

SCHOOL BELL

Publication for the Watervliet Public Schools Issue 02 Spring 2023

Front Cover - Page 1

Superintendent's Message:

Pages 2-4

District Information:

Page 5

Watervliet PS Foundation:

Page 6

South School Scoop:

Pages 7-8

News from North School:

Page 9-10

Middle School Matters:

Page 11-12

High School Headlines:

Pages 13-15

Word from W-A-Y:

Pages 16-17

Fine Arts

Page 18

Curriculum & Technology

Page 19

Panther Athletics:

Pages 20-22

Nutrition Services Information:

Pages 23

Kindergarten Round-up/Back
Cover

Page 24



Mission Statement

Watervliet Public Schools empowers Panthers to adapt and grow intellectually and socially to be achievement-focused, successful, lifelong learners in an ever-changing world.

Vision Statement

Watervliet Public Schools will be a premier district that challenges and empowers students and staff to achieve beyond their own expectations.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Telephone: 269-463-0300



WPS - Building Brighter Futures

Watervliet Public Schools is blessed to serve a supportive community where families want to live and where the school system has served as a central hub of learning, growth, and community pride. Alumni of our schools have found incredible success in all walks of life: legal, medical, finance, business, scholarship, entertainment, athletics, and many more. And over the years our **Panther Pride** has shined brightly.

In 2020, the Board of Education set out to define the next step in the district's evolution in the pursuit of excellence. With the help of educational and community leaders, the Board established a new strategic plan that includes the following four goals:

- Goal One:** Watervliet Public Schools will be an innovative leader in high-quality teaching and learning.
- Goal Two:** Watervliet Public Schools will lead with exceptional extra-curricular programming that develops well-rounded leaders.
- Goal Three:** Watervliet Public Schools will develop deep collaborative partnerships with our school community.
- Goal Four:** Watervliet Public Schools will develop and support the infrastructure necessary to implement our strategic plan and realize our vision.

Several targets and strategies have already been realized, relative to these goals. They include:

- Goal One:** This spring, the district plans to complete the first K-12 district adoption of new curriculum and materials in nearly 20 years. This is the first leg in a six-year cycle that seeks to update the curriculum and resources in all content areas.
- Goal Two:** The district continues to offer a full complement of athletics and arts programming. Our traditions of excellence in all these areas continued this year with championship athletics teams, amazing arts and music productions - including a second-straight state runner-up in Marching Band - many Division I ratings in Band and Choir, and the return of stage productions to WHS.
- Goal Three:** The district continues to have productive partnerships with the Rec Council, local service clubs and organizations, and our strong and fruitful partnership with the growing Watervliet Foundation for Excellence in Education. Additionally, the Paw Paw Lake Rotary recently provided funding and support to launch a new student service group at WPS - Interact Club.
- Goal Four:** Through the private efforts of the Watervliet Foundation, we have a new surface on the field at Panther Stadium. We have secured grants to improve our building security in all school buildings. And, we have developed a Master Facilities Plan and are asking the voters to consider a bond issue to fund critical elements of that plan.

On the next two pages, you will find details of the bond proposal. You may find additional information about the proposal on the district website at <https://www.watervlietps.org>, or by calling us at 269-463-0300.

With Panther Pride,

Ric Seager
Superintendent
Watervliet Public Schools



Key Information About the Upcoming Bond Proposal

On May 2, 2023, Watervliet Public Schools voters will consider a bond proposal to repair and improve facilities at all Watervliet Public Schools campuses. If approved, this proposal will provide \$29.9 million for projects identified as “high priority” in the recently updated Master Plan for Facilities. This bond proposal builds on the work completed in the 2014 bond program.

What is a bond proposal and how can bond proceeds be spent?

A bond proposal is how a public school can ask its voters for authorization to borrow money and levy taxes to pay for large capital improvements. Voter-approved funds may be spent on items like new construction, additions, remodeling, site improvements, athletic facilities, playgrounds, furnishings, and equipment. Funds raised through the sale of bonds cannot be used to pay for employee salaries and benefits, textbooks, or other operational expenses.

What are the key areas of this proposal?

This bond proposal focuses on three key areas: Safety and Security; Improvements to Aging Facilities; Improved Educational Programming and Learning Environments.

What will the proceeds from this bond proposal be used for?

Safety and Security Needs:

- Secure building entrance at Watervliet Middle School
- Classroom door hardware upgrades for improved security
- New internal security doors to isolate security threats inside buildings
- Redesign and replace the parking lot at the HS campus to improve safety and traffic flow

Improvements to Aging Buildings:

- Restroom remodeling in all buildings, improving access by bringing all restrooms in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Mechanical upgrades, including water heater replacement in all buildings
- New classroom spaces for the W.A.Y. program, replacing the deteriorating portables where the program is currently housed.
- Resurfacing the track; constructing new concessions, restroom, and storage facilities at Panther Stadium

Improved Educational Programming and Learning Environments:

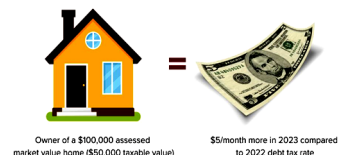
- Addition of STEM classrooms and programs at both elementary buildings; Addition of STEM/Robotics classroom and programming at the Middle/High School building
- Addition of a cafeteria at the Middle School
- Construction of an auxiliary gym and weight room at the HS campus
- Science lab renovations and improvements
- Selective furniture replacements

How much will this bond proposal cost a homeowner?

If approved, the debt tax rate for 2023 will increase by 1.2 mills over the 2022 tax rate. This amounts to approximately a \$5 per month increase for every \$100,000 of the assessed value of a property.

Individual property owners can see the estimated impact on their property taxes by using the “tax calculator” on the district website (<https://bit.ly/402rqry>). Please use your “taxable value” and your voting jurisdiction when utilizing this tool.


WATERVLIET PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL FINANCIAL IMPACT



If approved by voters, it is projected the debt tax rate for 2023 would increase by 1.2 mills over the 2022 debt tax rate. Generally, for an owner of a \$100,000 assessed market-value home (\$50,000 taxable value), this net increase equals approximately \$5.00 more per month in 2023 compared to the 2022 debt tax rate.

