

# SCHOOL BELL

Publication for the Watervliet Public Schools Issue 01 Summer 2023

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# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

**Superintendent of Schools: Ric Seager**

**Email: [rseager@watervlietps.org](mailto:rseager@watervlietps.org)**

**Telephone: 269-463-0300**



## What Makes a Good School Culture?

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. This would not be possible without a strong and vibrant school culture that values high expectations, and a safe and supportive learning environment. An environment where trust, accountability, and respect are held in high regard.

Our school tagline has long been *Working Together to Keep Us Together!* This simple statement exemplifies the power of a school culture where the entire community works together to build a school where not only the skills and talents imparted to students are valued, but the community is made enhanced and the bonds that keep us together are strengthened. But what are the things that make a school culture? What elements and climate are necessary for such a culture to grow and thrive?

When considering this, I am reminded of the Parable of The Sower. In this parable, four types of soil are described. Each soil is imparted with knowledge and lessons - described as seeds.

The first is the soil by the road, where the seeds "fall by the wayside" - we might say, they fall through the cracks. They are not tended to and eventually are trampled and devoured by birds.

The second soil is rocky and unprepared, not nurturing. Here, the seeds may spring up, but they soon are lost because they lack water and nourishment.

The third soil is filled with weeds - resentment, selfishness, and unproductive behaviors. Even when the seeds are nurtured, the toxicity of the environment will choke out the good seed and fail to produce a crop.

The final soil is rich and nourishing - a place where the seed is nurtured and tended to; where expectations AND support work in harmony to provide a safe, supportive, and accountable environment. In this soil, the seeds grow and produce a good crop.



And so it is with a good school culture! Both school and community are needed to work together to tend to our school culture - creating "good soil" for our learners. When the farmer, farmhands, and neighbors tend to the soil by tilling, fertilizing, watering, and removing toxicity and weeds, a good crop is assured! We will realize great results in the form of high expectations, strong achievement, and a stronger community. When we ALL commit to working together to nurture our school culture, our students will certainly succeed!

Watervliet Public Schools has always enjoyed a strong school culture. But as any farmer knows, the soil can change over time. Innovation, intervention, renewal, and investment are needed when circumstances change. We are never done nurturing the soil. Thank you, Watervliet School Community, for working with us and for helping us continue our work at building a school culture that produces a "good crop" and that helps us strengthen our wonderful small community!

With Panther Pride

Ric Seager

Superintendent of Schools



# 2023-2024 District Calendar

Fri	Aug 18	New Teacher Orientation and PD
Mon	Aug 21	Floating Teacher Work Day
Tue	Aug 22	District Breakfast and Kick Off; District PD - 3hrs
Wed	Aug 23	District Professional Development Day - All Staff 8AM - 3PM; Open Houses
Thurs	Aug 24	District Professional Development Day - All Staff 8AM - 3PM
Mon	Aug 28	1st day of school- 1/2 day students, District PD in PM - 3 hrs
Fri-Mon	Sept 1,4	No School - Labor Day Weekend
Wed	Sept 20	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Friday	Sept 29	Mid-Marking Period Progress Report (MS/HS)
Wed	Oct 4	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Fri	Oct 6	Mid-Trimester Progress Report (Elem)
Wed	Oct 18	1/2 day Elem only- Afternoon and Evening Conferences
Thurs.	Oct 19	1/2 day Elem only Students and staff (comp time for teachers)- Eve Conf.
Thurs.	Oct 19	Full Day MS/HS- Evening Conferences
Fri	Oct 20	1/2 Day - Students and staff (comp time for teachers)
Wed	Oct 25	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Oct 27	End of 1st MP- (HS/MS)
Wed	Nov 1	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Wed	Nov 15	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Nov 17	End 1st Trimester (Elem) 1/2 Day (Virtual Records)
Wed	Nov 22	1/2 day Students and Staff- Day before Thanksgiving
Thur-Fri	Nov 23-24	Thanksgiving Break
Wed	Nov 29	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Fri	Dec 1	Mid-Marking Period Progress Report (MS/HS)
Wed	Dec 13	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Mon-Fri	Dec 25-Jan 5	Christmas Break
Mon	Jan 8	Students Return
Wed	Jan 10	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Wed - Fri	Jan 17-19	1/2 day HS/MS Exams (Virtual Records)
Fri	Jan 19	Mid-Trimester Progress Report (Elem); End Semester 1 (Secondary)
Wed	Jan 24	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Wed	Jan 31	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Thurs	Feb 8	1/2 day Elem- Afternoon/Evening Conferences
Thurs	Feb 8	Full Day MS/HS- Evening Conferences
Fri	Feb 9	1/2 day All students and staff
Mon	Feb 12	No School- Mid-Winter Break
Fri	Feb 23	Mid-Marking Period Progress Report (MS/HS)
Wed	Feb 28	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Mar 1	End of 2nd Trimester (Elem) 1/2 Day (Virtual Records)
CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE		

## 2023-2024 District Calendar (continued)

Wed	Mar 13	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Wed	Mar 27	2 hr. Early Release Building PD
Thur	Mar 28	End of 3rd MP - Secondary
Fri	Mar 29	Good Friday- No School
Mon-Fri	Apr 1	Spring Break
Mon	Apr 8	School Resumes
Wed	Apr 17	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Apr 26	Mid-Trimester Progress Report - Elementary
Wed	May 1	2 hr- Early Release Building PD
Fri	May 3	Mid-Marking Period Progress Report (MS/HS)
Wed	May 15	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Mon	May 27	No School-Memorial Day
Tues	June 4	1/2 day all Students- HS/MS Exams, Elem EOY Parent meetings
Wed	Jun 5	1/2 day all Students- HS/MS Exams, Elem EOY Parent meetings
Thur	Jun 6	1/2 day all Students- Last day of School; End Semester 2 (Secondary)

If Berrien RESA institutes a full-day county-wide PD, then the following changes will take place. Thursday, August 24th, becomes all-day District SI, Wed Oct 25th, Wed Jan 24th, Wed May 15th all become full days of school.



## 2023-2024 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 & High School

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

### GSRP

Monday - Thursday  
 1st Day: 9/11 Last Day: 5/16  
 8:00 - 3:00 Full Day  
 8:00 - 11:30 Half Day  
 8:00 - 1:00 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 & 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	Jennifer Higdon
North School	287 Baldwin Avenue	463-0820	3-5 & Preschool	Lori Pline	Desiree Davis
South School	433 Lucinda Lane	463-0860	Young 5's-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		



# SCHOOL BUS ROUTES

Transportation Coordinator: Kathy Litaker Email: [klitaker@watervlietps.org](mailto:klitaker@watervlietps.org)

Telephone: (Office) 269-463-0739

## BUS 2 - Angie Warren

6:53	Leaving Bus Garage
6:58	North on M-140 turning West on Forest Beach Rd
7:00	West on Forest Beach Rd at corner of Wakazoo Way
7:02	West on Forest Beach Rd at corner of Park Dr
7:05	South on Forest Beach Rd turning East on Florence Ave
7:06	East on Florence Ave at corner of Stanley Ave
7:07	East on Florence Ave turning North on Huntoon Ave
7:08	North on Huntoon Ave at corner of Courtyard Pl
7:10	North on Huntoon Ave turning East on Forest Beach Rd
7:12	East on Forest Beach Rd turning South on Forest Park Ave
7:13	South on Forest Park Ave turning West on W Parsons Ave
7:14	West on W Parsons Ave turning North on Richard Ave
7:15	North on Richard Ave turning West on Twin Hills Dr
7:17	West on Twin Hills Dr turning South on Western Ave
7:18	South on Western Ave turning East on Van Atter Ct
7:19	East on Van Atter Ct at corner of Lewiston St
7:20	East on Van Atter Ct turning South on Richard Ave
7:22	South on Richard Ave turning West on Riverside Dr
7:23	West on Riverside Dr turning South on Western Ave
7:24	South on Western Ave turning East on Paw Paw Ave
7:25	<b>School Of Choice stop at Watervliet Free Methodist Church</b>
7:30	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle & High School

## BUS 10 - DeAnna Eisen

6:55	Leaving Bus Garage
7:00	North on M-140 turning North on N Watervliet Rd
7:06	North on N Watervliet Rd crossing M-140
7:08	North on N Watervliet Rd crossing Hagar Shore Rd
7:11	North on N Watervliet Rd turning West on 48th Ave
7:13	West on 48th Ave crossing M-140
7:14	West on 48th Ave turning South on Paw Paw Lake Rd
7:20	<b>School of Choice stop at corner of Hagar Shore Rd</b>
7:30	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle & High School

