SCHOOL BELL

A Publication of Watervliet Public Schools

Working Together to Keep Us Together Issue 1, August 2026

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WELCOME NEW WPS SUPERINTENDENT CRAIG THORNTON



Craig Thornton began serving as Superintendent of Watervliet Public Schools on July 1, 2026. He comes to Watervliet with more than 20 years of experience working with students and families in a variety of roles. Most recently, Craig served as Principal of Parchment High School and Parchment Innovation Center. His career in education has also included serving as a dean of students, school counselor, teacher, coach, and working with young people in the juvenile justice system. Those experiences have shaped his belief that strong schools are built on relationships, high expectations, and creating opportunities for every student.

Outside of school, Craig and his wife, Corrie, are raising three daughters, so education is both a professional and personal part of their lives. Craig is also heavily involved with Special Olympics, an organization and community that has become an important part of his life. When he isn't working, he enjoys spending time with his family, competing in strength sports, and being outdoors. Craig is excited to become part of the Watervliet community and looks forward to getting to know students, families, staff, and community members throughout the year.

PANTHER PRIDE

Lots More inside!

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE - THE ROAD AHEAD

There is something exciting about the start of a new school year. Buildings that have been relatively quiet all summer start to come back to life. Classrooms get ready, practices begin, buses are back on the roads, and before long our hallways will once again be filled with students.

This year, I get to experience that excitement from a new perspective as I begin my first school year as Superintendent of Watervliet Public Schools.

Since coming to Watervliet, I have spent a lot of time listening, learning, visiting our schools, and getting to know the people who make this district what it is. One thing I have learned very quickly is that people are proud of Watervliet. There is a strong connection between our schools and our community, and that is something we should never take for granted.

We have a lot to be proud of. We also have work to do.

As we begin the 2026-27 school year, I want us to continue looking for ways to get better for our students. That means challenging our students academically, making sure they feel connected and supported at school, creating more opportunities for them, and doing a better job of sharing all of the good things happening throughout our district.

Communication will also be an important focus this year.

Families shouldn't have to work hard to figure out what is happening in their schools. We need to communicate clearly and consistently, but we also need to tell our story. There are great things happening every day in our classrooms, programs, athletics, arts, and throughout our community. We need to make sure people know about them.

Our theme this year is **The Road Ahead.**

For me, the road ahead isn't about coming in and changing everything that makes Watervliet, Watervliet. We have strong traditions, great people, and a community that cares deeply about its schools. We should build on those things.

At the same time, moving forward means being willing to take a look at what we do and ask why we do it. Some traditions should absolutely be protected and celebrated. Others may need to evolve as our students and their needs change. I think we can be proud of where we've been while still pushing ourselves to get better. That's what the road ahead means to me.

And we won't do that work alone. It will take our students, staff, families, and community working together.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be here, and I'm excited to get this school year started. More than anything, I'm looking forward to seeing our students and staff back in our buildings and seeing what we can accomplish together.

The road ahead is an exciting one.

Let's get started.

Craig Thornton
Superintendent
Watervliet Public Schools



STUDENT REGISTRATION

NEW STUDENTS

WELCOME TO WATERVLIET PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

Students who are new to Watervliet Public Schools may enroll online by visiting www.watervlietps.org and clicking the **"Enroll Now"** button on the homepage.

Students who reside outside of the Watervliet Public Schools district must also complete a **Schools of Choice** application. The application is available on the same enrollment page on our website.

Once you begin the online enrollment process, you will be provided with a checklist of the required forms and supporting documents needed to complete your student's registration. Please have these documents available to help ensure a smooth enrollment process.

Please note: All required supporting documents must be uploaded and approved before your student's enrollment is considered complete.

RETURNING STUDENTS

All returning Watervliet Public Schools families are required to review, update, and sign their student's enrollment forms in FinalForms before the first day of school.

1. **Visit www.watervlietps.org.**
2. **Click Enroll Now!**
3. **Select Returning Student.**
4. **Log in to your existing FinalForms Parent Account, or select Create Account if you have not yet activated your account.**
5. **Review, update, and electronically sign all required forms.**

Student Forms (Middle & High School Only)

After parents/guardians have completed their forms, middle school and high school students must log in using their school-issued Google account to complete and sign their required student forms.Student Sign-In Instructions:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E15F5ajKPHLr6NdaWEg1m1uoltyKDfvZUwqtPZAJUNE/edit?usp=sharing

NEED HELP?

If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, please contact **Shannon Llamas** at **enroll@watervlietps.org** or **269-463-0759**. We're happy to help and are committed to making the enrollment process as smooth as possible for your family.

2026-2027 District Calendar

Wed	Aug 19	New Teacher Orientation and PD
Mon	Aug 24	Floating Teacher Work Day
Tue	Aug 25	District Breakfast and Kick Off; District PD - 3hrs; Staff Meetings - 3 hrs; WEA Meeting - 1hr Open Houses MS/HS buildings - 5:00-7:00 PM
Wed	Aug 26	District Professional Development Day - All Staff 8AM - 3PM; Open Houses Elementary buildings - 4-6 PM
Thurs	Aug 27	District Professional Development Day - All Staff 8AM - 3PM
Mon	Aug 31	1st day of school- 1/2 day students, Teacher work time in PM
Fri-Mon	Sep 4- Sep 7	No School - Labor Day Weekend
Wed	Sept 23	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Oct 9	Mid-Trimester Progress Report (Elem)
Fri	Oct 9	No School for students; District PD Day - 6hrs
Wed	Oct 21	1/2 day Elem only- Afternoon and Evening Conferences
Thurs	Oct 22	1/2 day All Students and staff; PT Conf 12:30 - 3:00 and 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Fri	Oct 23	1/2 Day - Students and staff (comp time for teachers)
Wed	Oct 28	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Oct 30	MS/HS Progress Reports
Wed	Nov 4	2 hr- Early Release Building DPPD
Wed	Nov 18	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Nov 20	End 1st Trimester (Elem) 1/2 Day (Virtual Records)
Wed-Fri	Nov 25-27	Thanksgiving Break
Wed	Dec 9	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Mon-Fri	Dec 21-Jan 1	Christmas Break
Mon	Jan 4	Students Return
Mon	Jan 18	Students No School - Staff PD Day - 6 hrs
Wed - Fri	Jan 20-22	1/2 day HS/MS Exams (Virtual Records)
Fri	Jan 22	Mid-Trimester Progress Report (Elem); End Semester 1 (Secondary)
Wed	Jan 27	2 hr- Early Release Building DPPD
Thurs	Feb 11	½ Day Elem Only- P/T Conferences Afternoon and Evening Full Day of School for HS and MS- P/T Conferences Evening
Fri	Feb 12	1/2 day All students and staff
Mon	Feb 15	No School- Mid-Winter Break
Wed	Mar. 3	2 hr- Early Release District SI
Fri	Mar 5	End of 2nd Trimester (Elem)-½ day Elem records; Full day for Secondary
Wed	Mar 10	2 hr- Early Release District PD
Wed	Mar 24	2 hr. Early Release Building SI
Thurs	Mar 25	½-day Students and Staff - Secondary Progress Reports
Fri-Fri	Mar 26-Apr 2	Spring Break