What got completed in the last bond proposal and how is that different from this proposal?

Many folks have asked if everything that was proposed in the 2014 bond program was completed and why this program is needed. Following the blueprint from the 2010 Facilities Study, a Master Plan was developed in 2014. Many priority needs from the 2010 study were addressed in that plan, but many were also not able to be addressed at that time. This table outlines the two plans and how they fit together to address important priorities from the 2010 study and the 2022 update of that study.



Watervliet Public Schools

2010 Master Plan

Long Term Facilities Project Identification

In 2010 the district began to study school buildings and sites. Things like roofing, paving, electrical and mechanical systems, safety and security, and educational programs were assessed.

Phase 1 of the Master Plan was the 2014 bond, which took care of many critical issues, there are still core infrastructure systems that have outlived their expected life cycles.

The Master Plan was updated in 2022 to identify the projects completed and understand the status of previously identified issues.

Phase 2 of the Master Plan is the 2023 bond proposal which would address the remaining identified issues, and also enhance educational programming & learning environments.

2014 Bond - Completed

Phase 1


- ✓ **Safety and Security**
 - Secure entry vestibules at North and South Elementary schools
 - Site upgrades & parking to improve bus and parent traffic at elementaries and MS
 - Fire alarm system upgrades at all buildings
- ✓ **Technology**
 - Infrastructure upgrades, including Wi-Fi capabilities, classroom equipment
 - Computer lab upgrades
 - Student / teacher devices
 - Upgrade technology systems
- ✓ **Building and Site Improvements**
 - Plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems, and roofing
 - Classroom additions at North Elementary and South Elementary
 - Classroom addition to MS/HS
 - MS/HS media center improvements
 - Auditorium upgrades
 - HS cafeteria expansion
- ✓ **ALL PROJECTS FROM THE 2014 BOND PROPOSAL WERE COMPLETED**

2023 Bond Proposal

Phase 2

- Safety and Security**
 - New secure building entrance at the Middle School
 - Classroom door hardware upgrades
 - New security doors
 - Redesign and replacement of the parking lot at the HS campus to improve safety and traffic flow
- Improvements to Aging Buildings**
 - Restroom remodeling, improving ADA access
 - Mechanical upgrades, water heater replacement
 - New classroom space for the W.A.Y. program
 - Resurface track and construct new concessions, restroom and storage building
- Educational Programming / Learning Environments**
 - Addition of STEM classrooms for improved hands-on learning at the elementary schools
 - Addition of STEM / Robotics classroom for improved hands-on learning at the Middle / High School
 - Middle School cafeteria, auxiliary gym and weight room addition
 - Science lab improvements
 - Selective furniture replacements

Paid for by Watervliet Public Schools,
450 E. St. Joseph St., Watervliet, MI 49098

Scan to learn more 

Will there be opportunities for the community to learn about the proposal?

YES!! - Three opportunities. Each event starts at 6:00 PM in the building specified. Tuesday, March 28th - High School; Thursday, April 6th - South Elementary; Wednesday, April 19th - North Elementary.

When will voting take place?

In-person voting will take place on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM, in your assigned precinct. Absentee voting is available to all registered voters upon application. Consult your city or township offices or <http://michigan.gov/vote> for more details.

Where can I get more information?

For an overview of the bond proposal, FAQs, community forum dates and times, videos, and more please visit the district website at www.watervlietps.org or contact Central Office by phone at 269-463-0300 or by email at rseager@watervlietps.org.

District Calendar 2022 Spring Dates to Remember

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/Wed	June 6/June 7	1/2 day all students- HS/MS Exams, Elem EOY Parent meetings
Thurs	June 8	1/2 day all students - End of 2022-2023 School Year

2022-2023 School Building Contact Information

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	Carole Fetke	Desiree Davis
South School	433 Lucinda Lane	463-0860	K-2	Sherry Wheeler	Shannon Llamas
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		

Watervliet Public Schools Board of Education

Bill Spaulding - President Eric Laws - Vice President Brian Gruszczuk - Treasurer
John Oliphant - Secretary Amanda Morlock-Fisher - Trustee Kimberly Adams - Trustee
Wendy Hart - Trustee

The Watervliet All Class Reunion (formerly known as the Watervliet 40 Year Club), will be held Saturday, August 19, 2023 in the Middle School gym. Social hour will begin at 11:00, and lunch will be served at noon. Anyone that graduated from or attended the Watervliet Public School System may attend.

The cost is \$15; payment and reservations are required by Friday, August 11. Registration forms are available on the "Watervliet All Class Reunion (Formerly the Watervliet 40 Year Club)" Facebook page. Or contact Marsha Stennecke Cole at 269-463-3712 or Jane Cole Chaput at 269-468-5182.

This long-running event has been held annually since 1920, with the exception of 2020 due to the pandemic. The reunion committee hopes to see many old-timers and also recent grads attend the event this August.

Watervliet Public Schools FOUNDATION For Excellence

Watervliet Public Schools Foundation for Excellence is an independent non-profit organization working to raise, steward, and distribute resources to enrich the education of students in the Watervliet Public Schools



Ongoing: Classroom Grants

In early 2023, we were able to award 6 grants (3 - \$500, 3 - \$166) for projects that will improve, enhance, and enrich the students' time in their classrooms. Congratulations to Ms. Coeling, Ms. Crowe, Ms. Powers, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Pisarsky, and Ms. Schmidt!

The WPS Foundation for Excellence is incredibly thankful to the generous donors from the Class of '65 for their support, which made these initiatives possible!



Community Partnership: Hog Roast

This fall, the foundation partnered with the Watervliet Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to hold a hog roast fundraiser. The event held at Arclight Brewery raised money through a live and silent auction. Some of the items auctioned off included a custom panther sign, a Notre Dame golf package, Smart TV, vacation home rental and Notre Dame sports tickets. Proceeds from the event will fund future foundation projects.