## BUS 3 - Tina Tucker

6:30	Leaving Bus Garage
6:38	South on M-140 turning East on Territorial Rd
6:40	East on Territorial Rd turning South on Arent Rd
6:43	South on Arent Rd turning East on Napier Ave
6:44	East on Napier Ave turning North on Nichols Rd
6:45	North on Nichols Rd turning East on Yund Rd (turn around at County Line Rd)
6:49	West on Yund Rd turning North on Nichols Rd
6:51	North on Nichols Rd turning East on Territorial Rd
6:55	<b>School of Choice stop at corner of Territorial Rd &amp; County Line Rd/70th St</b>
6:57	North on County Line Rd/70th St at corner of 84th Ave
7:08	North on County Line Rd/70th St at 66th Ave
7:14	North on County Line Rd/70th St turning West on Red Arrow Hwy
7:15	West on Red Arrow Hwy at corner of Sadler Dr
7:25	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle & High School

## BUS 4 - Sue Grzanich

6:40	Leaving Bus Garage
6:51	South on M-140 turning West on Empire Ave
6:54	West on Empire Ave turning South on Bainbridge Center Rd
6:55	South on Bainbridge Center Rd turning East on Napier Ave
6:58	East on Napier Ave turning South on M-140
7:02	South on M-140 turning West on Meadowbrook Rd
7:02	<b>School of Choice stop at 1st driveway on North on Meadowbrook Rd</b>
7:08	West on Meadowbrook Rd turning around at Randall Ave
7:10	East on Meadowbrook Rd turning North on Bainbridge Center Rd
7:17	North on Bainbridge Center Rd turning East on Territorial Rd
7:19	East on Territorial Rd turning North on M-140
7:30	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle & High School

# SCHOOL BUS ROUTES Continued

BUS 5 - Chad Gillaspay	
6:35	Leaving Bus Garage
6:45	School of Choice stop at Marathon Gas Station, Napier Ave
6:50	West on Napier Ave turning North on Bainbridge Center Rd
6:55	North on Bainbridge Center Rd crossing Territorial Rd
6:56	School of Choice stop at Bainbridge Township Hall
7:02	North on Bainbridge Center Rd crossing N Branch Rd
7:07	North on Bainbridge Center Rd/Hennesey Rd at corner of Thomas Dr
7:08	North on Hennesey Rd turning East on Red Arrow Hwy
7:10	East on Red Arrow Hwy at Pleasant View Estates
7:20	Drop South School
7:20	South School shuttle to North, Middle & High Schools
7:25	Drop North School
7:25	North School shuttle to South, Middle & High Schools
7:28	East on E St Joseph St/Red Arrow Hwy at corner of Allen Ct

BUS 9 - Rhonda Mannino	
6:53	Leaving Bus Garage
6:54	East on Red Arrow Hwy at corner of John Goff Rd
6:56	East on Red Arrow Hwy turning North on County Line Rd/70th St
6:57	North on County Line Rd/70th St at corner of Shar Sue Dr
6:59	North on County Line Rd/70th St turning West on Dwight Boyer Rd
7:00	School of Choice stop at corner of Huckaba Lane
7:02	West on Dwight Boyer Rd turning North on M-140
7:04	North on M-140 turning East on Hagar Shore Rd
7:06	East on Hagar Shore Rd turning North on County Line Rd/70th St
7:08	North on County Line Rd/70th St turning West on 48th Ave
7:12	West on 48th Ave turning South on M-140
7:16	South on M-140 turning West on Forest Beach Rd
7:18	West on Forest Beach Rd at corner of Pottawattamie
7:19	West on Forest Beach Rd turning South on Forest Park Ave

continued →

BUS 7 - Donald Higginbottom	
6:30	Leaving Bus Garage
6:37	South on M-140 turning East on Danneffel Rd
6:46	East on Danneffel Rd turning North on County Line Rd/70th St
6:49	North on County Line Rd/70th St turning West on N Branch Rd
6:55	West on N Branch Rd crossing M-140
7:00	West on N Branch Rd turning North on Bainbridge Center Rd
7:02	North on Bainbridge Center Rd turning East on Hill Rd
7:04	East on Hill Rd crossing M-140
7:07	North on Hill Rd turning East on Carmody Rd
7:08	East on Carmody Rd turning North on County Line Rd/70th St
7:10	North on County Line Rd/70th St turning West on Dan Smith Rd
7:17	West on Dan Smith Rd turning North on M-140
7:20	North on S Main St/M-140 turning West on W St Joseph St/Red Arrow Hwy
7:22	West on Red Arrow Hwy turning North on Cherry St
7:23	North on Cherry St turning West on Elm St
7:24	West on Elm St turning South on Chestnut St
7:25	South on Chestnut St turning East on Red Arrow Hwy
7:30	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle & High School

BUS 9 - Rhonda Mannino (Continued)	
7:19	South on Forest Park Ave turning East on Orchard Ave
7:20	East on Orchard Ave turning North on N Watervliet Rd
7:20	North on N Watervliet Rd turning East on Forest Beach Rd
7:21	East on Forest Beach Rd turning South on M-140
7:22	South on M-140 turning East on Airport Dr
7:24	East on Airport Dr turning West on Baldwin Ave
7:30	Drop South School
7:35	Drop North School
7:45	Drop Middle & High School

## ADDITIONAL SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION

Shuttle Bus Information		
ALL shuttles will be on Bus #5 in AM & PM		
AM PICK-UP TIMES:		PM DROP OFF TIMES:
7:20	South to North	3:00
7:20	South to Middle/High School	3:10
7:25	North to South	3:05
7:25	North to Middle/High School	3:10
7:30	Middle/High School to South	3:28
7:30	Middle/High School to North	3:22

School of Choice stops:			
AM PICK-UP TIMES:			PM DROP OFF TIMES:
7:25	Free Methodist Church, Paw Paw Ave (This will replace the YDC Building stop)	Bus 2	3:50
6:55	Territorial Rd & County Line Rd	Bus 3	3:45
7:00	Meadowbrook Rd & M-140	Bus 4	3:35
6:45	Marathon Gas Station	Bus 5	3:45
6:55	Bainbridge Township Hall	Bus 5	3:55
7:00	Dwight Boyer Rd & Huckaba Lane	Bus 9	3:25
7:20	Paw Paw Lake Rd & Hagar Shore Rd	Bus 10	3:35

Kindergarten/Young 5's Special Bus Information
When delivering Kindergarten/Y5 students home, <b>someone must be seen</b> or the driver will bring the student back to South School.
<b>No K/Y5 student will be dropped off if the driver does not see someone!</b>

Pleasant View Estates		
AM PICK-UP TIMES:		PM DROP OFF TIMES:
7:10	There will only be one bus stop in the AM & PM in BUS #5	3:35

## NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

In order to register a student new to the District parents will need to provide the student's original birth certificate, Immunization record, and residency documents.

**You must provide ONE of the following:**

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

**And you must ALSO provide ONE of the following:**

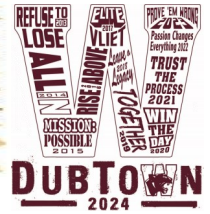
- ⇒ Michigan Drivers License or State ID with current Watervliet In-District Address, Current utility bill in the name and address of person enrolling the student (gas, electric, water or cable bill only). Mailing address MUST match the service address, or Current U.S. Passport or Michigan Voter ID Card



# PANTHER ATHLETICS



Ken Dietz, Athletic Director [kdietz@watervlietps.org](mailto:kdietz@watervlietps.org) 269-463-0758  
Nancy Scowcroft, Assistant [nschowcroft@watervlietps.org](mailto:nschowcroft@watervlietps.org) 269-463-0733



