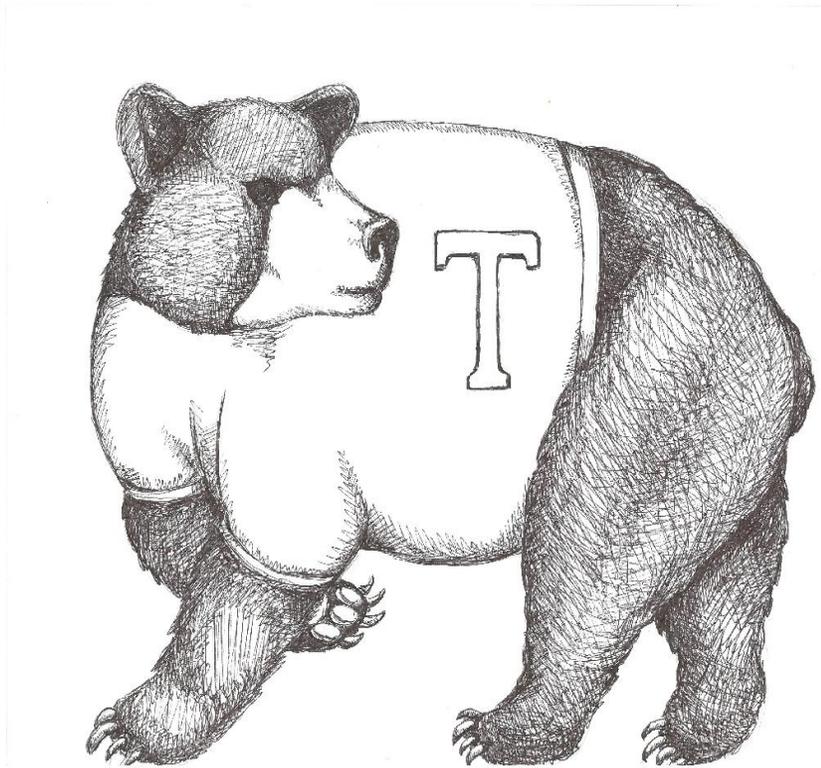


THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL

STAFF PROFILES

2016-17



We are very proud of the training, professional experience, and willingness to take on multiple roles by our certified staff at Thomaston High School to give our students a complete and well-rounded education. Enclosed, you will find a brief biography for each of our faculty members. Please take some time to learn about our staff. We are confident you will be impressed by the diverse backgrounds, education, and experiences that our teachers bring to our classrooms.

Ms. Susan Abbott – Spanish

Susan received a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with a certificate in Latin American Studies from Dickinson College. She completed a semester abroad at the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellín, Colombia during that time. Susan is currently enrolled in the Masters of Education program at Post University. This is her eighth year of teaching Spanish at Thomaston High School.

Susan is involved with several clubs and organizations in the high school. She is the adviser for both the Sophomore class and the National Honor Society, and is currently organizing a Pep Club and the Spanish Club. Groups of students and teachers from the high school have accompanied Susan on trips to Mexico, Costa Rica, and Spain.

Ms. Leslie Bischoff- Special Education

Leslie is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education/Elementary Education. She has a Master of Arts in Special Education from Eastern Michigan University and trained at the University of Windsor in Montessori Education. In addition, Leslie holds 36 credits from University New England in Behavior Management/Special Education coupled with credits in Gifted and Talented from EMU.

This is Leslie's seventeenth year teaching special education at Thomaston High School, grades Seven-Twelve. She has taught a total of twenty-five years between THS and other districts (Naugatuck HS, Michigan high schools, Montessori schools) always focusing on the education of the special education student.

Mr. Aaron Bunel

Aaron is currently in his tenth year as the head of the Music Department at Thomaston High School. In 2005, Aaron graduated from the University of Connecticut with a B.F.A. in Music. Aaron continued his educational preparation at the University of Bridgeport, where, in the spring of 2007, he graduated with a Master of Science in Education. In addition to his work in the classroom, Aaron serves as the coordinator for the THS Advisory Program, and he also serves as the Boys' Head Basketball Coach and the THS Athletic Director. Aaron was also the recipient of the 2015-16 "Teacher of the Year" for the Thomaston school district. Outside of THS, Aaron is actively involved as a music director and pianist for several regional performance venues. Aaron currently lives in Collinsville with his wife Alyssa, daughter Lily, and their pup "Scout".

