testing periods 1-2
 Sep 26-30 Homecoming Week
 Sep 28 Early Middle College Informational Night 6 PM
 Oct 5 Early Release 1:10 PM Dismissal
 Oct 5 Project Search Informational Night for Parents 6 PM
 Oct 12 PSAT/NMSQT for Juniors
 Oct 12 College Admissions Night 6 PM
 Oct 19 Parent Advisory Council 6 PM
 Oct 20 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4 PM-7 PM
 Oct 21 Half Day for students and staff; 11:40 AM Dismissal
 Oct 25 Fall Band Concert 7 PM
 Oct 26 Early Release 1:10 PM Dismissal
 Oct 26 FAFSA/Financial Aid Night 6 PM
 Oct 27 Fall Choir Concert 7 PM
 Oct 28 End of Marking Period 1
 Nov 2 Early Release 1:10 PM Dismissal
 Nov 2 Parent Advisory Council 6 PM
 Nov 9 Career Planning/Xello Night 6 PM
 Nov 16 Early Release 1:10 PM Dismissal
 Nov 16 Military Night 6 PM
 Nov 23 Half Day students and staff 11:40 AM Dismissal Start of Thanksgiving Break
 Nov 24-25 Thanksgiving Break
 Nov 30 Early Release 1:10 PM Dismissal
 Nov 30 WAY Open House 6 PM
 Dec 1 Blood Drive
 Dec 8 Winter Band Concert 7 PM
 Dec 14 Early Release 1:10 PM Dismissal
 Dec 14 Parent Advisory Council 6 PM
 Dec 15 Winter Choir Concert 7 PM
 Dec 26-Jan 6 Winter Break
 Jan 11 Early Release 1:10 PM Dismissal
 Jan 18-20 Semester Exams Half Days 11:40 AM Dismissal
 Jan 18 MRS/Disability Network Night 6 PM
 Jan 20 End of Semester 1



WHS Highlights



Watervliet High School PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL Principal-Parent Check In Meetings 2022-2023

JOIN ME FOR MONTHLY IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL
CHECK IN MEETINGS FOR CALENDAR UPDATES,
AN AGENDA OF TOPICS, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO
ASK QUESTIONS AND SHARE CONCERNS
REGARDING ANYTHING AT THE HIGH SCHOOL.

SEPTEMBER 14 OCTOBER 19 NOVEMBER 2 DECEMBER 14
JANUARY 25 FEBRUARY 15 MARCH 15 APRIL 19

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6-7 PM
BOTH VIRTUAL AND IN THE HS MEDIA CENTER.



OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, AUG 24th 4:00-6:00 PM
HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

PARENT ORIENTATION TO THE HIGH
SCHOOL 6:00 PM HS MEDIA CENTER
CLASS OF 2026 (optional)

10-12 graders will pick up:
ChromeBook, schedule, and course materials.

Parents and students can also meet teachers
and tour the building. Students not able to
attend will get their materials on the first
day of school.

Would you like to be elected to the Watervliet High School... Student Advisory Council to the Principal?

Let your Voice be Heard & Make a
Difference



Four students will
be elected by each
graduating class at
each grade level.

Email Ms. Powers
TODAY to announce
your interest!

cpowers@watervlietps.org

Students must be available to meet at
7:15 AM on the following Wednesdays:

Sep 14
Oct 5
Oct 19
Nov 2
Nov 23
Dec 14
Jan 11
Jan 25
Feb 15
Mar 1
Mar 15
Apr 5
Apr 19
May 3
May 24



Words from W-A-Y Watervliet HS

Principal: Jason Oetjens email: joetjens@watervlietps.org Telephone: 269-463-0898

WOW! It has been quite a time here at WAY, with lots going on! Students have been working hard and earning credit at an incredible pace, which is excellent to see! Here are some things that have been going on:

Spring Graduation

On June 8, 2022 we had our Spring graduation in which we graduated 12 outstanding students! Some are heading to college in the Fall, some to an apprenticeship, while others are taking some time to get their bearings. Marissa Roberts delivered a very heartfelt and honest student speech that had the audience on their feet in applause. The following students below were apart of the Spring graduation ceremony:

Nick Normandin, Jacob Poirier, Marissa Roberts, Karsen Langston, Sean Comer, Brendan Ellsworth, Gabrielle Munson, Alanah Hunt, Devin Miller, Braidyn Buskirk, Kyla Buskirk, and Lauren Gardiner. We can't wait to see what the future holds for them!