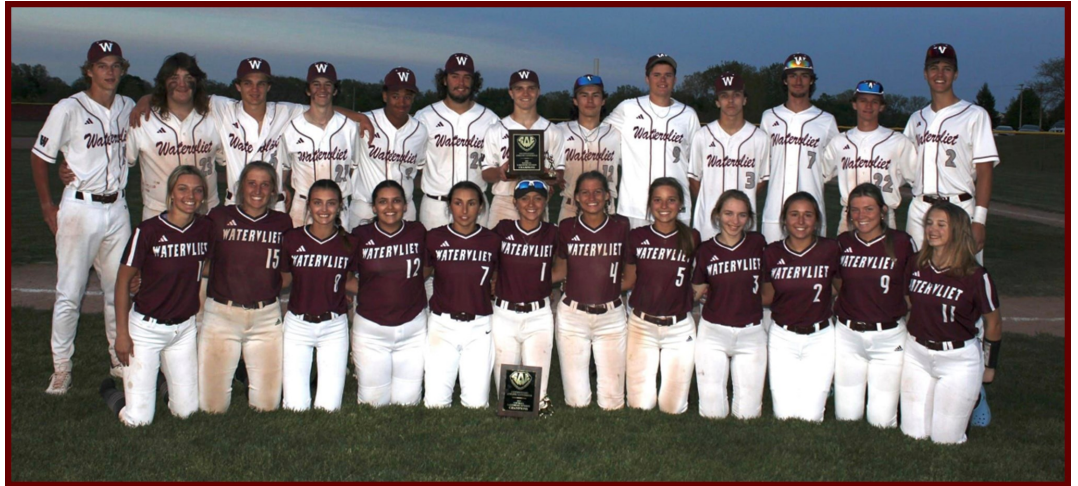
## Spring Wrap-Up



Watervliet Panther Track had a fantastic spring season and finished it off sending five members to compete at the State Finals. Qualifiers were: Anya Sexton (Long Jump), Aleah Sexton (Discus), Tia Caldwell (400 meter run), Royce Daugherty (Shot put), and Dani Mandujano (1600 meter run).



Congratulations to our Panther Softball and Baseball teams which both captured back-to-back SAC Lakeshore Conference wins in the spring. Panther baseball then went on to earn both the District title and a very impressive Regional championship — only the second in WHS history! Finally, kudos to Panther Varsity Baseball Coach Josh Tremblay who was named All District Coach-of-the-Year.



## Watervliet Athletics Hall Of Fame

On Friday, September 15 at half-time of the varsity football game against Coloma we will be inducting the *CLASS OF 2023* into the Watervliet Athletics Hall of Fame. This year's inductees will include:

**Tom Lindemann (1951)**

**Jim Kolenko (1969)**

**Dave Null (1974)**

**Chuck Brock (1977)**

**Tracy (Frank) Sheffer (1983)**

You can help us decide who will be elected to the Hall in 2024. Nominations are open now until October 1st on our district website, [www.watervlietps.org](http://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](http://www.wpspanthers.com)**

## PANTHER ATHLETICS (continued)

### **NEW FOR 2023-2024 — ALL DIGITAL TICKETING!!**

All individual ticket sales for Panther Athletic Events will be electronic. Fans may purchase tickets in advance of events at [www.gofan.co](http://www.gofan.co) or at the gate with a credit or debit card. There will be NO CASH TICKET SALES!



## **New Ticket Prices**

**UPDATE**

**GATE ADMISSIONS**  
**2023-2024**

**SAC**  
SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

High School Sports: \$6 per person  
Middle School Sports: \$4 per person

2023-2024 individual event admission for Watervliet Public Schools and all other SAC schools has been set at **\$6 for high school events and \$4 for middle school events. Watervliet will admit students free to middle school games.**

This is the first admission price increase since 2006. Officials' fee Increases and other operating cost increases throughout the league have necessitated the price increase.

**For home games, we continue to encourage Panther fans to purchase athletic passes in advance.** If you attend games regularly, these passes can save you a significant amount of money. As always, Senior Citizen passes are issued free of charge, and pre-school children are admitted to events for free.

**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 in addition to single event ticketing**

- ⇒ **2023-2024 All Season Family Pass:** \$175 for a family of four. May include up to two adults living in the same household (\$25 for each additional school age dependent child added to a Family Pass). Pass may be used at both HS & MS Events.
- ⇒ **Single Person All Season Pass:** \$75
- ⇒ **Adult Punch Pass:** \$40 for 10 events (save \$2 per HS event attended)
- ⇒ **Student Punch Pass:** \$30 for 10 events (save \$3 per HS event attended)
- ⇒ **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, or post-season games. Multiple individuals may use one Punch Pass. Senior passes will be honored at all SAC schools.

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

**Note: Family Passes may be paid for in installments as long as the total is fully paid by the October 31.**

# PANTHER ATHLETICS Continued

This year's theme will be **"DubTown"** We had a record number of students vote this summer for our theme. Ninety three sophomores, juniors, and seniors voted for one of three nominated themes. DubTown was selected by a substantial margin!



Each year, WHS Athletics hosts a varsity volleyball tournament at the start of the season. On August 26 beginning at 9:00 AM, teams from Brandywine, Constantine, Decatur, Schoolcraft and South Haven — along with our Panthers — will vie for this year's trophy. Come out and support our athletes! Tickets are available now at [www.GoFan.co](http://www.GoFan.co) or may be purchased at the door on the day of the tournament with a credit/debit card only (no cash sales).

## FALL COACHING STAFF

### FOOTBALL

Varsity Head Coach: Josh Tremblay

[jtremblay@watervlietps.org](mailto:jtremblay@watervlietps.org)

Assistants: Kevin Eastman

JV Head Coach: Geoff Jacobs

[jacobs2502@gmail.com](mailto:jacobs2502@gmail.com)

Assistants: Kyle Burke & Tyler Ledesma

Middle School Head Coach: Jeff Riley

[jeffriley4316@comcast.net](mailto:jeffriley4316@comcast.net)

Assistants: Ben Loshbough & Tyler Brant

### VOLLEYBALL

Varsity Head Coach: Edie Daugherty

[coachdarty@yahoo.com](mailto:coachdarty@yahoo.com)

JV Head Coach: Amanda Rader

[awall1208@gmail.com](mailto:awall1208@gmail.com)

Middle School Head Coaches:

Kaitlyn Head

[kaiterlynn10@gmail.com](mailto:kaiterlynn10@gmail.com)

Karianne Lane

[klane@laneautomotive.com](mailto:klane@laneautomotive.com)

### CROSS COUNTRY

Varsity Head Coach: Aaron Weber

[aweber@watervlietps.org](mailto:aweber@watervlietps.org)

Middle School Head Coach: Bryan Corkins

[bryan.corkins@watervlietps.org](mailto:bryan.corkins@watervlietps.org)

### BOYS SOCCER

Varsity Head Coach: Doug Bornas

[dbornas@mac.eng.com](mailto:dbornas@mac.eng.com)

Assistants: Chad Harris & Jorge Zuniga

Middle School Head Coach: Jason Oetjens

[joetjens@watervlietps.org](mailto:joetjens@watervlietps.org)

### CHEERLEADING

Varsity Head Coach: Madi Flagel

[madi@swexclusivegroup.com](mailto:madi@swexclusivegroup.com)





# NUTRITION SERVICES

**“Nurturing Children from the inside out”**

**Nutrition Services Director: Terry Adams    Email: [tadams@watervlietps.org](mailto:tadams@watervlietps.org)**

**Telephone: 269-463-0799**

## School Breakfast: What Families Need to Know

Breakfast plays an important role in our productive learning environment. Over the past several years, new research has shown a positive link between breakfast, learning and nutrition. However, many students come to school without eating breakfast. Thankfully, our district offers a free breakfast to all students, but because of family schedules, students may arrive late with not much time to eat, or a preference to be with friends instead of eating breakfast once they arrive at school. Programs like classroom breakfast grab and go breakfast or second chance breakfast can significantly increase the number of students that eat breakfast.

### **Eating Breakfast at School Leads to Better Student Performance \***

Students are more attentive.

Students perform better academically and have improved math grades.

Students perform better on standardized tests, especially math and vocabulary.

Improves students' behavior.

Decreases tardiness that can bring in extra revenue to schools.

Fewer disciplinary referrals.

Fewer trips to the nurse's office.



### **Eating Breakfast at School Leads to Better Student Nutrition \***

Students get more of the important nutrients like Calcium, Iron, Potassium, Folic Acid, Fiber and Protein.

Students have less risk of being overweight, lower Body Mass Indices (BM), an indicator of obesity risk. .

Students who eat a High Protein breakfast have more energy and better blood sugar levels.



### **Eating Breakfast at School supports Families and Community \***

We offer a wide variety of breakfast options.

We purchase fruits and veggies from farmers in our community.

Seasonal community purchases help our farmers.

All Students are offered a free breakfast, even after the bell.