Completed: Panther Stadium Phase I

Thanks to the generous support from our Panther community, we were able to complete this project and provide a safe, all-weather surface for our students and community to utilize in all seasons



Join us in our mission to enrich the education of our WPS students. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to visit our website for more information on how to donate or volunteer.

wps-foundation.org - wps-foundation@watervlietps.org – (269) 463-0300



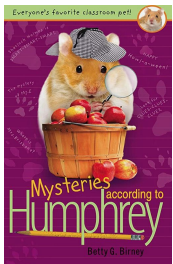
SOUTH SCHOOL SCOOP

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

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



A Community that Reads Together, Succeeds Together!



This year for March is Reading Month, both the North and South School communities participated in a One Book, One School initiative. At the beginning of the month, both schools were visited by Humphrey himself to deliver each student a copy of the book, Mysteries According to Humphrey. Throughout the month, students, families, and classrooms have been reading together or listening and reading along with guest readers. Classrooms engaged in discussions about the book answering daily questions about each chapter and Humphrey traveled from classroom to classroom learning alongside our Mighty Panthers. Our literacy team hosted a family Painting and Popcorn event attended by 120 guests. Those that attended learned strategies to increase comprehension while reading and participated in an assisted drawing activity creating their own works of art featuring Humphrey the hamster.

3rd Annual Heartprints Cereal Drive and Domino Run

During our 2023 Heartprints Cereal Drive, Panther families donated 1,501 boxes of cereal that were delivered to food pantries in Watervliet, Hartford, and Coloma. Heartprints is a story by PK Hallinan about children helping others and leaving Heartprints along the way. After the exciting domino run, students worked together to stack the cereal boxes before they were loaded onto a school bus and taken to the food pantries. Staff from each of the food pantries receiving the donated cereal spoke of just how special it is for families to have access to the cereal and just how much the generosity of our Panther families is appreciated.



SOUTH SCHOOL SCOOP

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

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



Mighty Panthers Are SAFE, RESPONSIBLE, and RESPECTFUL!

At South Elementary students and classrooms are celebrated for displaying "Mighty Panther" behavior. Individually, students earn Panther Pride tickets. When a student has earned 10 tickets, they head down to the office for a sticker. At the end of each week, two names from each grade level are drawn and those students get a book from our book vending machine.



Classrooms displaying "Mighty Panther" behavior earn Mighty Class tickets. Classrooms work together to earn whole school rewards such as assemblies, dance parties, and Pie the Staff!



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

Thank You PTO!

South Elementary School is fortunate to have an active and supportive PTO. The PTO volunteers provide multiple opportunities for our students and families to have fun and stay engaged throughout the year. Some of the many events the PTO sponsors and organizes include: fundraisers, Donuts with Dudes, book fairs, popcorn for Spirit Days, Santa Shop, dances, Grandpals days, Muffins with Misses, and so much more! We sincerely appreciate every member of the PTO and all of the volunteers that make all these things happen.

PTO SPRING EVENTS

April: Read A Thon

4/14 Spirit Day

4/25 PTO Meeting

5/5 Spirit Day

5/8 -5/12 Staff Appreciation Week

5/9 Muffins with Misses Kindergarten

5/10 Muffins with Misses 1st Grade

5/11 Muffins with Misses 2nd Grade and Y5's

5/30 PTO Meeting

South Field Day TBD

6/2 Spirit Day

Watervliet Panther PTO

Little Panthers...Small but Mighty!

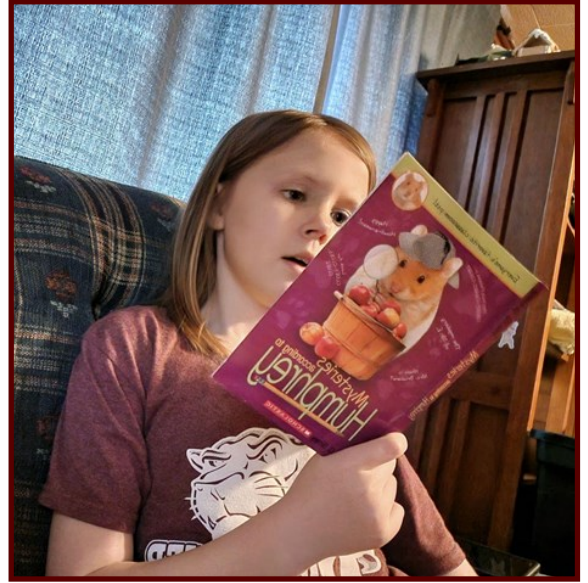
Monthly Meetings @6pm @North-Room 101
9/27, 10/25, 11/29, 12/20, 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/30



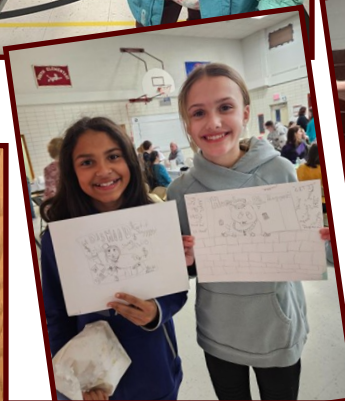
NEWS FROM NORTH

Principal: Carole Fetke Email: cfetke@watervlietps.org
Phone: 269-463-0820 / Facebook @WatervlietNorthElementary

It has been such a great year at North! As I write this, we have just begun Reading Month (March) and we had an amazing kick off to "One School, One Book". Both North and South School students are reading "Mysteries According to Humphrey" and they are very excited about reading this book at school and at home.



On March 9th our students and families participated in a Painting & Popcorn Literacy night at South School. The gymnasium was packed and everyone enjoyed a Literacy Lesson presented by Mrs. Van (and Humphrey himself!), and a directed drawing of Humphrey led by Mrs. Muth (from South School). It was a great evening of learning and fun!



Some more exciting news . . . our very own Mrs. Patty VanAntwerp (Mrs. Van) has been nominated for the Berrien RESA PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) Excellence in Education award! Mrs. Van is our Literacy Coach/Lead Interventionist and she is so amazing! We are grateful that her excellence has been noticed and is being celebrated! She is so worthy of this honor!

NEWS FROM NORTH continued

North School was selected for the "Martin's One School At A Time" grant to help finance additional tools and supplies for our newly created Reset Room! We are very fortunate at



North to have welcomed Chris Roland to our staff as our Behavior Interventionist. Chris is housed in the "Reset Room" and provides instruction to students on specific school behaviors so they can be successful. The Reset Room is home to our new sensory path. We are so grateful to welcome Chris to our team at North and to be able to have this important resource for our students.