WAY Students Taking More Opportunities

For the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, more WAY students are taking advantage of opportunities at Lake Michigan College and at the Vocational Technology Center than ever before. Students have been very energized by what these opportunities can lead to in the future, and are excited for the school year to begin!

WAY students are also taking advantage of service opportunities to earn hours towards graduation. In August, WAY students will take an afternoon to wash the district's fleet of buses, and treat the bus drivers to a burger and hotdog lunch to show our appreciation. This is something that was started last year, and will continue in the future. Students will also engage in a beautification project for the high school and middle school grounds, as well as serving in the food pantry for Thanksgiving!



A Big Thank You To Heather Winter

On July 26, Heather Winter retired from Watervliet Public Schools where she held the position of WAY Team Lead for over 10 years. She has helped so many students reach their full potential and graduate from the WAY program. Her service to the district is immeasurable and she will be greatly missed at the WAY building. We will see her quite a bit throughout the year however, as she continues to work with staff and to help students with any issues they may have on the Centric platform - now working through the national W-A-Y program. Thank you for everything Heather!

WAY Looking Towards The Future

Last school year, the WAY Program graduated 29 wonderful students overall, and is looking forward to doing just as well in the 2022-2023 school year. Students are energized and ready for the school year to begin, and to fulfill their dreams of graduating. The WAY Program's next graduation will be November 30, 2022, and we look forward to seeing a lot of smiling faces on stage as they walk across to receive their diplomas!

Curriculum Corner

Director: Brandon Waggoner email: Brandon.waggoner@watervlietps.org

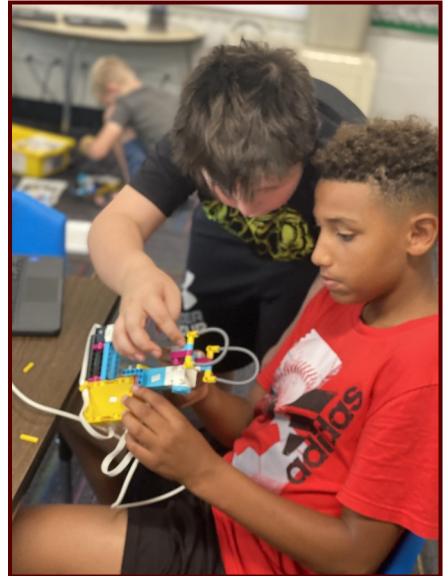
Phone: 269-463-0741

Summer is a great time for students to unwind and play in the summer heat. Traditionally for many students, it has also been a time to catch up on learning missed during the school year in summer school. Many districts have only focused on that important task of addressing the needs of the students who are struggling. Watervliet is different.

Watervliet recognizes that summer can also be an opportunity for students who want to learn and have fun doing it. This summer, we took advantage of a federal grant that focuses on expanding student exposure to coding. Our solution was to have a summer school program specifically for robotics. Robotics is the perfect combination of hands-on and coding so that students really see their code in action and working.

Our program focused on students leaving 3rd through 5th grade and ran for a month, Monday - Thursday, for about 3 hours. Students built their robots with instructions they had or could potentially create their own. From there, the students could use an online interface to create the code that the robot would follow. Students could then make adjustments either to their robot or code, if needed. By the end of the summer session, students were racing their robots against each other. Not only were they learning, but they were having fun doing so.

It's opportunities like these that we plan to continue bringing to our students so they can further their learning above and beyond the classroom and to set them up for future success!



NUTRITION SERVICES

"Nurturing Children from the inside out"

Nutrition Services Director: Terry Adams Email: tadams@watervlietps.org

Telephone: 269-463-0799

Important: Watervliet Public Schools is approved to offer FREE MEALS to all children 18 and younger for the 2022-2023 school year.

Student Nutrition Needs

Watervliet Schools Nutrition Services Department makes changes for students with a documented disability such as, food anaphylaxis (severe food allergy), celiac disease, diabetes and cerebral palsy as directed by a Recognized Medical Authority. For other medical, dietary or special needs and requests, the School Nutrition Program may be able to make changes on a case-by-case basis.

Special Nutrition Needs and Disabilities.

The law describes a disability as "A person with a disability is a person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, and has a record of such impairment" (USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 2001).

Please remember, a signed physician statement is required to be on file with the School Nutrition Program before making any disability-based change to a student's meal. **This medical statement must be updated with the School Nutrition Program whenever there is a change in your child's restrictions.** We cannot make changes based on parent or student requests.