Breakfast can take as little as 10 to 15 minutes.

As you can see our School Breakfast Program plays an essential role in our students' ability to learn and grow. We are always looking for ways to pursue the best interests of our students, to level the academic playing field, and to create a clear pathway to success for all our students. My hope is for you to see the value breakfast brings to our students and the positive impact it has on them. Our goal is to nurture every student as soon as they enter our buildings and that starts with a happy healthy environment. The positives far outweigh the negatives when we approach school breakfast as a creative way in supporting the success of all our students.

Respectfully,

Terry Adams

“Nurturing Students from the Inside Out”

Nutrition Service Director

## NUTRITION SERVICES continued

**Watervliet Public Schools Team Nutrition, Serving up smiles one little Panther at a time.  
Nurturing students from the inside out.**

Did you know today's school lunches meet federal nutrition standards including limits on calories, sodium and unhealthy fats?

Your school cafeteria professionals are working hard to make these healthy choices delicious for your students.

### EVERY SCHOOL LUNCH OFFERS:

- Fat-free or low-fat milk
- Fruits and vegetables
- Whole grains
- Lean proteins

**Enjoy the  
convenience of  
a school lunch  
at the low price  
of: FREE!**

Free, that's right all first meals served to students are FREE. A second lunch may be purchased for \$5.50. Please speak to one of our friendly staff members if you have any questions.



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.

**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.

### **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.



# Student Nutrition Needs

## Healthy Vibes - Fuel Your Adventure

We all want to be our strongest, best selves, and when it comes down to it, a positive mindset and healthy meals makes for a Happy Healthy You!

### So, what is a healthy meal?

A healthy meal should incorporate all 5 food groups. Which include, fruits, veggies, low-fat dairy, whole grains, and lean protein.

A variety of fruits and veggies, let's face it not everyone likes the same fruits and veggies, that's why we offer several of each with all meals.

A well balanced breakfast is the first step towards a happy healthy you. Breakfast is fuel that helps carry our students through until lunch.

And finally, staying hydrated. The proper hydration, makes sure your body is getting enough fluids, like water or milk. DYK calcium is an electrolyte, and you lose it when you sweat. Students who have physical education, band, or morning workouts need proper hydration. **Did you know that white or chocolate milk rehydrates just as well as water?** That is why we offer a variety of milk with each meal.

### Why do students need a healthy meal?

Because our students need nutrition to help keep them looking and feeling their best. Their muscles and bones are growing NOW. Yes, at this very moment! Calcium and vitamin D are major nutrients needed, and most of our students are not getting enough.

Healthy meals help arm them against potential fractures or injuries. **Get this, strong bones are built with the calcium and vitamin D found in milk.**

Healthy meals give students the energy to CONQUER!



### How do our students get a healthy meal?

Watervliet Public Schools Team Nutrition offers a free breakfast and lunch to **ALL** students that meet federal guidelines that are aimed for the health and wellbeing of our students. We know life can be busy, especially between extracurriculars and homework. So, whatever your adventure may be, I want you to know I am here for our students. I want to spread the word to our Families and Community to let you know I want every student to go confidently on their journey to becoming their best self. "Nurturing Students From the Inside Out"

Terry E. Adams, Nutrition Service Director

[tadams@watervlietps.org](mailto:tadams@watervlietps.org)

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider.**





**Watervliet Public Schools**  
**November 7, 2023 Bond Proposal**  
***Frequently Asked Questions & Answers***

**Watervliet Public Schools voters will consider a school bond proposal on the November 7, 2023 election ballot.**

**PROPOSED BOND PROJECT SCOPE INFORMATION**

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***What is a bond proposal and how can funds from a bond be spent?***

A bond proposal is how a public school district can ask its voters for authorization to borrow money and levy taxes to pay for capital expenditures. Voter-approved bond funds can be spent on items like new construction, additions, remodeling, site improvements, athletic facilities, playgrounds, furnishings, equipment, and technology. Funds raised through the sale of bonds cannot be used on operational expenses such as employee salaries and benefits, school supplies, and textbooks. Bond funds must be kept separate from operating funds and must be audited by an independent auditing firm, pursuant to State law.

***What are the key projects in this bond proposal?***

This bond proposal focuses on three key areas:

**Safety and Security**

- New secure building entrance at the Middle School
- Classroom door hardware upgrades
- New security doors
- Parking lot improvements at the High School to address vehicular & pedestrian traffic issues

**Improving Aging Buildings**

- Restroom remodeling, improving ADA access
- Mechanical upgrades and water heater replacement
- Resurface track and construct new concessions, restroom and storage building at the stadium

**Educational Programming / Learning Environments**

- Addition of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) classrooms at the elementary schools for hands-on learning
- Addition of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) / Robotics classroom at the Middle / High School for hands-on learning
- Cafeteria, auxiliary gym and weight room addition at the High School
- Science lab improvements
- Selective furniture replacements

For a detailed list, see the district website.

***What is “STEM” and the importance of that program?***

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. STEM programs blend together those subject matters into a curriculum. STEM programs help students develop key skills: problem-solving, creativity, critical analysis, teamwork, independent thinking, initiative, communication, and digital literacy. Students with STEM skills may have additional opportunities for employment and more capable to meet employers needs. Local employers have voiced their desire for workers with higher-level STEM skills for today's workforce.

### ***What are the qualities of STEM classrooms?***

A STEM workspace or lab space needs to support making, learning, exploring, and collaborating that uses high-tech to no-tech tools. These are hard-working spaces typically with concrete flooring, electrical power for tools and equipment, large surfaces for building & sharing materials.

### ***Why is a new auxiliary gym included in the proposed projects?***

There is a lack of gym space district-wide for various sports and extracurricular activities, including school gatherings, practices, and community events. Practices are having to be scheduled late in the evening. The new auxiliary gym would provide additional space for events, practices and games, and also provide more space for large gatherings.

### ***When is the last time Watervliet had a bond proposal?***

In 2014, Watervliet voters approved a bond proposal for \$23,035,000 for infrastructure improvements to aging buildings to things such as roofs, boilers, and lighting. The 2014 bond program was Phase 1 of the Master Plan for district facilities, which was developed in 2010. The 2023 bond proposal was developed as Phase 2 of the Master Plan, to continue addressing infrastructure needs, but also to update safety & security, and enhance educational programming.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### ***If approved, would the bond proposal have any impact on our current operational budget?***

Bond proposal funds cannot be used for the general fund or operating purposes. However, if approved, the bond may have a positive impact on the annual operating budget in that operating funds otherwise intended or needed for capital expenditures could be spent on student programs and resources.

### ***Would money from the bond proposal be used to pay teachers' salaries and benefits?***

No. School districts are not allowed to use funds from a bond for operating expenses such as teacher, administrator or employee salaries, routine maintenance, or operating costs. Bond proceeds must be kept separate from operating funds and bond proceed expenditures must be audited by an independent auditing firm pursuant to State law.

### ***How would the bond proposal impact my property taxes?***

If approved by voters, it is estimated that the debt tax rate for 2024 would increase by 1.7 mills over the current debt tax rate. This equals approximately an additional \$7.08 per month for every \$100,000 of market value home. This is an estimate for informational purposes only.

MARKET VALUE	TAXABLE VALUE	COST/YEAR	COST/MONTH	COST/WEEK
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$85.00	\$7.08	\$1.63
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$170.00	\$14.17	\$3.27
\$300,000	\$150,000	\$255.00	\$21.25	\$4.90

To look up your taxable value in Berrien County: Contact the local municipality where the property is located.

To look up your taxable value in Van Buren County: [Van Buren County \(bsaonline.com\)](http://bsaonline.com)

### ***If approved, when would the millage for this proposal first be levied?***

On the July 1, 2024 property tax bill.

### ***Are businesses and second homes (non-homestead) and primary homes (homestead) treated the same for the purpose of the bond millage?***

Yes, businesses and second homes (non-homestead) and primary homes (homestead) are treated the same for the purpose of the bond millage debt levy.



## Welcome Back South Panther Families!

We are excited that the start of the 2023-2024 school year is right around the corner! We have missed all our mighty panthers and are looking forward to welcoming everyone that will be joining the South panther family this year. It is our hope that the summer has provided students and their families with opportunities to spend some quality time making memories together. The South staff are excited to see all our new and returning students and families to hear about all of your summer adventures as we get the wonderful new year started.