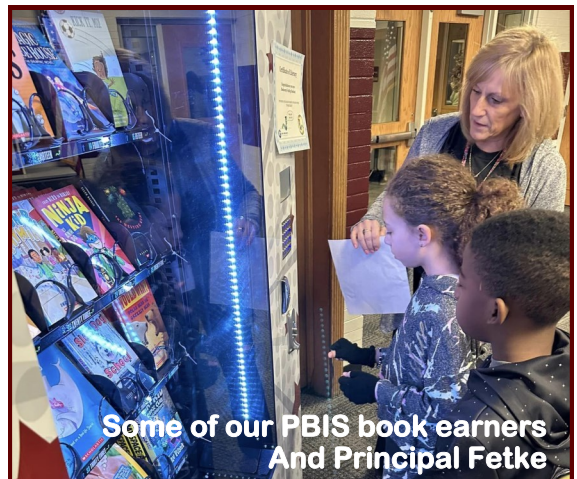


In January we re-introduced our students to our building-wide PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) expectations by engaging them in a PBIS poster contest. Winners from each grade level were awarded a token to our new book vending machine (provided by our PTO -- a huge THANK YOU to our amazing



In December we celebrated three long-time North School staff members as they finished their career at WPS and began their retirement! A huge thank you to Laura

Isbrecht, Donna Jewell, and Vicki Pletz for their dedication to the students and North School. Best wishes to you in your retirement!



MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS

Principal: Dave Kindt

Email: dkindt@watervlietps.org

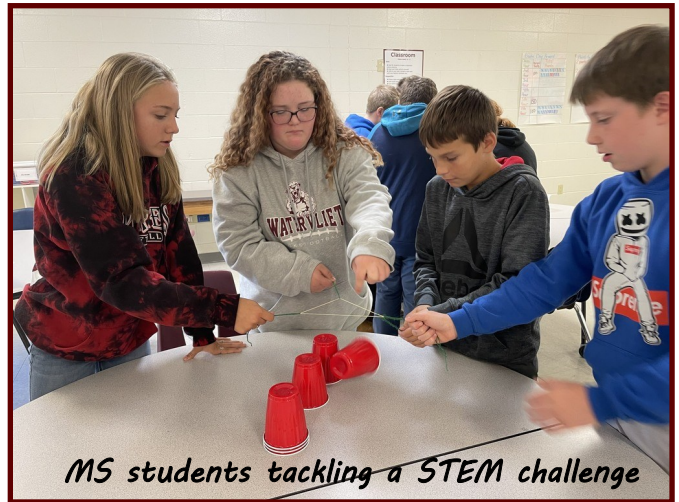
Phone: 269-463-0780

The Middle School has been riding the wave of great news! Recently we were named as a Reward School based on how we compare to our like peer group of schools - those similar in demographics and student enrollment. We received an "A" in this category. This puts us in very good company. We are also celebrating our strong winter NWEA scores. We went up in every single grade and demographic sub group!! We have awesome kids and it is a testament to this staff on how dedicated and committed they are to seeing that our students meet both behavior AND academic standards.

For March Reading Month, students are making paper links, each one based on a book they have read. The links create a chain that is hung in the hallways. Since reading is something that connects us all and permeates all content areas, this chain representing how much we have all read together is a great way to celebrate reading month!

Our Band and Choirs held performances and competitions and finished with Division 1 ratings! We also had several students compete and win awards at the Box Factory for their art work. Our theater class has put forward a few performances and our latest, Annie, Jr., has surpassed all expectations! Our visual and fine arts programs continue to excel!

We have hosted a few dances and are sending students on Field Trips! This spring, the 7th grade will again visit Airway lanes in Kalamazoo and the 8th grade will visit Michigan's Adventure. We look forward to the last dance of the school year -- the 8th grade semi formal on May 5th. Yearbooks will be out soon and will look more like the yearbooks we are used to seeing from several years ago!



MS students tackling a STEM challenge



*MS art students
getting creative*

Our Leadership Team implemented a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) at the start of this school year. This is a school wide framework intended to help students and teachers create a culture where behaviors and expectations are communicated and followed so that students can learn more effectively and teachers can teach more effectively. Teachers have walked students through the expectations frequently and have also utilized redirecting and re-teaching strategies to help students follow expectations.

This past fall we also implemented a mentoring / ambassador program in which 8th grade students lead small groups of 6th graders. This was intended to help 6th graders make a smoother transition to middle school. We feel that there is still more we can do to help ease the transition for incoming 6th graders.

Our staff in the Middle School meets and collaborates frequently, working to find ways to meet the needs of our students. We are taking the term "meeting students where they are" to a whole new level. We are looking forward to

seeing the fruits of our labor show up in upcoming state test results. We are encouraged see our students' growth and to know that we are preparing them for high school and beyond. I am excited for what lies ahead as we continue to map out next year and beyond.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS continued

Our Leadership Team implemented a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) at the start of this school year. This is a school wide framework intended to help students and teachers create a culture where behaviors and expectations are communicated and followed so that students can learn more effectively and teachers can teach more effectively. Teachers have walked students through the expectations frequently and have also utilized redirecting and re-teaching strategies to help students follow expectations.

This past fall we implemented a mentoring / ambassador program where 8th graders lead small groups of 6th graders. This was intended to help 6th graders make a smoother transition to middle school. We feel that there is still more we can do to help ease the transition for incoming 6th graders.

Our staff in the Middle School meets and collaborates frequently, working to find ways to meet the needs of our students. We are taking the term “meeting students where they are” to a whole new level. We are looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labor show up in upcoming state test results. We are encouraged to see our students grow and to know that we are preparing them for high school and beyond. I am excited for what lies ahead as we continue to map out next year and beyond.

Dean of Students Dr. Kevin Simmons, Principal Dave Kindt, & Middle School Secretary Dana Morris



Watervliet Middle School starts an Interact Club!



Interact is a club for youth ages 12-18 who want to connect with other young people in their community and school. Interact members have fun while carrying out service projects and learning about the world.