Ms. Marie Butterly- Language Arts

Marie Butterly is currently in her tenth year at Thomaston High School. She teaches Tenth Grade English and two electives: World Mythology and Creative Writing. Marie taught seventh grade Reading and English for four years and served as the Seventh Grade Class advisor for one year. She has written curriculum for courses such as seventh grade Reading, English and Creative Writing. Marie holds a BFA in Writing, Literature & Publishing Certificate from Emerson College in Boston, MA. She earned her secondary English certification and Masters in English from Southern Connecticut State University.

Her interests include running, music, mixed-media art projects, and spending time with her husband and six-year old twins, Jack and Brody.

Mr. Roy Carter- Industrial Arts Education

Roy's career has encompassed both working in the industry (real estate development that included landscape and architectural planning, design and construction management) and teaching technology education and pre-engineering/architectural courses at the high school level.

His education at the graduate level includes degrees from Harvard's Graduate School of Design, where the emphasis was on real estate development, and the San Francisco Art Institute that included an emphasis on sculpture.

After retiring from teaching and managing programs in the Rindge and Latin High School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he and his wife purchased a land parcel in Pawling, New York where they designed and built by hand an energy efficient house and more recently an art studio building. They love vegetable gardening and visiting family in New York City. Roy considers it an honor to be teaching the vocational technology education courses at Thomaston High School.

Ms. Theresa Chawner- Social Worker

Theresa is a UCONN alumna who obtained her Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Human Development and Family Studies in 2003, and graduated with a Master's Degree in School Social Work in 2007. She also just recently obtained her state licensure as a Clinical Social Worker.

Her thirteen years of experience include practice with casework, clinical, mental and behavioral health services, and school social work. She has coordinated a Comprehensive Student Intervention Center at an elementary school in Hartford, where her role was to provide individual and group counseling to at risk students, provide behavioral interventions to support student academic success, and supervise interns.

Additionally, she has practiced as a Children's Outpatient clinician at Wheeler Clinic, providing bio-psychosocial assessments, individual, family and group therapy, case management, and crisis intervention services. Finally, Theresa has proudly served as a School Social Worker in Thomaston for the past two school years, at Black Rock and Center School.

During her first two years in Thomaston, she focused on providing individual and group counseling to students, crisis intervention, implementing mediation services for students in conflict, implementing classroom based social skill and emotion regulation lessons, and connecting families with local resources.

Theresa is truly passionate about her work and enthusiastically makes it her goal every day to positively impact the lives of children so that they may become happy, healthy, successful adults.

Ms. Francesca Ciniglio- Spanish

Francesca graduated from Assumption College in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish with a concentration in Secondary Education. She is a certified teacher in both Massachusetts and Connecticut. Francesca is currently working on her Master's Degree at Walden University in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. She spent a semester abroad studying at the University of Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain. Francesca joined Thomaston High School faculty in August 2014. She currently serves on the attendance and advisory committees.

Ms. Marie Danis- Psychologist

Marie completed her Bachelor of Arts in the field of Psychology at Wells College in Aurora, NY in 1984. Ms. Danis obtained a Masters of Arts in Education and a sixth-year degree in School Psychology, at the University of Connecticut in 1993. Her twenty years of public school education experience includes working in the Wolcott, Berlin, and Watertown school districts. Her training also includes eight years of experience as a behavioral specialist at the Devereux Glenholme School, a residential treatment facility for children with behavioral disorders.

Currently, Marie is responsible for evaluating student learning profiles, and actively participates in intervention team meetings, as well as, special education meetings. She also manages the data on student academic progress from our computerized universal screening assessment. Students have participated in her counseling groups to address anxiety, social skills, and coping skills. Individual counseling is also provided to those students whose needs are more private or require one to one support.

Marie is a resident of Torrington. Her adopted daughter is currently attending Mitchell College in New London, CT, and is majoring in Criminal Justice. Ms. Danis enjoys knitting, camping, and walking her three dogs when she is not in school.

Ms. Michelle Dayton- Digital Media Specialist

Michelle received her Bachelor of Sociology degree at Central Connecticut State University and her Master's Degree and certification at Southern Connecticut State University. She is a certified Library Media Specialist with a concentration on instructional technology, earning her sixth year degree in this area. She served as Media Specialist for Thomaston High School for many years and now teaches Technology Education, including the video production courses Digital Arts and Digital Media.