2026-2027 District Calendar (continued)

Mon	Apr 5	Students Return from Spring Break
Fri	Apr 30	Mid-Trimester Progress Report - Elementary
Wed	May 12	2 hr- Early Release Building SI
Mon	May 31	No School-Memorial Day
Fri	June 4	Graduation
Wed	June 9	1/2 day all Students- HS/MS Exams (Virtual Records optional), Elem EOY Parent meetings
Thurs	Jun 10	1/2 day all Students- HS/MS Exams (Virtual Records optional), Elem EOY Parent meetings
Fri	Jun 11	1/2 day all Students- HS/MS Exams (Virtual Records optional), Elem EOY Parent meetings

2026-2027 School Building Hours and Telephone Contacts

South School	Doors Open 7:20, 7:40- 2:50 Full Day, 7:40-11:20 Half Day, 7:40-12:50 Early Release
North School	Doors Open 7:30, 7:50- 3:00 Full Day, 7:50-11:30 Half Day, 7:50- 1:00 Early Release
Middle School & High School	Doors Open 7:45, 8:10- 3:10 Full Day, 8:10-11:40 Half Day, 8:10-1:10 Early Release
Way Learning Lab	Monday & Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 pm & 12:30-2:30 pm Wednesday & Thursday 8:30-10:30 am & 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Building	Street Address	Phone	Grades	Principal	Building Secretary
High School	450 E. Red Arrow Highway	269-463-0730	9-12	Christina Powers	Jolanta Luberda
Middle School	450 E. Red Arrow Highway	269-463-0780	6-8	TBD	Alexa Parker
North Elementary	287 Baldwin Avenue	269-463-0820	3-5	Lori Pline	Desiree Davis
South Elementary	433 Lucinda Lane	269-463-0860	Young 5s - 2	Sherry Wheeler	Karli Loshbough
W-A-Y HS Program	450 E. Red Arrow Highway	269-463-0898	9-12	David Kindt	Autumn Kendzior
GSRP Pre-School	287 Baldwin Avenue	269-463-0876	Pre-School	Tiffany Williams	N/A
District Office	450 E. Red Arrow Highway	269-463-0300	Superintendent Craig Thornton / Executive Asst. Deah Muth		
District Powerschool Support	450 E. Red Arrow Highway	269-463-0300		Shannon Llamas	

Watervliet Public Schools 2026-2027 Board of Education

President: John Oliphant joliphant@watervlietps.org (12/28)

Vice President: Amanda Morlock-Fisher afisher@watervlietps.org (12/30)

Secretary: Kim Adams kim.adams@watervlietps.org (12/26)

Treasurer: Jim Tyler jim.tyler@watervlietps.org (12/28)

Trustee: Bill Spaulding bspaulding@watervlietps.org (12/26)

Trustee: Gina Grear gina.grear@watervlietps.org (12/30)

Trustee: Carrie Wilder carrie.wilder@watervlietps.org (12/26)

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, typically in the high school media center. The 2025-2026 schedule for regular meetings is below:

September 7, 2026
October 12, 2026
November 9, 2026
December 14, 2026
January 11, 2027
February 8, 2027
March 8, 2027
April 12, 2027
May 10, 2027
June 7, 2027

WPS Welcomes Nutrition Service Director Kaylah Robart

My name is Kaylah Robart and I joined the Panther family in Winter 2023 after moving across the state from Vernon, MI to Watervliet. I am taking over the role of Nutrition Services Director following the retirement of Terry Adams. My husband and I have 8 amazing children with 1 graduate, 5 enrolled, and 2 future Panthers. You can catch us at a variety of fields, courses, or parks around the area on any given day as we are definitely a family on the go.



I hold a bachelor's degree in Social Work and have worked with individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities for over 10 years. Changing to Nutrition Services was out of my comfort zone but I have felt so at home. The Watervliet community is a community I am proud to be a part of and I look forward to being more involved in as time goes on.

Retirement Congratulations To Mrs. Adams -- We'll Miss You!



For 25 years, Terry Adams' greatest joy was feeding our children. She was always generous with her time and her smiles and her positive energy was infectious among both students and staff.

Mrs. Adams began working in the kitchen in 2000, and eventually took over the reigns as Nutrition Services Director. Throughout the years, Mrs. Adams cheerful greetings and loving kindness brightened the days of thousands of students throughout the district.She was also something of a miracle worker, pulling together meals or snacks for administrative events or last minute field trips with very little notice.

She guided the department through the "Covid Years" and all that it entailed with amazing grace. She always worked tirelessly to serve the needs of our district.

Late this summer, Mrs. Adams retired. We wish Mrs. Terry Adams and her husband Larry a very happy future full of great new adventures.

Nutrition Services

Director Kaylah Robart kaylah.robart@watervlietps.org



Welcome back Panther Families! The Nutrition Service team is so excited to see everyone back in our cafeterias and to see your smiling faces. With the new school year around the corner, we want to make sure our students' needs are being met to the best of our ability. We continue to offer breakfast and lunch to all students and encourage every student to take advantage of this. Eating well balanced and nutritious meals are so important to learning each and every day. We are here to help make that happen.

Watervliet Public Schools' Nutrition Services Department makes the necessary accommodations for students with documented disabilities, such as food anaphylaxis (severe food allergy), celiac disease, diabetes, and cerebral palsy, as a Recognized Medical Authority directs.

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

It is critical that we receive documentation from your child's medical provider to have on hand and and that it is up-to-date at all times. If your child has a medical food allergy, or dietary restriction please stop by his or her building and ask for a "Special Diet Statement" from one of our secretaries. The special Diet Statement must be on file with the School Nutrition Program before we can make any disability-based change to a student's meal. It's also important to supply a new form if your child's restrictions change.

If you need additional information please email me at kaylah.robart@watervlietps.org

Please Note: Personal requests, such as vegetarianism or "food dislikes," do not fall under the USDA guidelines and definition of a disability. As children grow, their tastes change, and we want to encourage them try foods that are new or prepared differently than those they are accustomed to.

SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION

Transportation Director: Alan Berget alan.berget@watervlietps.org
Transportation Coordinator: Kathy Litaker klitaker@watervlietps.org
Office Phone: 269-463-0739

Panther Community:

As we begin another exciting school year, we extend our sincere appreciation to the dedicated men and women who serve as our school bus drivers. Long before the first school bell rings each morning and well after the final dismissal, our drivers are hard at work, ensuring that students arrive safely to and from school each day. Their commitment, patience, and professionalism make them an essential part of our educational team.

Transporting precious cargo is a responsibility our bus drivers take seriously. They navigate changing weather conditions, busy roadways, and daily challenges while providing a safe, welcoming environment for the children in their care. We are grateful for their unwavering dedication, kindness, and genuine concern for the well-being of every student. As we begin this new school year, please join us in thanking our school bus drivers for the important role they play in supporting our students, families, and schools. Their dedication helps ensure that every school day begins and ends safely.

Kindergarten/Young 5's Transportation Reminder

For the safety of our youngest students, a responsible adult **must be visibly present** at the bus stop when a Kindergarten or Young 5's student is dropped off.

If no adult is visible, the driver **cannot release the student**. The student will remain on the bus and be transported to the Transportation Department at the bus garage, where a parent or authorized emergency contact will be required to pick them up.

Please help us keep our students safe by ensuring someone is available at the bus stop each afternoon,

Additional transportation information, including bus assignments, pick-up/drop-off times, and important reminders, will be communicated before the start of school.



Pleasant View Estates

There will be one morning pick up and two afternoon drop offs.

7:17 AM
3:06 pm South & North School students drop
3:26 pm Middle & High School students drop

Please be prepared to pick up your South School and North School students earlier than the Middle School and High School students in the afternoon.

District News

WPS Staff Members Complete TCIS Training

In June, a dedicated group of educators completed the four-day Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Schools (TCIS) training at Watervliet Public Schools.

The training was facilitated by Watervliet's own Mrs. Jamie Dawson and Ms. Christina Powers and included participants from Watervliet, Coloma, and St. Joseph. One of the highlights of the week was learning alongside educators from different districts, sharing ideas, experiences, and strategies to better support students.

We are proud of these educators for dedicating four days of their summer to strengthening their skills in relationship-building, de-escalation, crisis prevention, and student support.



WHS Science Teachers Attend National Data Science Training

This summer, four Watervliet High School educators — **Mr. Dimino, Ms. Boswell, Dr. Mosher, and Mrs. O'Toole** — participated in a fully funded professional learning experience at the **AI + Data Science PD Week** hosted by the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque from June 22–26, 2026.

The five-day training focused on helping educators integrate data science, data literacy, artificial intelligence, and real-world data analysis into classroom instruction. We are excited to welcome these educators back to WHS and look forward to the knowledge and innovative practices they will share with both students and colleagues in the coming school year.



Buildings and Grounds Update

North & South Elementary Schools
This summer, both North and South Elementary Schools are receiving new water heater systems. Earlier this school year, new security doors were also installed to enhance building safety. Looking ahead, the next planned improvements at both elementary schools include the addition of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) rooms on the south end of each building and the remodeling of the restrooms. These projects are scheduled for the summer of 2027.

Middle School & High School
The Middle School and High School are currently undergoing an HVAC upgrade that will bring air conditioning to the classrooms. Construction is progressing well and remains on schedule for completion before the start of the new school year. The next major project will be the construction of the new Middle School cafeteria and the W-A-Y Watervliet High School building. Construction is expected to begin near the end of August and continue throughout the 2027–2028 school year.

We appreciate everyone's patience as we continue investing in improvements that will enhance our schools for students, staff, and the community.

New School Resource Officer (SRO)

Meet your new SRO, Officer Geisler! He is a proud graduate of WHS from the class of 2020, where he participated in football, basketball, and track.



After high school, he earned an associate's degree with Lake Michigan College. He attended the police academy in 2023 at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. In his spare time, Officer Geisler enjoys fishing and spending time with his pug, Otis.

GSRP PRE-SCHOOL

Tiffany Williams, Coordinator twilliams@watervlietps.org

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is here to help grow your child's development and learning in the early years of life, providing service to 4 year old children across the county. Here at the Watervliet site we are excited to kick off a great year of growing, learning, exploring and connecting with each other at North Elementary! We can't wait to meet all the newest little Panthers who will be joining us this fall as they start their education journey. Making connections with families and students is at the forefront of our program as we start the year with home visits and our annual **open house on August 26th 4-6pm**. We will explore many studies within Creative Curriculum this year from learning about light, grocery stores, seeds as well as getting ready for Kindergarten. We can't wait to see you!



Ashleigh Bobay & Tiffany Williams



SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal Sherry Wheeler sherry.wheeler@watervlietps.org
Building Secretary Karli Loshbough karli.loshbough@watervlietps.org
Office Phone: 269-463-0860

🐾 Welcome Back, Panther Families! 🐾

It is with great excitement that we welcome our students, families, staff, and community back for another wonderful year at **South Elementary!** Whether your family has been part of South for many years or you are joining our Panther family for the very first time, we are so glad you are here and look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and connection.

Over the summer, our staff has been working hard to prepare welcoming classrooms, plan meaningful learning experiences, and create an environment where every child feels **safe, supported, valued, and excited to learn**.

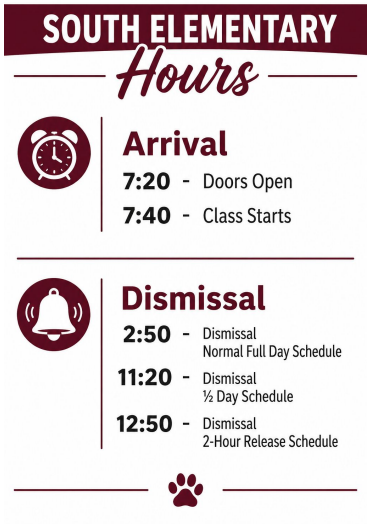
At South Elementary, we believe that some of the most important learning happens when children feel a strong sense of belonging. Along with building strong academic foundations, we are committed to helping our students develop confidence, independence, kindness, perseverance, and a love of learning. We want every student to know that they are an important part of our school community and that there are adults here who believe in them and are cheering them on every step of the way.

We also know that a successful school year is built through strong partnerships between **home, school, and our community**. We value your involvement, communication, and support and look forward to working alongside you throughout the year. Together, we can create meaningful experiences and wonderful memories for our students.

There is so much to look forward to, and we cannot wait to see what this year brings. Here's to another year of **Joyful Learning**, new friendships, exciting discoveries, and celebrating all the big and small accomplishments along the way.