Watervliet Public Schools has started an Interact Club for 7/8 graders. Our club is supported and guided by the Paw Paw Lake Rotary Club and will be chartered by Rotary International. Rotary International is a humanitarian service organization that brings together business and professional leaders in order to provide community service, promote integrity, and advance goodwill, peace, and understanding in the world.

The WMS club meets every other Wednesday. Ms. Powers and Ms. Culverhouse are the advisers for the club. Ms. Powers is the high school principal. Ms. Culverhouse is a South School parent. Both are local Rotarians. Ms. Culverhouse is also the current President-Elect of the Paw Paw Lake Rotary.

Interact members are required to demonstrate excellent citizenship throughout the school year. Additionally, Interact members will work to complete at least 2 service projects this school year.

The club will induct twenty five 7th and 8th grade members on Thursday, March 30th at 6:30 PM in the high school auditorium.

HIGH SCHOOL HEADLINES

Principal: Christina Powers


Email: cpowers@watervlietps.org

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



Important Dates for Senior Families

May 1, 10:00 AM	Decision Day Assembly. Families are Invited
May 13, 6:00 - 11:00 PM	Prom
May 14, 12:00 AM - 5:30 AM	After Prom Event at Airway Lanes, Kalamazoo
May 17, 6:00 PM	Senior Academic Awards/Scholarship Assembly. Families are invited.
May 24, 25, 26	Semester Exams ("3 and a B" still applies for semester 2)
May 25, by 3:00 PM	Senior Check-out sheet due to HS office. Pick up caps and gown.
May 26	Last Official Day for Seniors
May 31, 6:00 PM	Baccalaureate. Families are invited.
June 1, 2:00 PM	Class Picnic in Panther Stadium
June 1, 3:30 PM	Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal for those participating in Commencement Ceremony
June 2, 10:00 AM	Senior Parade in caps & gowns through Elementary, MS, & HS Buildings
June 2, 5:15 - 5:30 PM	Graduating Seniors report to the Media Center for check-in
June 2, 6:30 PM	Commencement Ceremony in Panther Stadium. Families and Community Invited.



Watervliet High School
8TH GRADE PARENT
ORIENTATION TO WHS!
Join us!!

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29TH 6 PM
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
TOPICS OF CONVERSATION:

REQUIRED CLASSES, CREDITS, ATTENDANCE, CELL PHONES, TARDIES, BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS, DAILY SCHEDULE, FRESHMEN TEACHING STAFF, GRADING, ELIGIBILITY, PROMOTION TO THE NEXT GRADE, LATE WORK, MISSING WORK, HOMEWORK, CHROMEBOOKS, PLAGIARISM, BACKPACKS, ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES



WHS Classes Receive Watervliet Foundation for Excellence Grant

Transition classes have been awarded a classroom grant by the Watervliet Foundation for Excellence. This grant will allow for Ms. Coeling and Mrs. Girton to order year long subscriptions of magazines for the students in the classroom to read when they have free time. This will encourage the students to read and expand their vocabulary which is one of the focuses of the Transition classes. The next step is for the students to help select the magazines of interest to them. They have a running list and magazines will be selected based on appropriate content and

shared interest. We are very grateful to the Foundation and excited to begin reading and expanding our vocabulary!



WHS CLASS OF 2023 TOP TEN



Pictured from left to right
Front row: Reagan McConnell (9), Jennifer Garcia (7), Kendall Molter (2)
Middle row: Samantha Dietz (3), LillyAnne Lefor (1), Jaylie Querfurth (4)
Back row: Zach Hastings (6), Brady Bornas (5), Tyson Williams (9), and Kameron Bultema (8)

GREG CHISEK SENIOR SCHOLARS



Weighted GPA multiplied by 250, plus their highest SAT score divided by 1.6. Anyone with 1700 or higher is a Senior Scholar.

Pictured from left to right:
Zach Hastings, Kendall Molter, LillyAnne Lefor, Reagan McConnell, Tyson Williams, Jaylie Querfurth, and Kameron Bultema.

SAC ACADEMIC ALL CONFERENCE SENIORS



Unweighted GPA in English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language classes multiplied by 250, plus their highest SAT score divided by 1.6. The top five scores are Academic All Conference.

Pictured from left to right: Zach Hastings, Reagan McConnell, LillyAnne Lefor, Kendall Molter, and Kameron Bultema



2023 Winterfest Royalty
Queen Ella Shunkwiler
And King Tyson Williams

HIGH SCHOOL HEADLINES (continued)

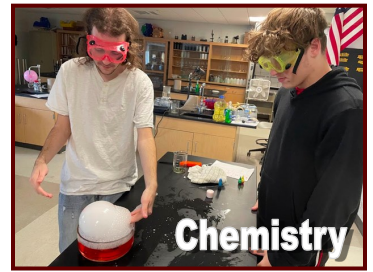
High School Spring Break Europe Trip



A few of our students in Rome enjoying the sights of the city.

A group of high school juniors and seniors, and several chaperones left Watervliet on March 15, headed for - what will be for some - the adventure of a life time! The group visited European cities including Rome, Venice, and London.

WPS teachers Jeremy and Lauren Andrews have been facilitating Europe trips for WHS students every two years since 2010. What a wonderful opportunity to travel and learn!



FIELD TRIP FOR INTERESTED JUNIORS AND SENIORS

The high school is facilitating a field trip to the Wayland Carpenter and Millwright Training Center in Wayland Michigan on Tuesday, May 2nd.

The Wayland Carpenter and Millwright Training Center is a state-of-the-art 67,000-square foot facility located at 500 Reno Drive in Wayland Michigan. It is a part of a statewide effort to train and educate workers to fill thousands of job openings in Michigan's high-demand skilled trades industry.

The center is teaching hands-on skills to Carpenters, Floor Layers, and Millwrights. No experience is necessary to come meet the contractors our next generation could be working for and experience our state-of-the-art training center. The Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights is doing more now than ever to smoothly transition young, hard-working individuals into this productive workforce. This apprenticeship will offer both classroom and on-the-job learning as we help mold knowledgeable, skilled tradespeople.

There will be over 30 contractors from around the State. These contractors will be looking to hire Carpenters, Floor Layers, and Millwrights to start working asap.