Our first opportunity to be back together will be Wednesday, August 23rd from 4-6 pm during our Open House. Make sure to come meet your child's teacher for the upcoming year and learn about all the ways you can get involved and engaged with our school community! Our mission at South is JOYFUL LEARNING! We are dedicated to this mission, our students, our families, and our community. Let's make this coming year an incredible one together!

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!



#### North and South Elementary PE

My name is Daren Bongiorno and I will be the new Elementary P.E. Teacher. I am entering my 15th year of teaching, five of which I was a 5th grade teacher. I have been in Elementary P.E. since the 2014-2015 school year. I love traveling, hiking, and spending time outdoors. However, what I enjoy the most is spending time with, my favorite Watervliet teacher, Mrs. Bongiorno and my two young daughters (Amelia who just turned two and Sloane who is five months old).



#### South Elementary Young 5's

My name is Lindsey Bergthold (Mrs. B) and I will be joining the family at South Elementary teaching Young Fives. I live in Kalamazoo with my husband and our three children who attend Mattawan schools. Our son will be in eighth grade, and our two daughters will be going into sixth and third grade. Sewing, crochet, coffee, winter, photography, puzzles, bonfires, playing games and just being with my family are just some of the things I love most. We moved to Michigan in 2017 from Yorkville, Illinois and have absolutely fallen in love with this state. I taught second grade for seven years, stayed home with our kids for four years, and returned to work as a paraprofessional for special education in Mattawan for the last three years. I finished the last month and a half of last school year covering a maternity leave for a kindergarten class and was thrilled with the opportunity to join South's family as their new Young Five's teacher.



#### South Elementary 1st Grade

My name is Beth Kraemer. I have been a teacher for 25 years and have taught multiple grades throughout my career. I am so excited to be teaching 1st grade at Watervliet South School. I graduated from Western Michigan University where I received a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. I have been married to my husband, Doug, for 20 years. We have 2 wonderful teenagers, McKinleigh who is a senior and Maverick who is a sophomore. I am a lifelong resident of Southwest Michigan and look forward to meeting and getting to know Watervliet families.



# SOUTH SCHOOL SCOOP

Principal: Sherry Wheeler Email: [sherry.wheeler@watervlietps.org](mailto:sherry.wheeler@watervlietps.org)

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



## Upcoming Important Dates:

**Wednesday, August 23:** Open House @ South School from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Students and Families will be able to meet their new teacher and learn about all the exciting opportunities to get involved at South Elementary this coming school year.

**Monday, August 28:** First Day of School / Doors Open at 7:25 a.m. / Half Day / Dismissal at 11:25 a.m.

**Tuesday, August 29:** Full Day of School

**Friday, September 1:** No School Labor Day Break

**Monday, September 4:** 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.

## South Elementary Drop Off / Pick Up

**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). Students that are walkers 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 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.....

- Todd Bailey, Michelle Mast, and Angie Warren for the AMAZING job they have done getting South Elementary cleaned and ready for the school year.
- Robin Smith and Stephanie Hauch for providing our students with the opportunity to have some fun while continuing to learn and grow academically over the summer.
- Steve Wooley and Joe Isbrecht, two members of our maintenance team, for assisting with some big jobs here at South over the summer making the grounds look incredible during the summer and for building a beautiful new flower box around our sign out front.

# NEWS FROM NORTH



Principal: Lori Pline Email: [lpine@watervlietps.org](mailto:lpine@watervlietps.org)  
Telephone: (North School Office) 269-463-0820

Welcome Back! We are so excited to welcome students back to the building!

Here at North, we are entering a season of change, and while the people who have moved on will be greatly missed, we are so very excited to start working with our new staff. After 25 years as a 5th grade teacher,

I am honored to serve the students, staff and parents of North School as the next principal. My husband and I are proud to be a part of the community. Watervliet has been our home for a long time and our children are both graduates of WPS.

Here's a photo of me with my family — my husband, Steve, and our children Cole and Allie.



The building has been a busy place this summer with YDC students here, as well as having workers climbing all over installing our NEW AC UNITS! Despite all the craziness, Mr. VK, Mrs. Lloyd and their helpers, Sam and Moeko have worked tirelessly to have the building ready for students. In the kitchen, Ms. Bell, Ms. Lindsay and Mrs. Crago served breakfast and lunch four days a week to all the YDC students and many others who Met up to Eat up.

Over at South, Mrs. Graffenius and Mrs. Romeo spent one last summer teaching the students of North in summer school. With Mrs. Leoni, they reviewed important skills, spent time reading and even did some pretty amazing STEM activities. Check out the pictures!

## DAILY SCHEDULE:

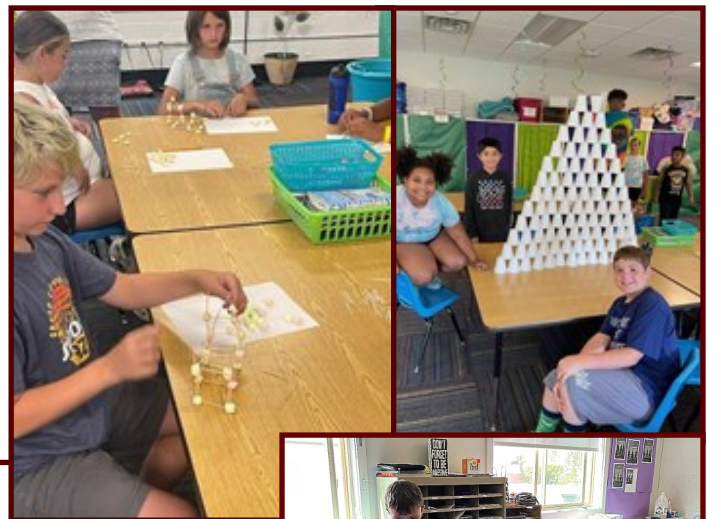
7:25 a.m.	School Opens
7:45 a.m.	Instructional Day Begins
2:55 p.m.	Student Dismissal
3:05 p.m.	Teachers' Day Ends
3:45 p.m.	Office Closes

## SPECIAL DISMISSAL TIMES:

Half Day Dismissal: 11:25 am  
Early Release Dismissal: 12:55 p.m.

## Upcoming dates:

- ♦ Wednesday August 23rd: Open House 4 -6
- ♦ Monday August 28th: 1st day of school / Half-Day/ Dismissal at 11:25 a.m.
- ♦ Tuesday August 29th: Full Day of School
- ♦ Friday September 1st: No School / Labor Day Break
- ♦ Monday September 4th: No School/ Labor Day Break
- ♦ Monday September 11th: 1st day of Preschool (GSRP)
- ♦ Wednesday September 20th; early Release Day / Dismissal at 12:55





# NEW NORTH SCHOOL STAFF!

My name is Daren Bongiorno and I will be the new Elementary P.E. Teacher. I am entering my 15th year of teaching, five of which I was a 5th grade teacher. I have been in Elementary P.E. since the 2014-2015 school year. I love traveling, hiking, and spending time outdoors. However, what I enjoy the most is spending time with my favorite Watervliet teacher, Mrs. Bongiorno and my two young daughters (Amelia who just turned two and Sloane who is five months old).



My name is Chelsey Soderborg! I'm really looking forward to teaching third grade at North Elementary. I previously taught kindergarten at Reeths-Puffer Elementary in Muskegon. When I'm not teaching I really enjoy spending time with my husband. I'm a really big Disney fan and really enjoy the Disney movies



Hi, my name is Nikkole Dewey. I graduated from Michigan State University and I've been

teaching elementary for 25 years. My husband and I have been together for 17 years. Our daughter Quinn is 9 years old and our Mini Bernedoodle Luna is one. This year I am very excited to teach 4th grade at North Elementary!

My name is Brenda Aguilar, I recently graduated from Western Michigan University with my degree in Elementary Education. I enjoy spending time with friends and family, traveling, and arts and crafts. I am beyond excited to begin my first year of teaching and live the moments I once dreamed of. I look forward to using the skills I've acquired to shape the minds of young learners and make a difference one child at a time.



I'm Laurieanne Eckerley and I am looking forward to my new position as one of the Resource Teachers at North Elementary. I am entering my 24th year of teaching special education and am incredibly excited to serve the Watervliet community. I am mom to two highschoolers who keep me running most days. When I am not attending their events I like to spend time outside hiking, on the water or inside reading or baking in my kitchen. I'm looking forward to seeing our students gain confidence in themselves as learners and am looking forward to building relationships with our Panther Families.