Welcome back, Panthers! We are Small but Mighty, and we are ready for a fantastic year! ❤️🐾





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 of 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.**

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, August 26:
Open House @ South School from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

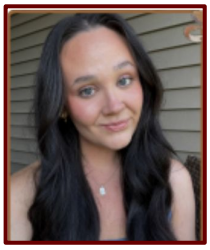
Monday, August 31:
First Day of School / Doors Open at 7:20 a.m. /
Half Day / Dismissal at 11:20 a.m.

Tuesday, September 1:
Full Day of School

Friday, September 4:
No School Labor Day Break

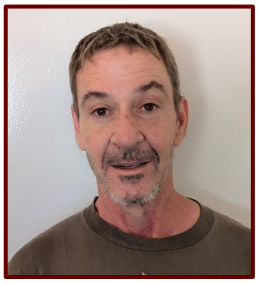
Monday, September 7:
No School Labor Day Break

PANTHERS Small But Mighty



Hello everyone! My name is **Aria Nowlin** and I am so excited to be joining the Watervliet school community as an **ECSE teacher** this upcoming fall!

I am looking forward to meeting and working with you all as the school year progresses. I graduated from **GVSU in the Spring of 2024** with a special education degree, with endorsements in both cognitive and emotional impairments. I am passionate about creating an engaging and supportive learning environment for all students.



We are excited to add Bob Hadlow to the South Family as our new custodial/ maintenance team member. Bob is looking forward to this new opportunity and shared, "I am excited to work alongside the staff and students here at South."
We are thrilled to have Bob joining our team and appreciate all he will do to help keep South Elementary a safe, welcoming, and wonderful place for students, staff, and families.



Hello! My name is Jennifer Gano. (Just Gano or Jenn works too.) I am excited to be a resource room teacher at South this year. I'm a huge Chicago Cubs fan. Wrigley Field is where you can find me during the summer, and hopefully during the playoffs. I grew up on a farm in the middle of corn country Indiana. I moved to Stevensville in 2009 when I married my husband. We have one teenage son and four adult bonus kids. We have a sweet black lab named Charlie, and a feisty tuxedo kitty named Franky. Teaching littles is my absolute passion. This year will be my 27th year teaching students with differing abilities. Even after 20+ years, I still get super excited to start a new school year! I look forward to making Watervliet my new "school home".

NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

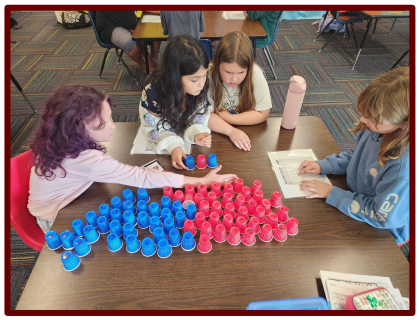
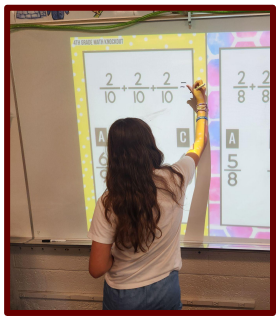
Principal Lori Pline lpline@watervlietps.org
Building Secretary Desiree Davis desiree.davis@watervlietps.org
Office Phone: 269-463-0820

Welcome Back, Families!

We are so excited to kick off another school year! There is always a special kind of magic in these first few weeks—fresh backpacks, catching up with friends, and the buzz of new possibilities in every hallway. Our teachers and staff have been busy getting everything ready to make this year safe, fun, and full of great learning moments for your kids. We know how much heart you put into supporting your children's education, and we're so grateful to team up with you again. Here's to a fantastic, smooth-sailing year ahead—we can't wait to see what our students accomplish!

To help our school day run even smoother, we are introducing a few small changes this term. First, we are shifting our daily routine so students will enjoy lunch before recess—research shows kids eat better and stay more focused in the afternoon when they refuel before running off energy! We are also excited to expand our rotation from three specials to four by moving to an ABCD schedule. Finally, to keep our dismissal moving quickly and safely, we are asking all car-rider families to use our new name placards in the car line. These placards will be sent home with your child on the first day of school—please display them prominently on your passenger-side windshield so staff can quickly identify your vehicle.

Summer learning was in full swing at North Elementary! Students built their math skills through engaging, hands-on activities that make learning fun. From practicing multiplication facts with interactive cup games and solving fraction challenges on the interactive board to reviewing math facts with Jenga, students were collaborating, thinking critically, and strengthening their problem-solving skills. These high-interest activities keep students actively engaged while building confidence and reinforcing essential concepts. It's been wonderful to see so much teamwork, laughter, and learning taking place throughout our summer school program!





Back to School Important Dates

August 26th 4 to 6	Open House/Meet the Teacher Night.
August 31th - 7:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	First Day of School - ½ Day for students
September 4th and September 7th	No School - Labor Day Weekend.
September 23rd	Early Release - dismiss at 1
September 25th:	Homecoming Game and Events

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

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

- **Traveling North on M-140**
  - Turn LEFT onto N. Watervliet Road
  - Quick LEFT onto W. Orchard Avenue
  - Turn LEFT onto Forest Park Avenue
  - Turn LEFT onto Baldwin Avenue into the car rider lane
- **Traveling South on M-140**
  - Turn RIGHT onto N. Watervliet Road
  - Quick LEFT onto W. Orchard Avenue
  - Turn LEFT onto Forest Park Avenue
  - Turn LEFT onto Baldwin Avenue into the car rider lane

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.

Meet Our New Additions to the Third Grade Team!



Sierra Gainer, Jessica Martinez, and Krystal Pratt are excited to begin new roles as third grade teachers at Watervliet Public Schools this year!

Outside of the classroom, they're all proud moms who love making memories with their own children, spending time with their families, enjoying the outdoors, and getting lost in a good book.

Mrs. Gainer is entering her 7th year at WPS, Mrs. Martinez is entering her 9th year at WPS and her 3rd year of teaching, and Mrs. Pratt is entering her 8th year at WPS and her 15th year in education.

"We're so excited to work together with Ms. Busick and can't wait to learn, grow, and make this an amazing year with our students and families!"



Meet Dan West, New 5th Grade Teacher

Hello Panther Family! I'm excited to join North Elementary as a 5th-grade ELA and Social Studies teacher this year!
I graduated from Western Michigan University and have 12+ years of teaching experience (grades K–7).

My wife and I have five kids—three sons, a stepson, and a stepdaughter (with our youngest son still at home) plus our dog Finley. Fun Fact: Big football fan! Looking forward to an amazing year with our 5th graders!

Welcome Back Laurieanne Eckerly New Resource Room Teacher



I'm excited to be returning to Watervliet for my 27th year in education! I enjoy building relationships with students and helping them discover their strengths. Outside of school, I love baking, hiking, and spending time with my family.