Students will leave WHS at 8:45 AM and return to WHS by 2 PM. Sack lunches will be provided for students who attend. If you give permission for your child to attend this trip, please have him/her pick up a permission slip in the counseling office.



QUARTER AUCTION TO HELP FUND A SAFE AND FUN WHS AFTER-PROM

Sunday, April 2, 4:30 PM

(Prize Pre-View at 4:00 PM)

Coloma FOP, 3470 Angling Road,

Coloma, MI 49038

\$5.00 at the door

Bring Quarters to Bid on items!

Concessions will be available for purchase
— no outside food or drinks please.

For more info contact:

269-208-6875

THE WORD FROM W-A-Y

Director/Principal: Jason Oetjens

Email: joetjens@watervlietps.org

Phone: 269-463-0898

"Helping students connect with professionals in their career path of interest is something we work hard to do at WAY. When students can get first hand information or experience from someone in the field, it helps our students have a better understanding as they begin to make decisions on their post high school career."

- Jason Oetjens, W-A-Y Director

Congratulations to the 13 students who graduated from Watervliet WAY High School on November 30, 2022. These students met the academic requirements as well as created and presented their portfolios to a panel of educators and Mayor of Watervliet, Deah Muth.



Pictured above:

Emma Darling, Christianna Flagel, Lylie Irwin, Aidan Mathiau, Giancarlo Nava, Brian Peek, Ricardo Perez Rodriguez III, Victoria Pipkins, Brian Pulley, Abdias Valdez, Daniel Weckwerth. Not Pictured: Samanth Russell, Cory Staggs

Lylie Irwin giving the
Class Address



This Winter, WAY inducted 18 new students to the program, bringing the total number of students to 92! These students have really shined over the past couple of months, turning in credit after credit. These students are a great addition to the WAY program, and we continue to receive more applications each week.

Our students take great pride in the work they do, and continue to meet their goals weekly. WAY provides opportunities for our students to grow and learn through project-based learning, and oftentimes provides cross-curricular projects that enhance life-long learning.

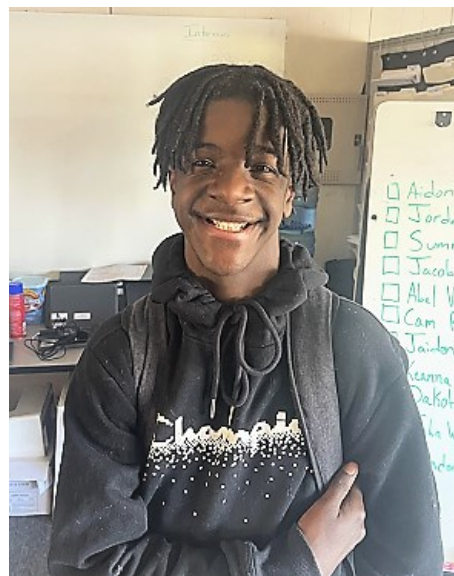
Our next induction will be in May. Our staff is very excited to welcome more new students to the WAY Program!

THE WORD FROM W-A-Y (continued)

WAY Students Preparing For The Future:

Amarae Williams, who attends the Van Buren Tech Center, took Second Place at the Business Professionals of America Region 1 Leadership Conference at Davenport University in Grand Rapids for his work on Fundamental Spreadsheet Application. Amarae is a senior at WAY, and one of our top performing students. He will graduate in August.

Because of his GPA at the Tech Center and his participation at this Leadership Conference, Amarae has qualified for a \$3,000 per year four year scholarship to Davenport University worth \$12,000! Amarae is one of 35 Tech students out of 500 Southwest Michigan students to qualify to compete in the Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference on March 9-12! Congratulations, Amarae!



.....

This Winter many new students have shown interest in attending The Van Buren Technology Center. Some of that interest can be attributed to the success of some of our students who already attend the Tech Center. Students who attend get hands-on experiences in a variety of career fields. They also grow their confidence and employability skills. Also, our WAY program is unique in that we have developed a Career emphasis within our program. Students research careers they are interested in, evaluate their own skills and interests and are connected with individuals who are currently working in the field. A big thank you to Van Buren Technology Center counselor Ana Maack for all of her assistance and dedication in helping our WAY students succeed!

.....

WAY Watervliet/Pokagon Tribe Partnership

Recently, the Pokagon Tribe brought former Hartford High School Principal Dave Janike to our WAY Staff. Dave serves as a Teacher's Assistant and has brought a huge vigor to the position. He is also bringing more outside student interest in the program. Dave has done an excellent job so far, and we enjoy all of the help he has provided the students. With Dave's help, we anticipate the Pokagon WAY Partnership Program will grow in the coming months.

.....

Remembering Amy Seager



Jason Oetjens, Ben Loshbough, Amy Seager, and Alecia Hickman

In late December, we lost a wonderful member of our WAY family to cancer, Mrs. Amy Seager. Amy was such an integral part of our program and is missed by all of us every day. Amy interviewed all students coming into the program and headed the Senior Portfolio Project. She also helped all of our students with their ELA course work.

Amy was always available for students when they were needed someone to talk to. She was the type of person that you could talk to and relate to on so many levels, and she always had a smile on her face and was ready to give a laugh to lighten the mood.

The picture above taken just before the school year started. Amy is greatly missed by all of us, but we continue her work here at WAY every day. We love and miss you Amy.



The WPS Instrumental Music Department was thrilled to receive sorely needed new drums in January. The purchase was made possible through a grant from the Berrien Community Foundation. THANK YOU!

FINE ARTS

In March, WPS performing arts students from several school buildings came together under the direction of Instructor Tami Brush to present the musical production of **Annie, Jr.**

Dozens of people worked

hard and long on the show, both those in the cast and those working behind the scenes. The hard work culminated in a spectacular two-night run which was received with much applause and rave reviews from those who came to enjoy the show!



WOW! BAND!

Marching Band: MCBA silver medalists at the MCBA State Championships - 2nd place in Flight 5!
District Band & Orchestra Festival: Straight ones in performance and a one in sight reading for an overall ONE division rating. #Panther Pride!