Michelle is currently the Vocational Coordinator, Technology Committee Chairperson, Co-Chairperson for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges committee, and Culture Committee chairperson. Michelle is also the advisor for the student environmental organization, Student Alliance for a Greener Earth (S.A.G.E).

Ms. Tammy Dumas- Special Education

Tammy completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Central Connecticut State University. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education in

1995 and her Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership in 2000. Tammy began her teaching career at Walter G. Cady School, Long Lane, teaching adjudicated youths. In 1996 she joined the special education staff at Thomaston High School as a resource room teacher. In 2005, Tammy became the coordinator of the newly developed P.A.T.H.S. (Positive Alternative to Traditional High School) alternative program. This program targeted students with behavioral, academic or attendance- based difficulties.

Tammy returned to a resource room position and is currently the grade nine team leader. She provides academic support within the classroom, co-teaching both Math and English, as well as Academic Support classes. She will also be teaching two social studies courses this year. She has previously held positions of seventh and eighth grade program specialist and eighth grade class advisor.

Ms. Natalie Duncan- Special Education

Natalie's education includes a Bachelor of Science in Education from Southern Connecticut State University (1975) and graduate studies in Special Education (thirty-six credits) at SCSU and Saint Joseph's College. Her teaching career began in Terryville (1975), where she wrote a grant for a Preschool Special Education Program. Leaving Terryville to start a family (1981), Natalie continued part time as a homebound tutor, school tutor in Thomaston's Alternative Tech Education program and School to Career. When she returned to full time status, Natalie worked for Education Connection, teaching at Gateways Alternative School in Torrington (1999) and its ACCESS school in Danbury (2003). She returned to Thomaston in 2005 to teach in the Special Education department. Natalie also worked with Workforce Connection/Education Connection in JTPA programs in Thomaston and WIA programs for Thomaston and Watertown students for ten years during the summer and after school.

Natalie was a member of Thomaston's Booster Club for many years and active in Plymouth Congregational Church (Superintendent of the Sunday School for twelve years-retired in 2011).

Ms. Janice Ellis- Mathematics

Janice attended Bentley College and majored in Accounting. She decided to change career paths and graduated Cum Laude from Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, Science and Geography. Janice graduated Magna Cum Laude with her Masters of Science degree in Mathematics. She also completed a second graduate program in fulfillment of her sixth-year certification.

Janice accepted her first teaching position in Wolcott where she taught Project Explore, the district's program for the talented and gifted. She was also the coordinator of a remedial program that involved organizing students to tutor their peers. Following this position she taught seventh grade Mathematics in Wolcott and was Seventh Grade Team Leader for several years. In 2005, she was Wolcott's "Teacher of the Year" and was recognized at the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Ceremony held at the Bushnell in Hartford.

In 2006, Janice accepted a position to teach seventh grade Mathematics in Thomaston and continues to hold this position. She served as Seventh Grade Team Leader for many years. Janice currently resides in Morris with her daughters, Amy and Maggie.

Ms. Jennifer Ewart- Physical Education/Health

Jennifer went to Central Connecticut State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education with a cross-endorsement in Health Education in 2006 and a Master of Science in Physical Education and Human Performances in 2011. Jennifer earned a scholarship to play Division I soccer at CCSU and played lacrosse for one year, as well.

She has been teaching Physical Education and Health Education at Thomaston High School for the past ten years. In this time, she has coached soccer at all levels, tennis, and is a member of the Thomaston Drug Prevention Council, Advisory Committee, and Culture Committee. She also previously served as the high school Athletic Director. Jennifer lives in Newington, CT with her husband, two children, and dog.

Ms. Erica Flanagan- Language Arts

Erica graduated from Central CT State University with a Bachelor of Arts in English. During her time at Central, Mrs. Flanagan studied abroad at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, England. After she received her undergraduate degree, Mrs. Flanagan attended the University of Bridgeport for her Master of Science in Education. Her teaching experience includes three years in North Carolina, one year in a Connecticut middle school, a few long term subbing positions and finally, Thomaston High School. Mrs. Flanagan currently resides in Wolcott with her husband and three children.

Ms. Terri Franzi- History

Terri is beginning her third year at Thomaston High School after serving as a long-term substitute during the 2012-13 school year and again, during the 2014 spring term. Prior to teaching in Thomaston, Terri taught for seven years at Torrington High School and for seven years in the credit diploma program in Bristol. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science/Public Administration from Central Connecticut State University. She worked at the Connecticut State Capitol as a legislative aide for four years and as the legislative liaison for the CT Secretary of the state for another four years before making a career shift to teaching. Terri currently serves as the high school Student Council Advisor.