My name is Amy Christensen and I bring over 25 years of Special Education teaching experience to North Elementary! I live in Mattawan with my husband Chuck and dog Rudy. My daughter Claire is 23 and about to graduate with her RN degree from WMU. My son Kyle is 20 and attends KVCC. In my free time I love to travel, shop and read. I am so excited to be starting a new chapter at North Elementary!





## NEWS FROM NORTH Continued

### Pick-up and Drop-Off at North Elementary School

If your student is a car rider, please remember the changes we made to the car line last fall:

For car rider drop off and pick up at North School please use the following route:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Traveling North on M-140<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⇒ Turn LEFT onto N. Watervliet Road</li><li>⇒ Quick LEFT onto W. Orchard Avenue</li><li>⇒ Turn LEFT onto Forest Park Avenue</li><li>⇒ Turn LEFT onto Baldwin Avenue into the car rider lane</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Traveling South on M-140<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⇒ Turn RIGHT onto N. Watervliet Road</li><li>⇒ Quick LEFT onto W. Orchard Avenue</li><li>⇒ Turn LEFT onto Forest Park Avenue</li><li>⇒ Turn LEFT onto Baldwin Avenue into the car rider lane</li></ul></li></ul> |
|---|--|

Please watch for the crossing guard who will direct bus and car rider lane traffic.

Bus riders enter North from the gym doors. Walkers enter the building from the front door.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS

Principal: Dave Kindt

Email: [dkindt@watervlietps.org](mailto:dkindt@watervlietps.org)

Phone: 269-463-0780

### Welcome!

Welcome to the start of the new school year! We welcome the 2023-24 school year with open arms and building on the successes of the past two years! Before we get into that, let's welcome our newest Middle School team members!

- First, our front desk has a new person. **Mrs. Jennifer Higdon**. Although Mrs. Higdon did start at the very end of last year, we certainly have the pleasure of beginning our new with Mrs. Higdon as the center of the Middle School.
- **Christine Sargeant** - Mrs. Sargeant will be our 8th grade Social Studies teacher and she joins us from nearby Bangor. Her interest in theatre will also play a huge role in the future!
- **Michelle Marshall** - Mrs. Marshall is moving from the online HS position to our 8th grade ELA position. A position she held not so long ago, so it is great to have her back where she belongs!
- **Erik Cramer** - Mr. Cramer will be joining the 7th grade team as our Social Studies instructor and comes to us from Bronson schools!

### Important Dates:

Please join us at our Open House that is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd, from 4-6pm. The 6th grade orientation will be the day before on Tuesday, August 22nd, from around 10:30 to 2:30. The first day of school will be Monday, August 28th. Please remember it is a ½ day!

6th Grade Orientation -	Tuesday, August 22 (10:30 to 2:30)
Open House -	Wednesday, August 23 (4-6pm)
First day of school -	Monday, August 28, (½ day)

# MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS continued

## Successes!

We would like to continue to build and improve off the successes of the past few years. It should not go unnoticed that the MS continues to impress with our MAP growth scores compared to the county districts. We certainly have some bragging rights with 7th grade finishing #1 in growth and third in overall percentile in Reading and 7th grade math finished 2nd in growth and 4th in overall percentile. Folks this is amazing and testament to the hard work this team puts in day in and day out. I am so proud of this amazing team! They do so much for the students in this district and deserve credit for helping students reach their true potential. Can we do it? Yes, we can.

We also completed our first year under the PBIS Framework and look to expand upon this. We will be completing professional development in restorative practices to help us help students navigate certain behavioral situations. Many times students are asked to do so much they sometimes forget the way to work through situations in a healthy, productive way. More on that below! We can help them with this!



## Fine Arts

We look forward to another outstanding year in with our fine arts programs! Band is practicing already and they sound amazing! We look forward to a great year of performances in both Choir and Band. I cannot forget another year to look forward to theater performances on top of band and choir! We also look forward to the outstanding work our talented students deliver in visual arts and woodshop classes. We have some top-notch talent located right here in this district and no closer than our own Middle School is where we get to see a light shine on it!

## Summer School

The Middle School held summer school and students who participated has a great deal of success. A huge shout out to Mrs. Mantei and Mrs. Reitz for their daily work in putting together a fantastic summer school experience. The weather cooperated as well and that helped!

## 6th Grade Orientation

We are really getting ambitious and transforming our orientation process. We will host our 2nd annual 6th grade orientation, which 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 22nd (10:30 - 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!



# MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS continued

## PBIS

Our Positive Behavior Intervention System will continue to be implemented 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 three 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.

## Building

Our building is open to students at 7:55. Upon entering the building, students will follow the same procedure as last year and go directly to the gymnasium/cafeteria and will be served breakfast. They will be released at 8:00 to attend their Advisory courses.

The custodial staff has been working diligently all summer in addition to the newly installed safety alert system throughout the building. The rooms, hallways, bathrooms, etc. are all completely cleaned and look absolutely amazing! Thank you Jim, Dennis and Deanna.

## Communication

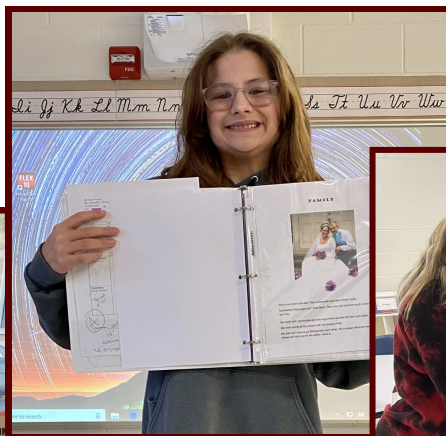
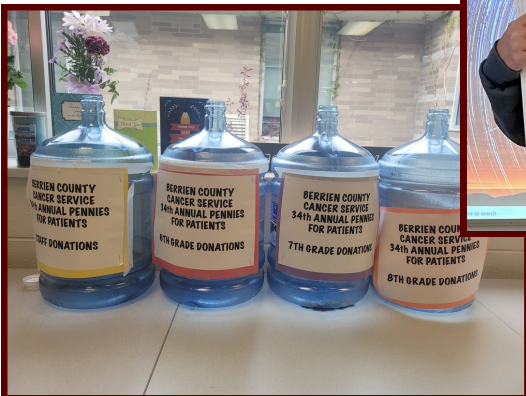
Communication will be going to you much the same way, but it will be a little different from our end. The emails and scheduled texts or phone calls will be going through a different medium. Don’t worry, no new apps to download! It will be the same as before for you, we will be using a different app here on our end that has synced with PowerSchool for all calls and emails! You will also be receiving updates to Live Feed and drops to FB and Instagram through the same process! Just want to be more communicative so you can see things that are happening during the day!

To close, we look forward to another exciting year in the middle school and want your student to experience the best version of themselves in the best version of our building and what we do and offer. Thank you for sharing your students with us each day!

With Panther Pride,

Mr. Kindt

WMS Principal





# HIGH SCHOOL HEADLINES

Principal: Christina Powers

Email: [cpowers@watervlietps.org](mailto:cpowers@watervlietps.org)

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



## Welcome New High School Staff!

### ZACK LINDERMAN

This year will be my 21st as a high school social studies teacher and basketball coach. I taught and coached the past two years at Bangor HS and the previous 18 years in my hometown of Chicago. I have a history degree from the University of Illinois and a Masters in Education from DePaul University. My family and I have really enjoyed our relocation to Southwest Michigan and I am very excited to join the Watervliet Community. I'm an avid fan of history and sports and especially love spending time with my 8 year old son Ray.



### BAILEY RIEDINGER

My name is Bailey Riedinger. My husband Brad and our 2 dogs, Penny & Tucker and I just moved to the Southwest, Michigan area. When I'm not spending time with my family I'm reading, crafting, or baking! I just completed my Master's degree in Reading & Literacy. I am looking forward to starting my 5th year of teaching as a Panther!



### CAROLYN SIMMONS

I will be completing my 35th year of teaching, half of those in high school level, and the other half in middle school. In those years, I have taught 6-12 English, AP English Literature and Composition, Yearbook, and Public Speaking. I taught English and Public Speaking for 17 years at Lake Michigan College as well and am currently an instructional coach for potential teachers through the Michigan Department of Education. I am married to Dr. Kevin Simmons, our former Dean of Students, who is now a high school principal. We have three grown children (two are married) who live in the Florida Keys, Illinois, and South Haven and have two grandchildren.