The middle school art program has worked on a wide range of projects this year including toilet paper sculptures, ceramics, dragon eye drawings, grid drawings, perspective dream house drawings, and so much more! Head on over to Watervliet Middle School's online art gallery page at www.Artsonia.com to view all of the projects created this year by our student artists. The middle school art program also submitted about 40 artworks to the Box Factory in Saint Joseph for the annual spring art show that features student work from around the county!



Congratulations to the Concert Choir members for their outstanding performance at District Choral Festival. They received a Division 1 rating. Great job!!



Technology & Curriculum

Director of Technology, William Tiefenbach
wtiefenbach@watervlietps.org

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

More About Canvas (LMS) Learning Management System

In the fall of 2022, the middle and high schools rolled out an “LMS” called Canvas. LMS is the abbreviation for learning management system. It serves as a platform where teachers can post assignments, create discussion boards, and upload content like slide presentations and instructional videos. For students, Canvas creates a one stop shop to see assignment details, due dates, and learning resources for all their courses. At teachers' discretion, students are also able to submit assignments through Canvas.

The adoption of the Canvas Learning Management System represents a significant shift in the access parents have to monitor class resources, assignments, and student submissions. It is imperative that we have one place where parents can go to monitor their student's courses.

While there are numerous benefits for parents, WPS decided to adopt Canvas because it's a tool that is going to help improve student achievement. Students will always have access to course assignments and due dates.

What does Canvas do for parents?

Canvas gives parents an everyday overview of their student's learning interactions including calendars, assignments, student submissions, and class resources. As a parent, not only will you be able to see assignment details like due date, instructions, and requirements, you can also customize your notifications so you will be alerted when new assignments are posted.

In the fall of 2023, we hope to roll out further features to the middle and high schools and also introduce some content features to our elementary schools.

We have received nothing but positive feedback from students and parents and will continue to monitor the integration progress of our LMS into our learning culture at Watervliet P.S.

For more information or to learn how to download the app to check student grades, go to www.watervlietps.org and click on “**Canvas for Parents**” in the middle of the page. Here you will find the information you need to get started.

Watervliet Public Schools District Phone App

If you have not had a chance to download our school app on your phone, go to your Apple or Google Play Store and search for **Watervliet Public Schools**.

The importance of state assessments

Each spring, our students in grades 3-11 will take state assessments to measure their learning progress. These assessments are important for the schools to celebrate learning successes through the school year. Additionally, schools make vital decisions regarding students using the results of those state assessments. Some of those decisions include additional support during the school day for struggling students, additional opportunities to explore for students who excel, and goal setting for students and buildings.

Additionally, the SAT brings opportunities for students post graduation. The PSAT in 8-10th grades allow students and parents to gauge where improvements need to happen in order for the student to be successful on the SAT. Once successful on the SAT, colleges weigh those scores for admission. Some colleges and universities even award scholarships including “full rides” if students score above a certain level.

What can parents do?

- Communicate the importance of these state assessments to your child.
- Encourage your child to do well and to give their all on test day.
- Be sure to allow them plenty of rest the night before the test.
- Make sure they have a good breakfast on test day before going to school.
- Celebrate after the test if they gave their all on it.

We are always excited to partner with parents to help encourage our students to perform at their highest level, and we can't wait to celebrate our students' success!

PANTHER ATHLETICS



"Prove 'Em Wrong" 2022-2023

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

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

Fall 2022 Individual All State Honors

Volleyball All-State: 1st Team-Samantha Dietz, 2nd Team-Grace Chisek, 3rd Team-Natalie Hart

Cross Country State Qualifiers: Dani Mandujano & Morgan Lowell

Football All-State: Royce Daugherty-Offensive Line, Javier Gutierrez-Specialist(Kicker)

Soccer All-State: Brady Bornas-Honorable Mention

Volleyball All State Academic: Samantha Dietz & Jaylie Quarfurth

Congratulations to Coach Lori Pline who was named the Michigan Volleyball Coaches Association Region 10 JV Coach of the Year and to Coach Edie Daugherty who was named the Region 10 Varsity Co-Coach of the Year (with Buchanan)

Panther Girls Volleyball and Basketball Teams Both Bring Home District Titles



On November 3 The Panther Volleyball team defeated a persistent and talented Bridgman Bees team in four sets to claim the district title, giving the Panthers back-to-back District Championship status. The team was coached by Edie Daugherty, Michelle Coeling, and Lori Pline.



On March 3 in Bloomindale the 2023 Lady Panthers Basketball team claimed a 44-22 victory over the Gobles Tigers to win the teams first district championship since 2006. The team was coached by Ken Dietz and Ben Loshbough. The team was also the SAC Lakeshore Division Champ.

Athletics Website: www.wpspanthers.com

PANTHER ATHLETICS (continued)



Panthers Perry Rowe and Royce Daugherty were selected to play in the Blue/Grey All-American Bowl Football game in Tampa, Florida this fall. Both players were a big part of the Blue Team's Defense and contributed to the team win. Congratulations, Perry and Royce.



On March 4th, Panther Junior Taylor Woollett became the first ever Watervliet girl to take the podium in the Girl's State Tournament, placing 8th. Taylor worked hard and fought hard all season to earn wins. Congratulations, Taylor, and also to Riley Hess and Ayana Marshall who also earned the right to compete at the MHSAA State Tournaments with their Regional wins.



The Panther Varsity Basketball team captured a SAC Lakeshore Division Championship this winter and had an fantastic 20-4 season overall. Congratulations!

Watervliet Panther Athletics Hall of Fame

The 2023 Class has been selected and will be inducted on Friday, September 15 in Panther Stadium at the home football game vs. crosstown rival Coloma.

The WHS Athletics Hall of Fame class of 2023 will include:

Tom Lindeman, Athlete, Class of 1951

Jim Kolenko, Athlete, Class of 1969

Dave Null, Athlete, Class of 1974

Chuck Brock, Athlete, Class of 1977

Tracy (Frank) Sheffer, Class of 1983

Congratulations!