Each special nutrition need request must be supported by a statement, signed by a recognized medical authority, which explains the food substitution that is requested.

A recognized medical Authority defined as:

- Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Other professionals specified by the state Agency

The medical statement must include:

- an identification of the medical or other special dietary condition which restricts the child's diet
- the food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet
- the food or choice of foods to be substituted



For a copy of the Medical Statement to Request Special Meal Accommodations, please visit our Nutrition Services Web page at www.watervlietpschildnutrition.org for a copy.

Other Medical or Dietary Reasons for Special Nutrition Needs that may be considered.

The student's medical physician may consider lactose intolerance, gluten intolerance or weight control with the written and signed request.

Personal preferences:

Other personal requests such as vegetarian or "food dislikes" do not fall under the USDA guidelines. As children grow their tastes change and should be encouraged to try foods that are new or prepared differently than they are accustomed to.

What's for Lunch - or breakfast?

Please visit our District website <https://www.watervlietps.org> for our breakfast and lunch menus. Note that menu items are subject to change due to issues often beyond our control, such as item availability. We make every effort to adjust meal planning and post it as soon as possible.

Make Time For Breakfast At School!



Breakfast really IS the most important meal of the day!

Studies show that children who eat a nutritious breakfast behave better, pay attention, and retain what they learn so they perform better on standardized tests. Children who eat a healthy breakfast also tend to eat healthier throughout the day.

Most households morning are in a rush to get everyone to school and work on time and children are not always hungry first thing in the morning. If you are like so many other families who don't seem to have enough time for a nutritious and delicious breakfast at home – please have your children join us for a free school breakfast. That's right, breakfast is free to all our students.

Just like our school lunch, our breakfasts meet new USDA strict guidelines for calories, saturated fat, and sodium.

We offer complete meals that include fat free or low fat milk, whole grains, protein and 100% fruit juice or fresh fruits — and ZERO grams of Trans Fat per serving! our breakfast cereals, biscuits, pastries, muffins, bagels, pancakes and French toast are whole grain and reduced sugar.

Breakfast start times: South Elementary: 7:20, North Elementary 7:25, our Middle School, High School, and WAY will start at 7:45. If you have questions or you would like more information about our breakfast program, please email Terry Adams, Director of Food and Nutrition Services at tadams@watervlietps.org



We are here to help your child start the day off right with our school breakfast. **And remember, our healthy school lunches and breakfasts are both offered free of charge to all children 18 years of age and younger.**

Together we will nurture children from the inside out, to become healthy, happy humans for a better tomorrow; working together to fill the need for every child to succeed.

Watervliet Public Schools Food & Nutrition Services

PANTHER ATHLETICS



Ken Dietz, Athletic Director kdietz@watervlietps.org 269-463-0758

Nancy Scowcroft, Assistant nscowcroft@watervlietps.org 269-463-0733



Panther Athletics enters the 2022-23 school year on the heels of an outstanding 2021-22.

Spring brought more success as both Panther Baseball and Softball took Conference and District Titles.

In Track & Field, the 4x800 relay team of German Casiano, Ryan Knapp, Camdon Geisler, and Jimmy Kolosowsky earned a trip to the state meet. Conner Underwood and Aleah Sexton represented WHS at State in discus. Conner's throw of 146' at

the State meet sets a new school record. On the links, Parker Lanning shot his way to a golf State appearance.



Watervliet Athletics Hall Of Fame

On Friday, September 2 at half-time of the varsity football game against Dowagiac we will be inducting the *CLASS OF 2022* into the Watervliet Athletics Hall of Fame. This year's inductees will include:

Coach Jeremy Andrews

Community Leader/Volunteer Donna Strine

Athlete James McVay (1975)

Athlete Jon Hinkelman (1977)

The 1979 Panther Football Team

You can help us decide who will be elected to the Hall in 2023. Nominations are open now until October 1st on our district website, www.watervlietps.org. First, select "Menu", then click the + plus sign next to "Athletic Resources". Then select "Watervliet Athletics Hall of Fame".

Please provide as much information as possible on your nominee so that they may receive full consideration.

Thank you for nominating an outstanding athlete, coach, fan, or team from our school's past!

Always find the most up-to-date Watervliet Panther schedule and roster information at:

www.wpspanthers.com

PANTHER ATHLETICS



A BIG THANK YOU...

...to everyone who bought a Panther Discount Card supporting our WHS football program.

