

POINTS OF PRIDE

Watervliet Public Schools educates and supports approximately 1,450 Y5 - 12th grade students and their families, and employs over 130 professional staff, support personnel and administrators.

The district is made up of five schools:

- South Elementary (Grades Y5 - 2)
- North Elementary (Grades 3 - 5)
- Watervliet Middle School (Grades 6 - 8)
- Watervliet High School (Grades 9 - 12)
- Watervliet W-A-Y (Grades 9 - 12)

Watervliet Public Schools
Working Together to Keep Us Together

District Mission Statement

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

2017-2018 District-Wide Highlights

Family, students and community engagement:

- Lakeland Hospital and Riverwood Center provided Youth Mental Health First Aid Training and Trauma, Toxic Stress, and Trauma Informed Care to Watervliet teachers and administrators.
- Lakeland Hospital provided CPR training in the ninth grade health class and 93 students were certified through the American Heart Association for infant, child, and adult CPR.
- Lory's Place provided monthly peer support group sessions that allowed children to interact with peers who have suffered similar loss, or who were experiencing grief through their school outreach program.
- WPS's School Resource Officer, in connection with the Watervliet Police Department and the Pokagon Tribal Police Department, educated our district in ALERTT (School Safety) best practices.

Staff recognition:

- Migrant Director and Spanish teacher, Angie Gutierrez, earned her ESL (English as a Second Language) Certification.
- Middle School teachers Kerry Wilson and Michelle Marshall, High School teacher Erin Faultersack, North School teacher Lisa Graffenius, South School teacher Katie Muth, and administrators Joe Allen, Dave Kindt, Brad Coon, and Susan Toothman were certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid.
- Joe Allen, North School Principal, and Susan Toothman, Director of Curriculum, were certified as Trainers in TCIS (Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Schools).



South Elementary School prides itself on its mission of, “Joyful Learning,” while engaging families, staff, and community to help all students succeed.

2017-2018 Highlights

Academic growth and achievement:

- Student growth on NWEA math and reading scores
- Implementation of Inspire Science curriculum
- Implementation of Building Healthy Communities and Spark curriculum
- Implementation of standards-based grading



Many special events and celebrations:

- Veterans Day Lunch for area veterans with musical presentations and artwork provided by South School students.
- Mr. Mattson’s choir students led Watervliet’s Hometown Christmas Celebration Parade.
- “Cookies and Canvas” event for preschool students and moms.
- Winter Safari with Literacy and Math integration activities.
- Apple Crunch Day and Walk to School Day to highlight healthy choices.
- Dr. Seuss Reading activities and special events during March.
- PBIS monthly incentives and “brag tags.”
- Volunteer breakfast to honor our amazing volunteers.
- Reading Counts breakfasts for students.
- “America the Beautiful” played on bells by kindergarten students.



Special opportunities for South School students:

- Student Council
- Kindergarten Yoga
- Movie Night
- Santa Shop
- 100 Day Assembly
- “Fun with Fetke” Time



Volunteerism is up-- most classrooms had several parents and/ or community volunteers.

Implementation of “Simply Circle” to improve communication with families.



Building upgrades included a new gym floor and flooring in hallways. North Elementary School has high academic and character expectations for its community of learners, and fosters a love of learning throughout the school.

2017-2018 Highlights

Academic growth and achievement:

- Student growth on NWEA math and reading scores
- Implementation of Inspire Science curriculum
- Implementation of Minecraft for Education curriculum



Many special events and celebrations:

- Field trips to Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Coloma Historical Museum, Sarett Nature Center, Lansing, Krasl Art Museum, and Hays Park.
- Choir presentation at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.
- Drumathon Fundraiser for the choir trip to Mackinac Island.
- Donuts for Dad, Muffins for Mom, and Daddy/Daughter Dance activities to engage families.
- Patriot Day to celebrate those who fought for our country.
- Winter Safari with Literacy and Math integration activities.
- The creation of a Rock Garden to honor former teacher, Heather Metz, who passed away after a courageous fight with cancer.
- Hispanic Heritage Night to celebrate diversity.



Special opportunities for North School students:

- 5th Grade Band
- Choir
- Project Lean
- Young Rembrandt's Art Club
- Lory's Place Sessions
- Drama Club
- Girls on the Run
- Science Olympiad
- Pen Pals/ Ice Cream Social



Building upgrades included new murals around the building, a new gym floor, and new flooring in hallways.