Please Join Us In Welcoming Tracy McGrory To North Elementary!

Tracy is joining our MICI classroom and brings more than 20 years of teaching experience. She is excited to become part of the North team and share her knowledge and passion with our students. Outside of school, Tracy enjoys spending time at the beach, watching her kids play sports, and seeing live music with her husband. We are excited to have her experience and enthusiasm as part of the North family!



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Ken Mohney kenneth.mohney@watervlietps.org
Building Secretary: Alexa Parker alexa.parker@watervlietps.org
Office Phone: 269-463-0780

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to our 7th and 8th grade students. And a warm welcome to the incoming 6th grade students, as well as any other students who are joining us for their first time at WMS. We are looking forward to a year of growth and achievement in academics, athletics, fine arts, social skills, and Panther Pride as we follow the road ahead.

We've had a few changes over the summer. You'll notice some new faces and a few missing around the school.

Principal **David Kindt** has left WMS to return to his former role as the W-A-Y Watervliet High School Administrator. We wish him all the very best as he makes this move within our district.

Please Welcome these new WMS Staff Members

- **Collin Shepherd** 8th Grade Social Studies
- **Zachary Nannfeldt** 7th Grade Social Studies
- **Amber Millius** 8th Grade Science
- **Kenneth Mohney** Principal
- **Alexa Parker** Administrative Assistant/Building Secretary

Meet Alexa Parker
New Building Secretary



Alexa Parker is a 2014 Watervliet High School graduate. She enjoys spending time with her family, getting outdoors, reading, and watching her oldest daughter play sports. Alexa says, "I am very excited to be the new middle school secretary and look forward to my first year as a Watervliet staff member!"

Meet New Middle School Principal Kenneth (Ken) Mohney



Ken Mohney grew up in Vicksburg before serving 20 years in the U.S. Army as a member of a helicopter crew. Following his military retirement, he began a second career in education—a field in which he has now dedicated more than 33 years of service. He holds both a bachelor's and a master's degrees from Western Michigan University, as well as an Education Specialist degree in Leadership and Administration from Oakland University.

Ken spent 13 years as a teacher and coach at Mattawan Public Schools before moving into administration as Assistant Principal and Athletic Director. He later served as Principal of both Hartford Middle School and Lawrence Elementary School, where he continued his commitment to student success and educational leadership.

Ken retired from education so that he and his wife, Gretchen, were able to travel, visiting destinations including France and Finland and attending the Olympic Games in Milan, Italy. His passion for education soon brought him back to Mattawan Public Schools, where he served as an Instructional Support Specialist until joining the staff at Watervliet Middle School this August. Ken and Gretchen have three adult children, all graduates of Michigan universities: Western Michigan University, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University.

Ken is passionate about middle school education and believes this is where he can make a great impact in the lives of students. At Watervliet Middle School, he is committed to fostering a culture built on positive relationships while encouraging collaboration, communication, and student growth.

Outside of school, Ken enjoys competing in adventure races, a demanding sport that combines outdoor challenges such as kayaking, mountain biking, and rock climbing. Please join us in welcoming Ken to Watervliet Middle School!

MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL SPORTS



Don't miss out on the start of Middle School sports as they are right around the corner. With the late start to the school year middle school sports will begin before class resumes. Conditioning can begin the week of August 17th with the first practices beginning the week of August 24th. If your Panther is interested in playing a fall sport, the student must be registered in FinalForms and a valid sports physical dated after April 15th, 2026 must be on file with the athletic department.

Fall Sports that are offered at WMS: **Cheer, Cross Country, Football, Soccer (Boys), Volleyball (Girls)**

The most up to date information will be sent out via email through FinalForms. Sign your student up at the watervliet-mi.finalforms.com

If you have any questions please contact Athletic Director John Guillean at john.guillean@watervlietps.org or Athletic Assistant Edie Daugherty at edie.daugherty@watervlietps.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB MAKES AN IMPACT - COME JOIN US!

The Interact Club is proudly sponsored by the **Paw Paw Lake Rotarians**, who partner with our students to promote leadership, service, and community involvement.The club is advised by **Ms. Christina Powers, Watervliet High School Principal.** Through a variety of service projects and activities, students have the opportunity to give back to others while developing important skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

The club is open to **all incoming 7th and 8th grade students** who are interested in helping others and making a positive impact. Meetings are held during **Advisory Time**, making it easy for students to participate without interfering with after-school commitments. Whether it's organizing service projects, supporting local community organizations, or helping make our school an even better place, Interact Club members learn that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.



Pictured are members of the 2025–2026 Middle School Interact Club during a visit to South Elementary School, where they partnered with elementary students to create Earth Day projects. This activity is just one example of the meaningful service opportunities that Interact members enjoy throughout the school year. If you're interested in becoming a member, watch for additional information at the beginning of the school year. We hope you'll join us!

HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Christina Powers cpowers@watervlietps.org
Building Secretary: Jolanta Luberda jolanta.luberda@watervlietps.org
Office Phone: 269-463-0730

Important Back-to-School Dates for High School Families

August 21
Impact Watervliet
A community-wide event to kick off the school year and support our student athletes and local community.

August 24
Freshman Orientation
An opportunity for incoming 9th-grade students to become familiar with the high school, meet staff, and prepare for a successful transition.

August 25 | 5:00–7:00 PM
High School Open House
Students and families are invited to visit the school, meet teachers, and prepare for the upcoming school year.

August 30
Panther Legacy Walk
Following the first home soccer game at Panther Stadium, seniors and kindergarten students will participate in this special tradition celebrating Panther Pride and community.

August 31
First Day of School
Half Day for Students
Dismissal at **11:40 AM**

September 3 | 7:00 PM
Hall of Fame Football Game
Join us at Panther Stadium for our first home varsity football game of the season as we celebrate and recognize our newest Hall of Fame inductees.

September 4–7
Labor Day Weekend
No school for students and staff.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another great year at Watervliet High School. Go Panthers!

MEET YOUR CLASS ADVISORS

Please take a moment to get to know your child's class advisers. Their goal is to make this school year one filled with opportunities, traditions, leadership, and fun. We appreciate all they do for our students and look forward to another outstanding year at Watervliet High School!

- **Class of 2030 (Freshmen)**
  Jamie Dawson and Erica Kinzler
  jamie.dawson@watervlietps.org
- **Class of 2029 (Sophomores)**
  Shannon Llamas, Tiffany Williams, and Linda Zuniga
  shannon.llamas@watervlietps.org
- **Class of 2028 (Juniors)**
  Kassie Thomas and Brittany Morsaw
  thomaskassie84@gmail.com
- **Class of 2027 (Seniors)**
  Kelli Lomoro and Teresa Collins
  tcollins698@gmail.com



Happy Retirement, Mrs. Teri Richcreek!