Terri earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix. She is a resident of Harwinton and lives with her husband and children. She spends her spare time volunteering with the Harwinton Woman's Club and as a coach of her daughter's soccer team.

Ms. Susan Fuller- Social Studies

Susan currently teaches seventh and eighth grade Social Studies and English. She attended Providence College where she earned a B.A. in English and Theatre Arts. Susan began her teaching career in Catholic middle schools, and while teaching in the private sector earned her Master of Art Degree from Sacred Heart University.

For fourteen years, Susan taught in Waterbury private and public schools before returning to her hometown of Thomaston to teach. After spending a school year in eighth grade, she transferred to Black Rock and taught second grade for two years and first grade for six years. This has awarded her the pleasure of watching many of her students grow into young adults. Susan returned to the high school where she currently resides.

Her vast experiences in education has enabled her to face the challenges of working with expelled students in Waterbury as well as a long-term substitute position in an ESL classroom. Susan also spent fourteen years as a homebound tutor and respite worker for a profoundly disabled student.

Currently, Susan is the advisor to a girl's group (B.I.O.) that is concerned with the issues of young women in today's society.

Mr. Benjamin Giorgi- Science

This is Ben's second year teaching at Thomaston High School in the Science Department. Originally from New York, he grew up with a family of teachers and knew it was only a matter of time before he became one. He came to Connecticut for college where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Hartford, and then his Master of Science in Chemistry from UCONN. Prior to entering the field of education, Ben spent four years cleaning chemical spills and other environmental hazards in CT and MA.

Outside of school Ben enjoys hiking and kayaking. He is excited to be advising the Card and Board Game Club as that is also one of his passions. With hobbies ranging from sewing to video games to archery, Ben has a vast array of skills and knowledge at his disposal that he is eager to share with Thomaston High School students.

Ms. Patricia Henderson- Library Media Specialist

Pat graduated from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. She went on to earn a Master of Education degree from the University of Hartford in Educational Administration and Supervision, then earned her certification as a School Library Media Specialist from Central Connecticut State University.

Pat taught kindergarten at Black Rock School for 25 years before moving to the high school to serve as Library Media Specialist.

She serves on many school committees and is currently the president of the Thomaston Education Association, as well.

Ms. Kimberly Guerrero- Language Arts

Kimberly Guerrero graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education from Central Connecticut State University. She also completed her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University. Mrs. Guerrero taught Pre-Kindergarten for four years at a private preschool in Southington, substituted in long term positions in surrounding school districts, and taught middle school at Charter Oak Preparatory Academy in New Britain. Since 2002, she has been a teacher in the Thomaston school system and is presently teaching Language Arts in the seventh grade, also serving as Seventh Grade Team Leader. Mrs. Guerrero recently completed a second graduate program in fulfillment of her Sixth Year Certificate. Mrs. Guerrero currently resides in Watertown with her husband and two children.

Ms. Doreen Jaskewicz- Science

Doreen is a native of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and a 1998 graduate of Elizabethtown College, which is located in Elizabethtown, PA. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Resource Management. After moving to Connecticut in 1998, she began working at Northwest Environmental Water Labs in Oakville. While there, she became a lab director and tested drinking water for various contaminants. In 2001, she began her studies at the University of Bridgeport and graduated with honors earning her Master's Degree in Secondary Science Education with a 4.00 GPA.

Doreen is currently in her fourteenth year of teaching at Thomaston. In 2002, she taught Biology and General Science at the high school before moving to eighth grade science the following year. She currently remains in grade eight, but also teaches honors Biology at the high school level. During her time at THS, she has spent two years as the Eighth Grade Class Advisor and two years as Eighth Grade Team Leader. She is currently on the Advisory Committee.

Ms. Patricia Lanese- Special Education

Pat received an Associate of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Naugatuck Valley Community College in 1993 and taught preschool at Play and Learn Child Development Center from 1993-1997. She earned a Bachelor of Science (Magna Cum Laude) from St. Joseph College in 1999 with a cross-endorsement in Regular Education and Special Education. In 2006, Pat completed her Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix.

Pat developed the Vocational Life Skills Program at Thomaston High School in 2003, in which she is currently teaching. She also provides academic support to students with disabilities in both mainstream and resource room settings. This is her fourteenth year of teaching in the district. A resident of Thomaston for 30 years, Pat is the mother of six children. In her spare time, she tutors adults and children and enjoys spending time outdoors.