### LENNY MESCHINO



My name is Lenny Meschino and I'm really excited to be a WHS special education teacher this year! I am a parent of four kids—two girls and two boys, ages ranging from 7-17. I'm a proud US Navy Veteran and was deployed in 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. In my free time I enjoy attending my kids sporting and school events. I also enjoy fishing, wrestling, collecting sports cards, and exercising.

## WPS Welcomes New Middle School / High School Dean of Students Todd Dermody

My name is Todd Dermody. I am an experienced educator and a strong believer in the potential of every student. Over the past 13 years, I have taught students in a variety of capacities. I've been fortunate to serve as the Head of the CTE Department, as an Alternative Education Instructor, and as a Business Education Instructor at New Prairie High School in Indiana most recently.

Outside of work, I cherish my roles as a loving husband to Brooke and a devoted father to our daughter, Gemma, with a son on the way. My passion for sports extends beyond the classroom, as I've also coached both boys and girls basketball and track teams.

My educational journey began at Indiana University in South Bend, where I had the opportunity to play basketball. Later, I graduated from Purdue University North Central with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Marketing. Continuing my pursuit of knowledge, I recently achieved a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the American College of Education.

Now, I'm thrilled to embark on a new chapter in my career, joining the Watervliet community. I'm excited about the opportunity to work with the students and community members, and I feel grateful to be a part of the team.



### CHRIS COBURN

Hello everyone, my name is Chris Coburn. I'm excited to be joining Coloma and Watervliet High Schools this year as a College and Career Advisor. I'll be available to help students and parents determine "what's next?" after high school and navigate all kinds of college application processes. I'm originally from the Metro Detroit area, and I graduated from Kalamazoo College with a degree in English in 2019. During that time, I was fortunate enough to study abroad for a semester in Varanasi, India. In my spare time, I enjoy playing guitar, hockey, mountain biking, and bingeing new shows on Netflix.



### Class Advisers

We have an amazing team of class advisers at the high school this year who have already started preparing an amazing year for your child! We encourage all students to get involved with their Class and the annual events that make high school so fun and engaging. Please make a note of the contact information below for the advisers for your child's Class and encourage your child to get involved in all of the fun activities that will take place this year!

#### Freshmen Class Advisers:

Teresa Collins [tcollins698@gmail.com](mailto:tcollins698@gmail.com)  
and Kelli Lomoro [kl078@hotmail.com](mailto:kl078@hotmail.com)

#### Sophomore Class Advisers:

Don Higginbottom [dhigginbottom@watervlietps.org](mailto:dhigginbottom@watervlietps.org)  
and Connie Schroeder [connie@ydcpal.org](mailto:connie@ydcpal.org)

#### Junior Class Advisers:

Julie Querfurth [jmouse269@gmail.com](mailto:jmouse269@gmail.com) and  
Michelle Marshall [mmarshall@watervlietps.org](mailto:mmarshall@watervlietps.org)

#### Senior Class Advisers:

Angie Laws [lawsangelak@gmail.com](mailto:lawsangelak@gmail.com)  
and Angie Harris [3poolgirls@gmail.com](mailto:3poolgirls@gmail.com)



## HIGH SCHOOL HEADLINES Continued

# 2023-2024 WHS Calendar Dates

Aug 16 Mentor Training 9-2 (Junior and Senior Mentors)  
Aug 17 Freshmen Orientation 12-7 pm (Mentors and Freshmen)  
Aug 23 Open House 4-6 pm (ALL 10th-12th graders should attend)  
Aug 28 First Day of School; ½ day

Sep 1 Labor Day Break; No School  
Sep 4 Labor Day Break; No School  
Sep 15 MCTI Field Trip for students with an IEP  
Sep 18 Constitution Day  
Sep 20 Early Release Day  
Sep 20 Parent Presentation: IEP informational Night 6 pm  
Sep 21 Picture Day  
Sep 26 PAC 6 pm  
Sep 29 Michigan Works! Lunch time visit for students  
Sep 29 Progress Reports

Oct 2-6 Homecoming Week  
Oct 4 Early Release Day  
Oct 6 September Student of the Month Breakfast 8:15 AM  
Oct 6 Manufacturing Day  
Oct 4 Early Release Day  
Oct 10 Flu Shot Clinic  
Oct 11 PAC (Xello) 6 pm  
Oct 12 PSAT/NMSQT for 10th and 11th graders  
Oct 16 College Admissions Informational Night 6 pm  
Oct 19 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7 pm  
Oct 20 ½ day; College Fair  
Oct 20 9th Grade Career Pathway Day Berrien RESA

Oct 23 Fall Band Concert  
Oct 25 Early Release Day  
Oct 25 Picture Retake Day  
Oct 26 Fall Choir Concert  
Oct 27 End of MP 1

Nov 1 Early Release Day  
Nov 3 October Student of the Month Breakfast 8:15 AM  
Nov 15 Early Release Day  
Nov 16 Military Informational Night 6 pm  
Nov 22 ½ day; Career Fair  
November 23/24 Thanksgiving Break  
Nov 27 FAFSA Informational Night 7 pm  
Nov 29 Early Release Day  
Nov 29 PAC 6 pm

Dec 1 Progress Reports  
Dec 1 November Student of the Month Breakfast  
Dec 6 Early Middle College Informational Night 6 pm  
Dec 13 Early Release Day  
Dec 14 Winter Band Concert  
Dec 18 Winter Choir Concert  
Dec 20 PAC 6 pm  
Dec 25-Jan 5 Winter Break

Jan 8 Return to School  
Jan 10 Early Release Day  
Jan 12 December Student of the Month Breakfast 8:15 AM  
Jan 17-19 Half Days for Exams  
Jan 22 Start of semester 2  
Jan 24 Early Release Day  
Jan 24 Senior /Scholarships Informational Night 6 pm  
Jan 31 Early Release Day  
Jan 31 PAC 6 pm

Feb 2 January Student of the Month Breakfast 8:15 AM  
Feb 5-9 Winterfest Week  
Feb 8 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7 pm  
Feb 9 Half Day Start of Mid Winter Break  
Feb 12 No School Mid Winter Break  
Feb 15 Pre Festival Band Concert  
Feb 19 MCTI/Project Search Informational Night 6 pm  
Feb 22 Pre Festival Choir Concert 6:30 pm  
Feb 23 Progress Reports  
Feb 28 Early Release Day  
Feb 28 PAC 6 pm

Mar 1 February Student of the Month Breakfast 8:15 AM  
Mar 12 LMC Accommodations Informational Night 6 pm  
Mar 13 Early Release Day  
Mar 21 Van Buren Tech Informational Night 6 pm  
Mar 27 PAC 6 pm  
Mar 27 Early Release Day  
Mar 28 End of MP 3

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE



**WATERVLIET HIGH SCHOOL**

# OPEN HOUSE

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23RD 2023 4-6 PM**

<b>10th-12th GRADERS</b>	<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>
PICK UP YOUR SCHEDULE	MEET YOUR TEACHERS.
GET YOUR LOCKER	TOUR THE BUILDING.
PICK UP YOUR DEVICE	Please plan to enter through the cafeteria side of the building.
MEET with the COUNSELOR	

450 RED ARROW HIGHWAY WATERVLIET MICHIGAN



# HIGH SCHOOL HEADLINES Continued

## High School Calendar Dates (continued)

Mar 29 Good Friday No School  
Mar 29-Apr 5 Spring Break

Apr 8 School Resumes  
Apr 12 March Student of the Month Breakfast 8:15 AM  
Apr 17 Early Release Day  
Apr 22 Dual Enrollment Informational Night 6 pm  
Apr 24 PAC 6 pm

May 1 Early Release Day  
May 1 Decision Day 10 am (Seniors)  
May 3 Progress Reports  
May 3 April Student of the Month Breakfast 8:15 AM  
May 11 PROM 7-11 PM; place TBD  
May 15 Early Release Day  
May 15 Senior Awards Night 6 pm  
May 16 Spring Band Concert  
May 22 PAC 6 pm  
May 21-23 Senior Exams Days  
May 23 Spring Choir Concert  
May 24 Seniors' Last Day  
May 24 Car Parade  
May 27 Memorial Day; No School  
May 29 Baccalaureate 6 pm (Seniors)  
May 30 Senior Picnic/School visits and grad practice  
May 31 May Student of the Month Breakfast 8:15 AM  
May 31 Graduation 6:30 pm