After 25 years of dedicated service to Watervliet High School, Mrs. Teri Richcreek will retire, with her final day in the Main Office on August 31.
For more than two decades, Teri has been a welcoming face for our students, families, staff, and community.
Her kindness, dedication, and commitment to our school have made a lasting impact on the Panther Family. Please join us in thanking Mrs. Richcreek for her years of service and wishing her a happy, healthy, and well-deserved retirement. Congratulations, Teri—you will be greatly missed!

New AP Literature Course Added at Watervliet High School

Watervliet High School is excited to announce the addition of **AP Literature and Composition** for the 2026-2027 school year. This new course completes a three-year AP English pathway for students.

Students can now take:

- **AP Seminar (10th Grade):** Focuses on research, critical thinking, collaboration, and presentation skills.
- **AP English Language and Composition (11th Grade):** Emphasizes argument writing, rhetoric, and analysis of nonfiction texts.
- **AP Literature and Composition (12th Grade):** Develops students' ability to analyze literature, discuss complex themes, and write at a college level.

AP courses provide students with rigorous academic experiences that strengthen reading, writing, critical thinking, and communication skills. Students may also have the opportunity to earn college credit through successful performance on AP exams.

This addition reflects Watervliet High School's continued commitment to expanding academic opportunities and preparing students for success after graduation.

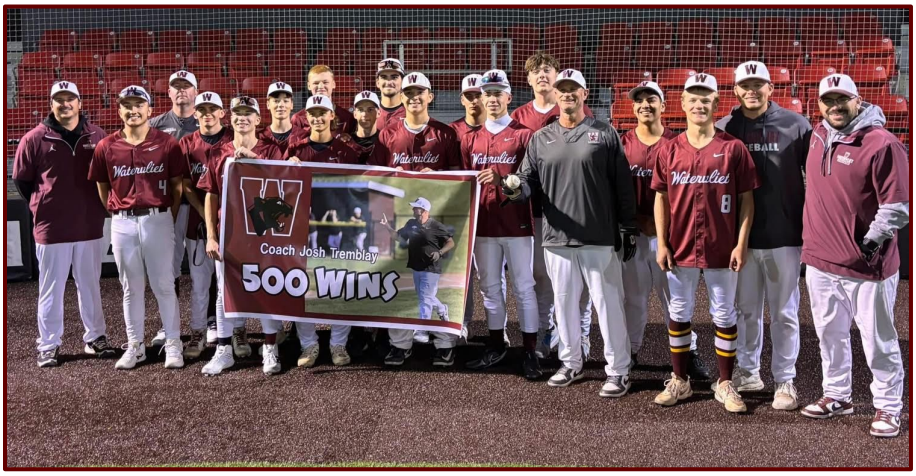
Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership

The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar is a nationally recognized leadership program that helps high school students develop leadership skills, explore their values, and learn how to make a positive impact in their schools and communities. McKaylen Laws was selected for the opportunity to represent Watervliet High School at this year's seminar.

Throughout the experience, McKaylen learned more about her leadership strengths, values, and what motivates her as a leader. HOBY challenged her to reflect on who she is while building her confidence to share her ideas and advocate for what she believes in.McKaylen left the experience with increased confidence, stronger leadership skills, and a renewed commitment to serving her school and community.



McKaylen is the student on the right



A 16-1 victory in game two of a double header against Sparta this May, brought Coach Tremblay his 500th win. The Panther baseball team finished the season as Conference Champs.

Meet Our New Science Teacher – Brittany Bartee



For the past two years, Brittany has been a valued member of the Panther Family as a paraprofessional. This fall, she is excited to begin a new chapter as a Physical Science and Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) teacher.

Brittany is a proud United States Air Force veteran, devoted wife, and mother of five wonderful daughters. Drawing on her unique, non-traditional background and real-world experiences, Brittany is passionate about making learning engaging, meaningful, and relevant for every student.

Welcome Madelyne Bettis - Algebra 1 And Geometry



I am originally from Tallahassee, Florida, and earned my Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Florida State University (Go Seminoles!).

After spending several years working in the automotive industry I returned to school to earn my Master's degree and began teaching high school mathematics in Covert and then South Haven, where I have taught for the past 13 years.

My husband, Willie, and I live in South Haven Township. We are proud parents of three wonderful adult children: Lauren, William, and Sydney. I am grateful to be joining the Watervliet Panther family and look forward to getting to know our students, families, staff, and community.

Meet Our New High School / Middle School Choir & Theatre Teacher - Sadie Essex



Since graduating from Grand Valley State University in 2023, I have worked as a private voice instructor at Ada Conservatory of Music and served as a musical theatre director throughout the Greater Grand Rapids area.

I also perform as a trombonist and featured vocalist with the Allendale Jazz Orchestra.Outside of school, I enjoy crafting, cooking, hiking, singing, and reading. I look forward to sharing my passion for music and theatre with our Panther Family, building meaningful relationships with students, and making this a fantastic school year!

Meet Our New ESL Teacher – Heather Smith



Hello all, my name is Ms. (Heather) Smith. I recently moved to Michigan from Ohio with my husband. I have spent most of my life in Ohio but also lived in Michigan from 2012-2022, on the other side of the state.

I love coffee, cats (especially our cat named Lily), cooking, and traveling. I am bilingual (Spanish) and enjoy both learning and teaching languages, which I have been doing since 2010. I was at the middle school and South Elementary for the last couple months during the 2025-26 school year, but I'm looking forward to also being at the high school this year and to working with you all!



Welcome Jolanta Luberda, New HS Building Secretery

Hello! My name is Jolanta Luberda, but everyone knows me as Jola (pronounced *YOH-lah*). I am thrilled to join the Watervliet High School team as your new Administrative Assistant! I was born in Poland, raised my four children with my husband in the Chicago area, and recently relocated to Michigan for his job — and to be closer to my grandchildren. Professionally, I bring five years of administrative experience and a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership. Above all, I am dedicated to keeping our front office a warm, helpful, and welcoming space for students, families, and staff. Go Panthers!

WAY WATERVLIET HIGH SCHOOL

Administrator: David Kindt dkindt@watervlietps.org

Building Secretary Autumn Kendzior autumn.kendzior@watervlietps.org
Office Phone: 269-463-0898

A New, Familiar Face: Mr. Dave Kindt



We are thrilled to officially welcome **Mr. Kindt** back to the WAY Program!

While many know Mr. Kindt from his recent role as Principal at Watervliet Middle School, he is certainly no stranger to the WAY family.

From **2014 to 2021**, he served as our **Program Director**, playing an instrumental role in building the foundation of the program and helping it grow into what it is today.