Ms. Heidi Laus- Social Studies

Before entering in her teaching career, Heidi was employed at the Hartford Insurance Company. She graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a concentration in History. Currently, she is in her fifteenth year of teaching, spending fourteen of those years at Thomaston High School. She completed her graduate studies, earning a Master's Degree in History at the University of Bridgeport. While at THS, she served as CMT Coordinator for grades seven and eight for eight years. She has also led two trips to Spain in 2005 and 2007. In addition, she has been a standing member and co-chair of the NEASC Steering Committee and has spent three years as the Team Leader representative for "Project Poetry Live!," a program designed with the sole purpose of creating tolerance and diversity in Litchfield County. Most recently, she has spent four years as the eighth grade class advisor initiating a four day trip to Gettysburg and Washington D.C. This amazing trip is now an annual tradition for eighth grade students at THS.

Outside of school, she is an active member of the Torrington Democratic Town Committee. She was elected to the Torrington Board of Education for a four-year term beginning in 2005. She enjoys spending time in the summer with her family in North Carolina. She is also a Justice of the Peace.

Mr. D. John Long- Language Arts

After graduating from the Taft School in 1988, John earned a Bachelor's of Art in Spanish Language from Lafayette College in Easton, PA in 1992. While at Lafayette, he was inducted into Sigma Delta Pi (National Spanish Honor Society) for excellence in the study of foreign language. John also holds an advanced degree in Humanities from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.8.

John has taught for fifteen years in Thomaston Public Schools, teaching primarily eighth grade. Over his time in the district, John has acted as the team leader of the Seventh and Eighth Grade Teams as well as the English Department Coordinator. In 2011, John was named "Teacher of the Year" for the Thomaston School District. Also during 2011, while extending his teaching certificate to encompass high school English, John received recognition for scoring in the top fifteen percent nationally on the Praxis II exam for English content. He is currently teaching English and Reading and is the Team Leader for the Eighth Grade Team at Thomaston High School.

In addition to teaching, John is the founder and director of Litchfield Hills Girls Lacrosse. Over the past few years, he has encouraged several girls from Thomaston to pick up the game of lacrosse. He is the head coach of the middle school field hockey team and is a field hockey referee, as well. He is an avid lacrosse and hockey player, a musician and songwriter, and a die-hard Bruins and Red Sox fan. John currently lives in Thomaston with his wife Lauren and two daughters, Lexi, who is attending Lafayette College, and Cameron, who is attending The Taft School.

Ms. Sandra Lubans- Guidance Counselor

Sandy graduated from UCONN with a B.A. in English and CCSU with an M.S. in Marriage and Family Counseling. She taught high school English for three years at Plainfield High School and one year at Old Saybrook High School. While pursuing CT certification in School Counseling, she worked as an administrative assistant and job analyst for both a stock brokerage and management consulting firm. She began her career as a school counselor in Watertown at Swift Junior High School where she worked with 7th and 8th graders for two years. In 1998 she began her tenure at Thomaston High School where she has served as a 7-12 guidance counselor for the past 17 years. This year she is responsible for grades 10-12.

Mr. Stephen Malo- Guidance Counselor

Steve attended and graduated from Johnson State College, a rural college located in Johnson, Vermont. While he earned his Bachelor of Arts in English with Teaching Licensure in 1994, he remained active on campus with intramural sports (basketball, floor hockey, and flag football), was the music director of the school's radio station, WJSC, and worked for the school's security department. He completed his student teaching at Spaulding Middle School in Barre, Vermont.

Steve continued his educational pursuits by enrolling at Western Connecticut State University. While earning his Master of Science in Counselor Education, he completed a six hundred hour internship at Touchstone School in Litchfield, CT. There, he created a Master's Thesis in regards to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Adolescents. Upon completion of his Master's Degree, Steve continued to take classes at the University of New England. This coursework was taken in pursuit of his sixth-year professional certificate, which he completed in 2009.

Professionally, Steve began working at Education Connection in Litchfield, CT after graduating from Johnson State College. There, he worked with children with autism. He was trained in the Rutgers University Discrete Trial Therapy Program that aimed to improve communication for several non-verbal students.