June 3 Underclassmen Awards; time TBD  
June 4-6 Half Days for Exams  
June 6 Last Day of School



## DAILY SCHEDULE

### Full Day

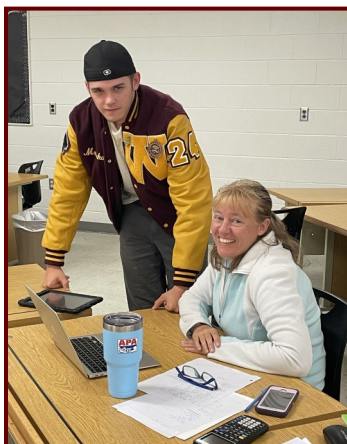
Period 1 8:10-9:02  
Period 2 9:07-10:01  
Period 3 10:06-10:57  
Lunch A 10:57-11:27  
Lunch A Class 11:32-12:23  
Lunch B 11:27-11:57  
Lunch B Class 11:02-11:22/11:52-12:23  
Lunch C 11:53-12:23  
Lunch C Class 11:02-11:53  
Period 5 12:28-1:19  
Period 6 1:24-2:15  
Period 7 2:20-3:10

**Students will find out on the first day of school what lunch they will have for the semester.**

### Early Release Schedule

Period 1 8:10-8:45  
Period 2 8:50-9:24  
Period 3 9:29-10:03  
Period 4 10:08-10:42  
Period 5  
A Lunch 10:47-11:17  
A Class 11:17-11:51  
B Class 10:47-11:21  
B Lunch 11:21-11:51  
Period 6 11:56-12:30  
Period 7 12:35-1:10

**Students will eat the same lunch as their 5th hour teacher.**



## Parent Canvas Account

*For information and directions on how to use your parent Canvas account to check grades, view assignments or message teachers, visit [www.watervlietps.org](http://www.watervlietps.org) and click on the Canvas for Parents Link in the middle of the home page. Here is the link too: <https://www.watervlietps.org/o/wps/page/canvas-resources>*

# Words from **W-A-Y Watervliet HS**

Principal: Jason Oetjens   email: [joetjens@watervlietps.org](mailto:joetjens@watervlietps.org)   Telephone: 269-463-0898

## WAY Graduates

The staff at WAY would like to extend congratulations to our latest graduates! Fifteen students received their diplomas on August 9, 2023 in the high school auditorium. These students worked very hard and many of them overcame immense obstacles to get to this wonderful evening of celebration. We all wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

Aidon Rodriguez

Dakota Martin

Bram Cheek

Sumner Robbins

Corbin Peterson

Ashton Miller

Abel Villarreal

AJ Hammond

Amarae Williams

Camden Reyna

Dylan Joyner

Mackenzie Garcia

## WAY Induction FALL 2023/2024:

This fall, WAY will be inducting 18+ new students to the program! These students will make a great addition to the WAY program, and we continue to gain more applications each week. The WAY staff is excited to work with these new students. 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 provide cross-curricular projects that enhance life-long learning.

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. We welcome these new students to the W-A-Y Watervliet High School program.

## WAY Students Exploring New Opportunities

Ayla Lambrecht and Rachel Saldivar will be attending LMC and SMC in the fall to pursue exciting opportunities in dual enrollment courses. Ayla has been attending LMC this past school year with the goal of graduating next August with not only her diploma but also with an Associates degree. She wishes to attend Western Michigan University next year with the goal of becoming an English teacher. Rachel also hopes to graduate with an Associates degree from SMC; she has not officially declared her post high school plans. Rachel came to us as a true sophomore from the Pokagon Tribe last year and has worked very hard in the program to become a junior that is well ahead in credits.



**Ayla**



**Rachel**

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

Director: Danny Bartz

Email: [daniel.bartz@watervlietps.org](mailto:daniel.bartz@watervlietps.org)

## ***New Classroom Expands On-Campus Special Education Options***

At the start of the 2023-24 school year, North Elementary will open its doors to a specialized classroom designed to meet the unique needs of students with a mild cognitive impairment. This program provides a necessary improvement to the overall special education options offered within Watervliet Public Schools.

Prior to the MiCI classroom at North Elementary being approved, students from Watervliet were referred to similar classrooms; one at Lakeshore Public Schools and one at Niles Community Schools. Capacity limits in these classrooms often left students from Watervliet and other districts placed on a waiting list. With support from Berrien RESA and federal grant funding, Watervliet students and students attending other districts within Berrien County may be referred to the MiCI program.

The new MiCI classroom at North Elementary does more than just add a much needed program to the special education continuum at Watervliet. It will decrease the number of students on other special education teacher caseloads allowing these teachers to provide more intensive instruction to fewer students at a time; resulting in increased achievement levels at a faster rate, coupled by a decrease in the amount of core content missed when a student is pulled out of a general education classroom.

A veteran teacher, Amy Jasso, will be the classroom teacher. Amy has a wide-range of experience, including providing instruction in a self-contained special education classroom. Most recently, Amy served as the resource room teacher at North. Her knowledge and expertise working with students that require a more intensive level of instruction, combined with her familiarity with the daily schedule at North School will help to get this classroom started in the right direction from the start.

With the 2023-24 school year right around the corner, the Special Education Team at Watervliet Public Schools is geared up to start providing students with learning opportunities that will help to make school the best part of their day!

Watervliet 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.***

Danny Bartz  
Director of Special Education and 504 Coordinator



# W.P.S. Technology Updates

## Canvas (LMS) Learning Management System

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.

## 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.

For more information or to learn how to download the app to check student grades, go to [www.watervlietps.org](http://www.watervlietps.org) and click on "Canvas for Parents" in the middle of the page.

## Online Enrollment & Registration

New for the 2023-2024 school year - no more paper forms!

Watervliet Public School has transitioned to a new student registration system in an effort to streamline this annual information update process.

Ecollect/Forms is a data collection system integrated into PowerSchool to share enrollment forms with a parent/guardian.

Returning student registration can be accessed from the Parent Portal account in PowerSchool. In the next few weeks, a parent/guardian will receive an email with information on how to either create a Parent account in PowerSchool or reactivate their Parent account in PowerSchool.

For more information regarding Enrollment and Registration, please visit our district website, [www.watervlietps.org](http://www.watervlietps.org).

## 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**.

# It's everything Watervliet, in your pocket.



News



Staff



Events



Alerts



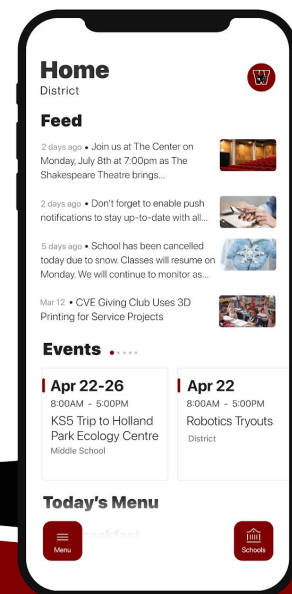
Documents



Dining



Download the **Watervliet Public Schools** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.



# Watervliet Public Schools Board of Education

**Bill Spaulding - President**

**Brian Gruszczuk - 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 2023 –2024 schedule for regular meetings is below:

**August 7  
September 11  
October 9**

**November 13  
December 11  
January 8**

**February 12  
March 11  
April 8**

**May 8  
June 10  
July 8**



*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*



The Watervliet Public Schools Foundation for Excellence was one of 36 organizations this year to receive a 2023 Heart of Cook grant. WPS received \$500.

The Heart of Cook grant program is the charitable arm of the Cook Nuclear plant. A committee of employees reviews all of the grant applications and grants awards.

Funds from the grant will be used to support the foundation's picnic table project.

Join in on the FUNdraising with our progressive raffle: Jack of Spades.

Each week we draw one card out of the card deck, if the card drawn is not the Jack of Spades, the pot rolls over to the next week. If the Jack of Spades is drawn, the person whose ticket was drawn splits the pot with the foundation.

Tickets are \$5 each week and are available at the Sidetrack II, TJ's, and the Local 3.

The weekly drawing occurs every Wednesday at 7 PM.

Follow along on our Facebook page for the weekly drawing and progressive pot.



# 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](http://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 2022-2023 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](http://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 the WPS Maintenance and Transportation Director at 463-0720.



# SCHOOL BELL Issue 01 August 2023

## WPS

450 E. Red Arrow Highway

Watervliet, MI 49098

Phone: 269-463-0300

Fax: 269-463-6809

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