Mr. Kindt's leadership, dedication, and commitment to student success have had a lasting impact on our program. We are incredibly grateful to welcome him back and look forward to the experience, knowledge, and passion he brings to this next chapter.





Back to School Lab Hours

Watervliet WAY Lab will resume the following operating hours on Monday, August 31st.

Monday & Tuesday
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Wednesday & Thursday
8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

I am excited to return as Director of our Virtual and Blended Online High School and to once again work alongside such a dedicated and talented staff. Having previously served in this role for seven years, I look forward to building on the strong foundation already in place while continuing to enhance our programs and support student success. I am grateful for the opportunity to be back and excited for all we will accomplish together this year. -M. Kindt

Congratulations June 2026 WAY Graduates

We are thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of our incredible students who earned their high school diplomas from the WAY Program this June. These graduates have shown dedication, resilience, and hard work — and we couldn't be prouder!

Please join us in congratulating:
BRENDEN STRONG,
MARKTIS PARKS-JOHNSON, CODY HESS,
RACHEL PRAK, SAMANTHA ROWE,
ISABELLA GLOWACKI

Curriculum

Director Brandon Waggoner

brandon.waggoner@watervlietps.org

Building Strong Readers at Watervliet Public Schools

Reading is one of the most important skills a child will ever learn. It helps students succeed in every subject and prepares them for life after graduation. That is why Michigan recently passed new literacy laws to make sure every student has the support they need to become a successful reader.

While these new laws are important, Watervliet Public Schools has been implementing these changes for years. Our district began focusing on the “Science of Reading” in 2019, long before the new state requirements were passed. The Science of Reading is based on years of research about how children learn to read. It helps teachers provide instruction that gives every student the best chance to become a confident reader.

Our work has continued to grow. Watervliet Public Schools received the state's Section 35m Literacy Grant, totaling $157,000, to strengthen reading instruction across the district. Those funds allowed us to purchase Amplify CKLA, a new literacy curriculum for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. This research-based program gives students strong instruction in reading, writing, vocabulary, and knowledge-building while giving teachers high-quality tools to meet students' needs.

Our commitment does not stop in elementary school. During the 2026-2027 school year, the district will complete a literacy curriculum study for grades 6-12. This work will help us continue building strong readers and writers throughout middle and high school. As well, all K-12 teachers will participate in professional learning focused on identifying characteristics of dyslexia and understanding how literacy affects learning in every subject. Whether students are reading a science article, solving a math problem, or studying history, strong reading skills help them succeed.

We have also expanded the support available for students. Watervliet Public Schools has added a “middle school interventionist” to provide extra help for students who need additional reading support. We have also added a dedicated elementary literacy coach who works alongside teachers to strengthen classroom instruction and improve student achievement.

The new Michigan literacy laws encourage schools to identify reading challenges early, provide research-based instruction, and partner with families throughout the process. These are goals that Watervliet Public Schools have not only embraced, but have pioneered over the last 7 years.

We are proud to be ahead of the state's timeline in transforming literacy instruction. Our teachers, staff, and families share one goal: helping every child become a strong, confident reader. By investing in quality instruction, professional learning, and student support, we are building a brighter future for every Panther.

PANTHER PRIDE!

Mrs.Bartee Brings New Ideas Back to Watervliet High School for Jobs for Michigan Grads Course!

Watervliet High School teacher Mrs. **Brittany Bartee** recently attended the **Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) Summer Summit**, where she collaborated with JMG specialists from across the state and explored new strategies to support students in career readiness and postsecondary success.

During the training, Mrs. Bartee connected with local JMG specialists, representatives from **Michigan Works!**, and community partners while developing a comprehensive month-by-month plan for the upcoming school year. Her plan includes implementation of the JMG Playbook curriculum, service-learning opportunities, employer and college partnerships, and participation in statewide JMG events.

The feedback from the summit was overwhelmingly positive, with organizers noting Mrs. Bartee's enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to building a strong program for Watervliet students. Her energy, innovative ideas, and willingness to collaborate made a lasting impression, and they are excited to partner with her throughout the coming school year.

We are proud of Mrs. Bartee's dedication to professional growth and look forward to the many opportunities the JMG program will provide our students during the 2026–2027 school year.

Technology

Director Bill Tiefenbach
wtiefenbach@watervlietps.org

As another exciting school year begins, our Technology Department has been hard at work preparing devices, networks, and digital resources to ensure students and staff have the tools they need to succeed on day one. Throughout the summer, our team refreshed student and staff devices, upgraded equipment, strengthened network security, and prepared classrooms across the district for a smooth start.

This year, we continue our commitment to providing reliable technology that supports learning while keeping student information safe and secure. Whether students are using Chromebooks in the classroom or teachers are utilizing interactive instructional tools, our goal is to make technology a seamless part of the educational experience.
Families can help by encouraging students to care for their district-issued devices, keep them charged each evening, and report any technical issues promptly to their teacher or MS/HS offices.

Technology is constantly evolving, and we're excited to continue exploring new tools that enhance teaching and learning while maintaining a safe, secure, and dependable technology environment for everyone.
Here's to a successful 2026–2027 school year—we're looking forward to supporting our students, staff, and families every step of the way!

Mr. Tiefenbach / Director of Technology

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Supervisor Heather Cram heather.cram@watervlietps.org
Department Secretary: Kari Crippen kari.crippen@watervlietps.org
Office Phone: 269-460-0706

Welcome to a new school year at Watervliet Public Schools! We are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and collaboration as we continue supporting every Panther in reaching their full potential.

Our Special Education Department is committed to providing high-quality, individualized services that help students thrive academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. We offer a wide range of supports, including speech and language therapy, occupational and physical therapy, resource room and co-teaching services, as well as school social work and psychological services. Our special education staff works closely with classroom teachers and families to ensure every student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is designed to meet their unique needs and promote success in the least restrictive environment.

Watervliet Public Schools is proud to host two specialized programs that serve both our district and students from across Berrien County. At South Elementary, our Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) classroom provides play-based learning and early intervention for children ages 3–5 with developmental delays or disabilities. At North Elementary, our Mild Cognitive Impairment (MiCI) classroom serves students in grades 3–5, offering a structured learning environment that promotes academic growth, independence, and life skills.

This year, we are also expanding services for Watervliet students by opening a new K–2 Special Education classroom at South Elementary. This classroom is designed for students who need more intensive support than a traditional resource room program can provide, allowing students to receive individualized instruction in a structured, supportive setting while remaining connected to their school community.

We are also excited to welcome **Mili Menon-Perez** as our new District School Social Worker. Her compassion, experience, and dedication will be a wonderful addition to our Panther community and an important support for our students and families.

Strong partnerships between home and school are essential to student success. If you ever have questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, principal, or the Special Education Department.