Steve began his tenure at Thomaston High School in 1999 as an English teacher. He has taught seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth grade during this time. He also has held positions including Student Council Advisor, Junior Class Advisor, Eighth Grade Class Advisor, and Seventh and Eighth Grade Team Leader. In 2015, Steve divided his time teaching and working in the guidance office, offering services to students in grades seven through nine. As of 2016, Steve has moved to the guidance office full time and is responsible for students in grades seven through ten. He currently serves as the school's publicity coordinator and also serves on the following committees: Districtwide Attendance, Crisis Team, and NEASC.

Steve currently resides in Litchfield, Connecticut with his wife Maura and two children, Molly and Colleen. He is an avid Boston Red Sox and Boston Bruins fan, enjoys playing guitar, and administers several Facebook groups.

Mrs. Cecile Mancini- Mathematics

Cecile earned her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Towson University and her Master of Arts in Mathematics from Western Connecticut State University. She began her teaching career in Pennsylvania at Stroudsburg High School. After returning to Connecticut she taught at Canton High School for nine years and Avon Middle School for one year. She has taught Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus for a variety of levels. During her time in Canton she served as a NEASC chair, class advisor and advisor to a community service based club called LEO. She currently teaches AP Statistics, Advanced Algebra and College Prep Geometry at Thomaston High School.

Ms. Megan Mazzini- Language Arts

Megan graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Art degree in 2012 and then earned a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, as well as her teaching certificate, from the University of Connecticut in 2013. Over the next two years, Megan worked as a Literacy Interventionist for grades six through eight in the Waterbury School District. There, Megan supported the development and the implementation of curriculum and provided colleagues with professional development to support student centered learning. During this time in Waterbury, Megan became a certified Concept-Based Curriculum instructor as well as a mentor to high school students through the Gear-Up program. Megan also began the journey of earning her Reading and Language Arts Consultant degree at Central Connecticut State University.

In the winter of 2016, Megan became an English teacher for grades seven and eight at Thomaston High School. Megan spent her summer participating in the Central Connecticut Writing Project, which is a sector of the National Writing Project, where teachers learn how to infuse writing across content areas as well as how to grow as teacher leaders and as personal writers. Megan also became a certified Google Educator and learned how to effectively incorporate technology into the student centered classroom. Megan will be teaching both English and Reading for grades seven and eight at Thomaston High School in the upcoming school year.

Mr. Christopher McMullen- Science

Chris is a Citizen of Canada. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology from Brock University (1996) in St.Catharines Ontario Canada. He worked in the Biotech industry for eleven years as an immune-toxicologist for companies such as Qiagen Inc., Pfizer Inc., Amgen Inc., and Boehringer Ingelheim Inc., running clinical and non-clinical drug studies.

While working in the Biotech industry, Chris studied Human Immunology (2000), earning a Master of Science from the University of Western Ontario, in London Ontario Canada.

Chris came to the U.S. with his wife and children in 2001 and earned his Master of

Education degree from Central Connecticut State University (2014). He began his first teaching assignment at Thomaston High School in August 2014. He is also a trained mortician and a member of the National Select Morticians.

Mr. Edward McNally- Science

Edward graduated from Polytechnic University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, and then earned a Master's Degree in the same field from Stanford University in 1980. Over the next ten years, Edward worked as an aerospace engineer for Hughes Aircraft Company in Los Angeles, supporting the design, development and launch of communications and military satellites, during which time he earned a Master's in Business Administration degree from Pepperdine University. When Hughes Aircraft Company relocated to Denver, Colorado, Edward stayed in Los Angeles and accepted employment as a Financial Advisor at Bear Stearns and Company, in which capacity he remained until 2006, attaining the title of Senior Vice President. It was in this year that Edward decided to leave the financial industry and once again work in a science-related field, and he obtained employment as a chemistry and physics teacher with the Los Angeles Unified School district, and subsequently in several Washington State school districts. This past year, Edward decided to move back to the East Coast to be with his extended family, and will be teaching Physics at Thomaston High School in the upcoming school year.

Mr. Mark Olsen- Mathematics

Mark graduated from Purdue University with a B.S.C.E. and M.S.C.E. (civil engineering) in 1983. He worked in the aerospace industry for sixteen years as a structural engineer, most recently at Sikorsky Aircraft. In 2000, after receiving his M.S. in Education from the University of Hartford, he joined the Thomaston High School staff as a math teacher, teaching a variety of courses.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Olsen coaches high school cross-country and track and field and was honored as Thomaston's "Teacher of Year" for 2016-17.

Ms. Susan Palomba- Art

Susan graduated in 1978 from Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education, pre-kindergarten-twelfth grade. In 1984 she completed her Master's Degree from Central Connecticut State University in Elementary Education. She also has her sixth year degree from the University of New England.