Watervliet Middle School is committed to creating future leaders by providing a strong academic environment rich with extracurricular activities and groups.

2017-2018 Highlights

Academic growth and achievement:

- Student growth on NWEA math and reading scores
- Implementation of Discovery Education Science “Tech” curriculum
- Implementation of Minecraft for Education curriculum
- Implementation of Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS)
- Implementation of interactive lessons, hands-on projects, and project based learning



Many special events and celebrations:

- Cesar Chavez March in Kalamazoo to preserve and promote the legacy and universal values he embodied.
- Red Ribbon Week: “Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free” to highlight healthy choices.
- Variety Show to showcase the talent possessed by our students.
- Honor Club field trip to Tennessee to build relationships.
- 6th grade field trip to Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, IL
- Student Council field trip to Great America to celebrate.



Special opportunities for Watervliet Middle School students:

- Band
- Choir
- Robotics
- Quiz Bowl
- Science Olympiad
- Honor Club
- Student Council
- Girl Power
- Athletic Teams- Southwestern Athletic Conference
- Boys’ Soccer Club



Building upgrades included new flooring, upgraded ceiling tiles in hallways, and improved wifi access.



Watervliet High School strives to prepare every student to compete, contribute, and thrive as an admirable citizen in a rapidly changing world by engaging students in a wide variety of high quality, relevant programs.

2017-2018 Highlights

Academic growth and achievement:

- Student growth on PSAT and SAT scores
- Implementation of Discovery Education Science “Tech” curriculum



Many special events and celebrations:

- 1:1 Initiative successfully implemented at WHS.
- The Google Ambassador Club was formed to support the 1:1 initiative.
- National Honor Society hosted two blood drives and 52 units of blood were collected.
- Cinco de Mayo Celebration highlighted our hispanic students accomplishments.
- The annual Variety Show showcased the varied talents of our students.
- MiCan College Counselor hosted several college nights and financial aid sessions for our students and families.
- Decision Day Celebration highlighted the future plans of our seniors.
- Five seniors were awarded the inaugural “Seal of Biliteracy” offered by the Michigan Department of education.
- National Honor fundraiser “Purchase and Paint.”



NEW opportunities for Watervliet High School students:

- Gamers Club
- Club YUMA (You Matter)
- Youth in Government Club
- AP Computer Science Principles



Art Department Highlights

- 18 pieces of art were selected for the Whirlpool Technology Meets the Arts competition. Four students earned awards and one took home the top honor of the show.
- 25 art students participated in the Box Factory High School Show. Two students won scholarship and one took home the top honor of the show.
- Three students had work accepted into the High School Art Show at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.



Choir Highlights

- Received Division 1 ratings at the MSVMA District Choral Festival, qualifying for the State Choral Festival.
- Participated in the Southwestern Michigan Vocal Festival at W.M.U. singing in a 1,000 voice chorus under the direction of nationally renowned conductor, Dr. Eph Ely.
- Trip to New York City for a performance and historical tour of the city..



Band Highlights

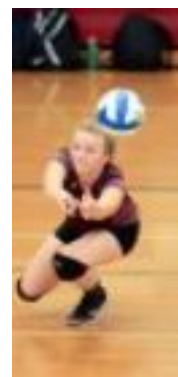
- Marching Band placed 7th at the Michigan Competing Band Association State Championships.
- Concert and Marching Bands received Division 1 ratings at all MSBOA Band Festivals.
- Trip to New York City to perform and attend a performance of the New York Philharmonic.



Athletic Highlights

- District Championship in Football and in Wrestling
- Inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame Induction
- MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Winner- Fourth winner in the last eight years

Building upgrades included new walkway to the football stadium, handrails in the stands of the stadium, upgraded ceiling tiles in hallways, and improved wifi access.



Watervliet W-A-Y is committed to changing lives by creating engaging and encouraging opportunities for all young people.

2017-2018 Highlights

Academic growth and achievement:

- Recognized for 100% student participation at location; no other location has achieved this in the state!
- Implementation of digital student check-in
- Student growth on standards based reporting system

Many special events and celebrations:

- December graduation ceremony
- May graduation ceremony
- Honor rolls published in Tri-City Record
- Student of the Month Celebration
- Annual Chili/Soup Competition
- Pennies for Cancer Fundraiser

Special opportunities for Watervliet W-A-Y students:

- Access to Content Experts
- Interactions with Mentors and Team Leaders
- On-Campus Learning Lab
- State Wide and International Learning Environment