We look forward to another year of learning, growth, and exploring possibilities for all of our Panthers!



Hello! My name is Mili, and I'm excited to join Watervliet Public Schools as the new K-12 District Social Worker. I earned both my Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work from Western Michigan University. My experience includes providing mental health therapy to children, adolescents, and families in school and outpatient settings. I am passionate about helping students feel safe,supported, and empowered to succeed both in and out of the classroom.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, gardening, and spending time with my two cats, Luna and Bandit.

I look forward to getting to know the students, families, and staff, and I'm excited for a wonderful school year!

Athletics

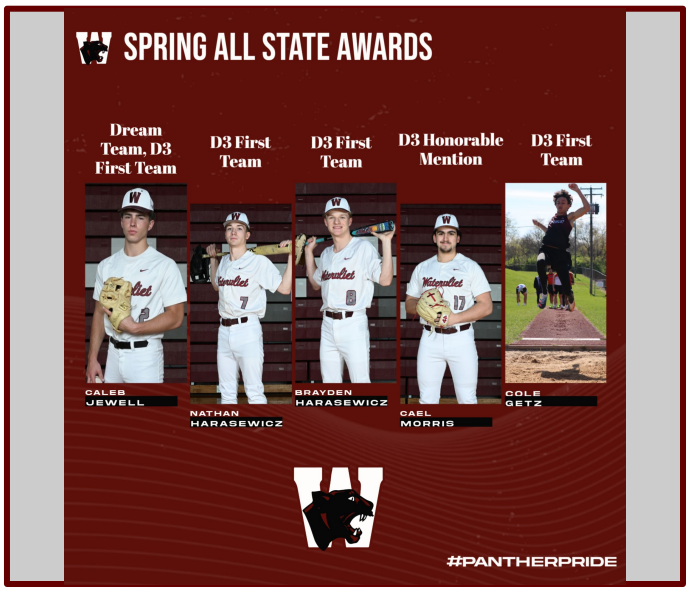
Director John Guillean
john.guillean@watervlietps.org

Assistant Edie Daugherty
edie.daugherty@watervlietps.org

We're looking forward to a GREAT 2026-27 school year! The student body voted and this years theme will be:

OWN THE MOMENT
2026 - 2027

For more information visit Watervliet Athletics at:
www.wpspanthers.com



Watervliet Panther Athletics Hall of Fame

The Class of 2026 has been selected and will be officially inducted on Thursday September 3rd, during the home football game between Watervliet and Constantine at Panther Stadium.

The WHS Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2026 will include:

Jake Cowsert, Athlete, Class of 2013
Kevin Bryce, Athlete, Class of 2009
Nicole Winter Zwiers, Athlete, Class of 2013
Travis Bolin, Athlete, Class of 2013
Tom Gear, Community/School Leader, Since 1998

We are now accepting nominations for the Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2027. Please consider nominating a worthy athlete, coach, team or community leader. Anyone previously nominated remains under consideration. You may nominate anyone who has graduated from Watervliet High School. If your nomination does not meet the 10 year post graduation requirement to be inducted we will keep the nomination on file until they become an eligible candidate. **Click here to Nominate for the Hall of Fame**

SAVE THE DATE & FILL THE STANDS

HOMECOMING 2026

September 25th at 7 PM - Watervliet Football vs Lawton

PANTHER ATHLETICS (Continued)

ALL DIGITAL TICKETING

All individual ticket sales for 2026-2027 Panther Athletic Events will be electronic. Fans may purchase tickets in advance of events at **www.gofan.com** or at the gate with a credit or debit card. **There will be NO CASH TICKET SALES!**

www.gofan.co

2026-2027 individual event admission for Watervliet Public Schools

- ➤$6 High School Events
- ➤$4 Middle School Events
- ➤4 yrs and Under are Free

Watervliet will admit Watervliet Students free to Middle School Games only.

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

➤**2026-2027 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+ (Honored at all SAC Schools) Proof of age may be required.

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.

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.

FALL VARSITY HEAD COACH CONTACT INFORMATION

Cheer	Heather Whitney	heather.whitney@watervlietps.org
Cross Country	Aaron Weber	aweber@watervlietps.org
Football	Kevin Eastman	kevin.eastman@watervlietps.org
Soccer	Valentin Casiano	casianofca@gmail.com
Volleyball	Edie Daugherty	edie.daugherty@watervlietps.org

Watervliet Public Schools FOUNDATION For Excellence

Building Brighter Futures for WPS Students

Great schools don't just happen, they're built by communities that believe in their students. The **Watervliet Public Schools Foundation for Excellence** exists to enrich educational opportunities that inspire curiosity, spark creativity, and help each student reach their full potential. Through community partnerships, fundraising and volunteer support, we invest in experiences and projects that go beyond the school's budget, creating opportunities that leave a lasting impact on our students, teachers and faculty.

From classroom grants that empower our educators with innovative ideas to transformative projects like the North School Outdoor Classroom, every dollar we raise helps make our Watervliet Public Schools an even better place to learn, explore, and grow.

The best part? We have a LOT of fun doing it!

♠ Jack of Spades

Looking for a fun midweek tradition? Join us on Wednesday's at TJs, or follow along on Facebook for our progressive raffle fundraiser: Jack of Spades.
Each week we draw a ticket to win the pot, if the Jack of Spades is drawn, the jackpot is won. If it is not drawn, the pot rolls over and grows for the next week.
While it's exciting to follow the game each week, what matters most is the difference it is making for our students. Every ticket purchased helps fund our projects and grants.

Chicken 💩 Bingo Returns This Fall

One of Watervliet's favorite games is making its return!
It's quirky, family-friendly and guaranteed to make you laugh. Watch our Facebook page for dates this fall to join in on the fun.

Join us!

We're powered by volunteers who believe that even small acts can make a big difference in a town with a big heart.
We meet for one hour a month, making it easy to get involved without a big time commitment. Check out our Facebook page for meeting dates and times.

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

NOTICES

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

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

Annual Education Report Notice

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

Printed copies are also available at Central Office and in the main office of each school building. The Annual Education Report provides key information on the 2025-2026 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.

WPS MISSION STATEMENT

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

WPS VISION STATEMENT

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

The School Bell is issued free of charge and provides information about Watervliet Public Schools.
Editor: Nancy Scowcroft

Watervliet Public Schools
450 E. Red Arrow Highway
Watervliet, MI 49098
Phone: 269-463-0300
www.watervlietps.org

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 2026

Watervliet Public Schools
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Mrs. Moffatt's 4th grade class spread kindness in our community this spring, delivering handmade "Kindness Bags" To local residents. Watervliet Public Schools Foundation for Excellence helped to make this project possible.