Susan has inspired young artists in Thomaston for thirty-three years, working first with students in grades Kindergarten-eight and currently motivating talent at Thomaston High School. Her high school art students have traveled to England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Italy, France and Spain studying the works of the great masters. These trips have inspired wonderful works from her students. She has also served on numerous committees, both as a teacher and as the Union Liaison to improve the educational environment for both students and staff.

Mr. John Perrucci- Principal

John graduated from Springfield College in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree. The same year he acquired his first teaching assignment at The Wellspring Foundation, teaching biology and working with students labeled SED (Socially and Emotionally Disturbed). In 1992, John obtained a teaching assignment in a more traditional classroom setting at Holy Cross High School. During his tenure at Holy Cross, John enrolled at Southern Connecticut State University and earned his Master of Science degree in Environment Science. John joined the staff at Thomaston High School in 1999 as a biology teacher and Science Department Coordinator. In 2005, he earned his sixth year certificate in Educational Administration from Sacred Heart University and soon became Assistant Principal at Thomaston High School. In 2009, John became Principal of Thomaston High School and currently serves in this capacity.

John has interests in extra and co-curricular activities, as well. During his twenty-five years as an educator, he has served in a multitude of roles: Coach (soccer, wrestling, and track), Student Council Advisor, Grade-Level Advisor, Director of Student Activities, and Athletic Director.

John is most proud of his role in establishing the first Thomaston High School Varsity Girls' Soccer team in 2000, followed by the school's first Varsity Wrestling Team in 2002.

Ms. Michelle Roulx Pope- Mathematics

Michelle graduated from Keene State College, Keene, N.H. in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree-Dual Certification, in Elementary Education grades K-8 and Special Education Grades Pre K-12. In the fall of that year, Michelle began her first teaching assignment at the Devereux Glenholme School, Washington, CT, a school for socially and emotionally disturbed students, teaching mathematics and science to grades 4-8. During Michelle's twelve-year tenure at Glenholme, she received the honor of being named "Teacher of the Year" in 1990. In 1994, Michelle earned her Master of Arts in Education, specializing in reading, at the University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT. Michelle became a member of the teaching staff at Thomaston High School as a Special Education teacher in 1997. After three years at that position, she became an 8th grade Mathematics teacher. During her time at THS, Michelle has actively been involved in numerous committees and held several positions including 8th Grade Team Leader and MS Cheerleading Coach. Michelle is currently in her 32nd year of teaching and her 20th year at Thomaston High School.

Michelle resides in Simsbury CT with her husband and two sons. Mackey, her youngest son, is entering his senior year of college at Keene State College, Keene NH, majoring in Music Performance. Her eldest son, Tucker, is a recent graduate of Gettysburg College, Gettysburg PA, and is working for the Republican Party Election Committee as a press liaison.

Outside of her time spent at THS, Michelle enjoys her frequent vacations with family in Disney World and spending time with friends by the pool.

Ms. Kristin Raymond- Assistant Principal

Kristin graduated from Sacred Heart University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 2003. She began teaching in Thomaston at Black Rock School as a third grade teacher in 2004. Kristin obtained her Master's Degree and 6th Year Degree in Psychology from Walden University in 2007. After a few years teaching, Kristin decided she wanted to go back to get her Administrative Certificate and enrolled in the University of Bridgeport where she obtained the certificate in 2011. Kristin's experience consists of four years of teaching third grade, four years teaching second grade, and two years teaching first grade. Aside from classroom obligations, Kristin was also the Teacher in Charge and participated on many school and district level committees. Kristin became the Assistant Principal at Thomaston High School in 2014.

Outside of school, Kristin loves to spend time with her family. She is a proud wife to Paul and mother to twin daughters, Jillian and Cecilia. She was the Assistant Coach for Torrington High School's Cheer Team for ten years and has been a volunteer coach for the past three years. She is an active volunteer for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and enjoys planning the Torrington Telethon to raise money for children with cancer.

Ms. Monica Reed- Mathematics

Monica received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Master of Arts in teaching from Sacred Heart University. While attending Sacred Heart University, Monica played on the Club Volleyball team for four years. Before coming to Thomaston, she completed her student teaching at Bethel Middle School and was also a long-term substitute at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. She also taught at a summer school program in Southington at Southington High School teaching Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry. Currently she teaches AP Calculus, Advanced Algebra and Pre-calculus at Thomaston High School.