Panther Varsity Football Schedule:

- ◆ **Thur. 8/25 at Brandywine 7:00 PM**
- ◆ **Fri. 9/2 Home vs. Dowagiac 7:00 PM)**
Hall of Fame Event
- ◆ **Sat. 9/10 at Kent City (1:00 PM)**
- ◆ **Fri. 9/16 Home vs. Galesburg-Augusta**
- ◆ **Fri. 9/23 Home vs. Constantine**
- ◆ **Fri. 9/30 Home vs. Kal. United (Homecoming)**
- ◆ **Fri. 10/7 at South Haven**
- ◆ **Fri. 10/14 at Parchment**
- ◆ **Fri. 10/21 Home vs. Allegan (Senior Night)**



WATCH PANTHER EVENTS LIVE — FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR COUCH!

There's nothing like being at the game, enjoying a hot dog or bag of popcorn from the concession stand, and cheering on the Panthers along with the rest of the crowd.

But when you just can't be there, for a nominal fee you can watch any home event happening in Panther stadium or in our high school gymnasium on the **NFHS Network**. Games played at some of our competitors schools are available too, if they participate. Broadcasts are available for every level, not just for varsity teams. Here is how to subscribe:

1. **Log onto nfhsnetwork.com.**
2. **Type "Watervliet" at the top of the page to find and select your school.**
3. **Click the box on the right to subscribe. You can choose between a monthly or annual pass.**
4. **Tune in to see the Panthers play!**

The Watervliet Athletic Department encourages Panther fans to attend events and support our Panther athletes. In order to make this more economical, we offer several admission options

- ⇒ **Adult Punch Pass: \$35 for 10 events (\$3.50 per event)**
- ⇒ **Student Punch Pass: \$25 for 10 events (\$2.50 per event)**
- ⇒ **2022-2023 All Season Family Pass: \$150 for a family of four. May include up to two adults living in the same household (\$30 for each additional dependent child added to a Family Pass). Pass may be used at both HS & MS Events.**
- ⇒ **Single Person All Season Pass: \$75**
- ⇒ **SAC Athletic Conference Senior Pass: Free to Seniors age 62+**

Senior Passes, Punch Passes and Family Passes may be used at WHS/WMS regular season home events throughout the school year. They are not valid for tournaments, invitational matches, or post-season games. Multiple individuals may use one Punch Pass. Senior passes only will be honored at all SAC schools.

All Passes are available in the athletics office located in the Watervliet High School building



Single Event Ticket Prices at the gate:

- All High School Regular Season Events – \$5 for everyone Kindergarten and older**
- All Middle School Regular Season Events – \$3 for Adults / \$2 for Students**
- Pre-K children, Senior Citizens, and Active Duty Military Members — Free**

WPS

450 E. Red Arrow Highway

Watervliet, MI 49098

Phone: 269-463-0300

Fax: 269-463-6809

www.watervlietps.org

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Good Deeds and Kudos



Kudos to Transportation & Maintenance
Department Mechanic **Eddie Warren** for acquiring
100% Green Tags on this year's bus inspection!

Thank you to Miss Watervliet, **Hannah Hart**, for
bringing a wonderful collection of books for our
classroom library. That was so kind!

— Beth Morse, North School Teacher

Shannon Llamas and Dana Morris, thank you
for updating Power School data this summer.
And to **Julia Troyer** for all your work getting some
of our systems cleaned up and set up to operate
more efficiently.

Thank you to **Molly VanDeWege** for her years of service to WPS, both as a
teacher and as Director of Special Education. Molly is leaving the district for
a position at Berrien RESA. She will be sorely missed by our staff and by
the students and families she serves.

Thanks much to the following folks for
putting together our first ever day-long
freshman orientation experience: **Jason
Oetjens, Amy Oetjens, Amy Seager,
Terry Adams, Rita Broekema, and
Christina Powers**

Shout out to **Sherry
Wheeler** for delivering
hundreds of books to
children this summer in
conjunction with United
Way.

Thank you to **Drew Van Lente** for working
all summer to get student electronic
devices cleaned, updated, and ready for
the new school year!

A big shout out to our HS summer school
staff of teachers who encouraged and
supported more than 50 students to
recover more than 125 classes over the
summer. Kudos to **Bryan Corkins,
Christie Halamka, Michelle Marshall,
Alex Milnikel, and Linda Zuniga.**

Thank you **Terry Adams
and the HS kitchen
crews** and to **Paul
Stinemetz** for you
support services for
summer school!