Winter Sports Conference, Division, & Southwest Awards Announced

Boys Basketball Lakeshore Division First Team: Tyson Williams, Kaiden Bierhalter, Wyatt Epple

Boys Basketball Lakeshore Division Honorable Mention: Brady Bornas

Girls Basketball Lakeshore Division First Team: Samantha Dietz, MJ Flowers, Grace Chisek

Girls Basketball Lakeshore Division Honorable Mention: Lilly Lefor, Ellie Golden

Wrestling All Conference 1st Team: Luke Isbrecht

Wrestling All Southwest 1st Team: Taylor Woollett

Wrestling All Southwest honorable Mention: Riley Hess, Ayana Marshall, Luke Isbrecht

Watervliet Relays Celebrates 50th Year



On Friday, April 21, 2023, teams from all over southwest Michigan will be competing for the prestigious title of the 50th Annual Watervliet Relays Champion. The Watervliet Relays stands as one of the oldest annual track meets in the state. Former track coaches Gene Bednarowski, Ron Farac, and Geof Geisler were some of those instrumental in the success, popularity, and longevity of the event.

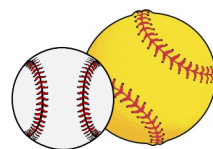
The meet began with boys races in 1972 and has been an annual event except for 1994 when a new track was being installed and 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Hartford was the first every Watervliet Relays Champion. Girls Relays were added in 1984 and Cassopolis took home the first girls championship. Holding current championship status are Berrien Springs for both the Boys and Girls. We are looking forward to seeing who will earn the titles in 2023.

At least 12 schools will participate in this year's event. Each year it is exciting to see which Relays records will be broken. Some of the longest standing records are in the boys 4x800 (won by Watervliet in 1974) and the 4x400 (Decatur, 1977). For the girls, long-standing records include the long jump (Covert, 1984), shot put (Marcellus, 1985), 4x200 (Cassopolis 1985) and Panther Relay (Cassopolis 1985).

Current event organizers and Watervliet track coaches Greg Grear and Aaron Weber are planning some special things for this year's 50th anniversary event and invite any alumni Relay participants or volunteers to come out to be part of the 50th running celebration. If you would like information about the 2023 Watervliet Relays, you may email either ggrear@watervlietps.org or aweber@watervlietps.org.



Spring Sports Forecast at a Glance



Varsity Baseball: Coach Tremblay tells us that the Panthers return a lot of talent from last year's squad (29-5) and look to repeat as Division and District Champs and to improve on last year's Regional run.

JV Baseball: JV boys look to stay successful with a few returning players and a lot of incoming freshman. Coach Eastman says they should be a tough team to beat throughout the year.

Girls Soccer: Coach Oetjens says the team is highly anticipating the season, and can't wait to hit the pitch with great intensity!

Varsity Softball: Girls Softball is coming off an Historic season in 2022, with a repeat of Conference, District and a trip to the Regional finals. The team also qualified for MHSAA Team Records with 36 (Wins), .401 (Batting Average), 476 (Total Hits), 476 (Runs Scored), 349 (RBI's), 237(Stolen Bases). Coach Golden is very optimistic and looking to continue success with seven key returners coming back.

JV Softball: JV Softball is excited for a fabulous season and Coach Muth says they can't wait to get in the dirt!

Girls Track: Girls track and field is excited to have what will be its largest squad in recent memory. The team should benefit from a healthy mix of experienced veterans and fresh, new talent according to Coach Weber.

Boys Track: The boys track team is coming off a great season, hoping to continue to develop over the upcoming season. Coach Grear says there are a lot of new, young faces on the team, eager to prove themselves worthy to hang with the upper classmen.

Golf: The golf team will have a number of new faces playing varsity matches this year as 5 of the top 7 golfers from 2022 have graduated. However, according to Coach Andrews, the current squad is certainly enthusiastic and ready to put in the work to fill the shoes of the departing seniors.

Digital Ticketing Comes to Watervliet Sports



Beginning with soccer this spring, Watervliet will be piloting GoFan Digital Ticketing. Event tickets will be sold online and may be purchased online at [GoFan.co](https://www.gofan.co) in advance of events or with a credit card at the gate. There will be no cash ticket sales. Track's **Watervliet Relays** tickets will also be sold through GoFan. Many schools in our area are already using digital ticketing, and all MHSAA post season event tickets are sold in this manner. Discounted punch passes and season passes as well as free senior passes (62+) will continue to be available and are good for admission as always.

NUTRITION SERVICES

"Nurturing Children from the inside out"

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

Telephone: 269-463-0799

Extra, Extra, Read All About It!

Starting June 12th, Watervliet Public Schools "Meet Up and Eat UP" will be up and running.

As promised, Watervliet Public School will be serving "FREE" meals to all children under the age of 18. Yippee.. Mom's, Dad's, Grandparents, and or Childcare providers, we are here to make your summer meal planning a snap. Big, little, small or tall, we are here to serve one and all. Let us do the work while your kiddos enjoy hassle free delicious and nutritious meals. Dates, times, and site locations are listed below:

Breakfast & Lunch are served

Monday through Thursday.

Breakfast 7:30-10:00 AM & Lunch 11:00-12:30 PM

(Please note, we will not be serving meals
the week of July 3rd - July 7th)

High School & Middle School, 450 East Red Arrow Hwy.

Watervliet North Elementary, 287 Baldwin Ave.

Watervliet South Elementary, 433 Lucinda Dr.



Wait! There's more:

June 15, June 29, July 13, & July 27 the Watervliet Public Library will be holding special events, including Magic of a Magician, For the Love of Animals, A Pretty Awesome Puppet Show, and The Benefit of Bees. After these programs, Watervliet Public Schools Nutrition services will serve a healthy lunch to all students in attendance! We can't wait to see you there!

For any questions, please reach out to Terry Adams via email at:

tadams@watervlietps.org.

"We are filling the need for every child to succeed."



SCHOOL BELL Issue 02 Spring 2023



450 E. Red Arrow Highway

Watervliet, MI 49098

Phone: 269-463-0300

www.watervlietps.org

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Watervliet, MI

Permit No. 21

Post Office or

Rural Box Holder

Watervliet, MI 49098

Kindergarten & Young 5's Round Up

Wednesday, March 29: 4:00 - 6:00 PM Saturday, April 1: 12:00 - 1:30 PM

South Elementary School, 433 Lucinda Lane, Watervliet

269-463-0860

Children need not attend with parents

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

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