In addition to teaching, Monica serves on the Curriculum Committee and is the Junior Class Advisor.

Ms. Susan Santovasi- Language Arts

Susan Santovasi graduated with the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Leisure Studies from Southern Connecticut State University, Master of Art in English Literature from Southern Connecticut State University, and Juris Doctor from Quinnipiac University School of Law. She completed teachers' fellowships in literature with Yale University and with Harriet Beecher Stowe Center through the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has published various articles on literature, social justice, and law. Susan taught for three years at Cooperative Arts and Humanities Magnet High School in New Haven before teaching at Thomaston High School, where she has taught English since 2003. She teaches AP English Language, AP English Literature, and eleventh grade English. Susan was named Thomaston's Teacher of the Year in 2013.

Beyond the classroom, she is the advisor to the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) and the Chairperson of the Grading Policy Committee at THS.

Mr. Alex Sconziano- Physical Education/Health

Alex graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with degrees of Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Health Education and a Master of Science in Physical Education. He went on to earn his sixth year certificate in Administration from Sacred Heart University in 2005. Alex is in his nineteenth year teaching Physical Education and Health Education at Thomaston High School.

In addition to teaching, Alex coached the high school baseball team for nine years as well as the girls JV basketball team for three years. He served as Athletic Director of THS for five years, as well, and is once again serving in this capacity. Currently, he is a member of the school Culture Committee and the advisor for the Fitness Club. Alex was elected to the Wolcott Circle of Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.

He currently resides in Wolcott with his wife Lori and two sons Nicolas and Joseph.

Ms. Aerielle Smith- Science

Aerielle is one of four children in a Navy family. She has been fortunate to travel the country and many parts of the world, living in Iceland and on many stateside bases. Her family eventually settled in Hamden, Connecticut where she was introduced to the great sport of lacrosse. She received a scholarship to play lacrosse at Lake Erie College while studying to be a biology teacher. As a Junior, Arielle transferred to The Pennsylvania State University where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree.

When not spending time in the classroom, Aerielle works with rescue animals, including dogs and horses. She has trained miniature horses to show and work as therapy animals. Aerielle also coaches girls' lacrosse in Newtown, continuing to educate young ladies in the sport that she loves.

Mr. Preston Soeprasetyo – Business Education

Preston Soeprasetyo is a teacher in the Business department. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Business and Economics from Lehigh University in 2012 where he majored in Management. While at Lehigh University, he participated as a member of the football team for four years while helping win two Patriot League Championships. He is currently a graduate student at University of New Haven where he is in the process of obtaining his Master's Degree in Secondary Business Education. While attending classes last year, Preston was an intern at Washington Middle School in Meriden, CT. He has also been a substitute teacher at Lincoln Middle School, Platt High School, and Maloney High School, all of which are also in Meriden. Preston is currently the high school Yearbook Advisor and also coaches the freshman basketball team.

Mr. Rick Wilson- History

Rick is our current Eleventh Grade Team Leader and former History Department Coordinator. He has been teaching for over twenty years, all but two on the high school level; he has taught in the fifth and sixth grade as well.

Rick was awarded his Bachelor of Science Degree from Eastern Connecticut State University and Masters of Science degree from Southern Connecticut State University. He also has obtained the equivalent of a sixth year degree.

Additionally, Rick has been heavily involved in the journalism profession, having worked for the Waterbury Republican, Torrington Register, Thomaston Express, Litchfield Country Times and Pub Links Golf Magazine. He has earned awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, Associated Press and New England Press Association.

Ms. Carol Wright- Family and Consumer Science

Carol has an Associate Degree in Fashion Merchandising and Design from Becker College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Connecticut. She earned her Masters of Education in secondary education from Central Connecticut State University and holds a sixth year certificate, as well.

Currently, Carol is the Senior Class Advisor. She is also the advisor to Interact, a Rotary affiliated service club, in which she oversees numerous community service projects performed by students in grades nine-twelve. She serves on the Steering Committee for NEASC and is a member of the School Culture Committee.

In addition, Carol is in charge of the School and Community Fund. This fund has been set up to assist those in need of financial assistance within our school and greater community. Donations are made to various programs throughout the year by contributions from the faculty and staff at Thomaston High School.

Carol has been affiliated with the Thomaston School District since 1976 and was the district's first recognized "Teacher of the Year" in 1997-98. She has also been the recipient of the "Michael's Teacher Recognition Award", as voted by her colleagues.