

News

INSPIRE, EDUCATE, AND EMPOWER OUR STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURE!

Waterford School District, 501 N. Cass Lake Road, Waterford, 248.682.7800

www.waterford.k12.mi.us

Winter 2012

Kindergarten Enrollment 2012-2013 School Year Important Dates

District-wide Kindergarten Orientation

District administrators will provide an overview of the kindergarten curriculum and a student's typical day. Important information will be shared. This is a meeting for PARENTS who will have a child entering kindergarten Fall 2012.

**Wednesday, March 14 | 6 p.m. |
Mott Performing Arts Center**

Enrollment February 1 through February 29, 2012

Central Enrollment | Covert Campus
1150 Scott Lake Road | Waterford
Phone: 248.681.2076 | Fax: 248.681.2193 |
Email: rosed01@wsdmi.org
Enrollment Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Please visit www.waterford.k12.mi.us for documentation necessary to enroll your child in kindergarten. **Students must be five years old by 12/1/12 to enroll in kindergarten.**

Building Meetings for Parents & Students

Parents of incoming kindergarten students, AND future students, are invited to attend a welcome/information meeting at your home school. Building administrators and kindergarten teachers will share information and be available to answer questions and provide building tours. Welcome meetings will be held in April.



*If you have questions please call the
Elementary Education Department at
248.706.4864*

U.S. Department of Justice Office Awards \$188,512 Grant to Waterford Police Department and the Waterford School District to Improve School Security

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) announced that the Waterford Police Department and Waterford School District are the recipients of a \$188,512 grant via the COPS Secure Our Schools Program. This award will provide funds to improve security throughout the Waterford School District including:

- Building surveillance cameras
- Bus surveillance cameras
- Bus tracking system utilizing GPS technology

- Amplification systems to increase radio signal coverage
- Knox boxes that provide access for first responders
- Alarm system upgrades

This is the third award for the Waterford Police Department and the Waterford School District, with the first award in 2008 and the second award in 2010. The U.S. Department of Justice awarded 93 grants in 32 states, with Waterford being the only award in Michigan.

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Waterford Community Education Offers Something for Everyone!

Waterford Community Education offers many exciting classes or programs that will keep you busy during the winter and spring months. Community Education classes provide enrichment and academic opportunities for children and adults who want to learn a new skill, explore an interest area, or enrich their personal or professional lives. A brochure was mailed to your home last month but is also available online at www.wsdmi.org/learn. Call us at 248.706.4868 if you have questions.



REGISTRATION IS EASY!

Online

www.wsdmi.org/learn

In Person

501 N. Cass Lake Road

By Mail

501 N. Cass Lake Road,
Waterford, MI, 48328

By Fax

248.706.4888

Superintendent's Message . . .

As you may well know, this past year has seen a significant amount of legislative action resulting in new laws (32, if I counted correctly) that impact public education in the State of Michigan. Obviously, a majority of our legislators in the State House and Senate, along with the Governor, believe that these new laws will all result in positive change for students. Many of us in the field of education and beyond disagree, to varying degrees. However, regardless of our points of view, there are, in fact, new processes, rules, regulations, requirements, etc. that effect what we do on a day to day basis. It is our responsibility to adjust and adapt as best we can, and we most certainly will.

The underlying tone of this new legislation, as well as pending legislation, concerns me. It seems to reflect an underlying belief that public education is irreparably broken, and that we need people from the outside to step in and fix it for us. In general, although there may be exceptions, I don't believe that this is true; here in Waterford Schools, I know that it is not true.

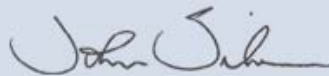
We don't need anyone in Lansing to help us understand how critical it is that we provide a high quality education to our students. In fact, as professional educators I would argue that we know this far better than they can or do. In the relatively short time that I have been here as superintendent I have seen for myself that we have passionate and dedicated staff members throughout our District. We are firmly committed to our District vision: Inspire, educate, and empower our students for their future. We are equally committed to ensuring high levels of learning for all of our students by achieving our District goals:

- We will ensure that all students successfully complete every course and every grade level and demonstrate proficiency on local, state, and national assessments.
- We will eliminate gaps in student achievement in all demographic areas.
- We will provide challenging learning experiences for every student every day.

We know that while we do many things well there are also areas in which we need to improve. We accept and embrace our responsibility to continuously improve in order to better meet the needs of each and every one of our students. Rather than working hard to maintain status quo, we are working hard to build on successful practices and establish new practices that will lead to greater student success. In particular, we are focusing on improving student non-fiction writing, which is considered to be, to quote Doug Reeves, "the backbone of a successful literacy and student achievement strategy." We are also emphasizing the development of Professional Learning Communities, cited by researchers and organizational theorists as, per Mike Schmoker, the "best-known means by which we might achieve truly historic, wide-scale improvements in teaching and learning."

Nothing that happens in Lansing, or Washington, D.C., for that matter, will cause us to care more, work harder, or have higher aspirations. For us, this is not just a job; this is our passion and our life's work. As Mohandas Gandhi said, "A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history." We are determined, we have faith in our mission, and we are on course to achieve high levels of learning for all of our students. Regardless of whatever challenges we may be presented with, we will persevere, and we will succeed.

Sincerely,



John Silveri
Superintendent of Schools

No person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, disability, height and weight, or marital status shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program, activity, or event.



Robotics Team Wins Judges Award

Kettering's Robotics team, Team 3098, competed in the Oakland County Competitive Robotics Association's (OCCRA) Diversity Tournament at Brandon High School. This tournament comprised of three all girl matches, three all boy, and one adult match. Twenty-two teams took the field and competed in this year's game, Tic-Tac-Stack.

The Captains used their robot to ultimately win a Judges Award and are currently ranked 12th out of the 22 teams. OCCRA generates enthusiasm for technical and academic disciplines such as design, engineering, physics, electronics, and is a part of Kettering's CAD Engineering class. For more information please check out:

www.team3098.com.

Join the Waterford Pool & Fitness Centers today!

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Upright Bikes
Recumbent Bikes
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Ellipticals
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Personal Training



Bring this ad to either Waterford Pool & Fitness Center and enjoy a FREE day swimming or exercising!
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248.673.9969
248.674.6360**

Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce Expo

Make sure you visit the 2012 Business & Home Expo! On Wednesday, March 21, the Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce will host its 6th Annual Business & Home Expo from 5 – 8 p.m. at Waterford Mott High School. The Expo is your opportunity to shop local and discover the products, services and amenities available in your community. Whether you're a new resident, business or long time homesteader you won't want to miss Expo 2012!

This is your one stop "local" shop under one roof! From leisure to finance, recreation to business or home improvement, remember that supporting local businesses preserves and creates jobs and provides the financial core for your community. Shopping locally generates tax revenue and keeps dollars at home helping preserve your services and public safety.

An added bonus! Raffles and prizes will be plentiful. Make sure you sign up for a chance to win some great prizes! There will be over 100 booths representing local business, products, services and organizations. Whatever your needs might be, there's sure to be something for everyone so tell your friends and families and visit Expo 2012. For more information as an exhibitor or attendee call 248.666.8600.

To print your free admission ticket and learn more about this great event visit www.waterfordchamber.org. The Expo is truly your "One Stop Shop" for everything.

Mott Engineering Students Compete in U of D Tech Day

Waterford Mott High School students were invited again by the University of Detroit Mercy to participate in the annual Tech Day event held at their McNichols camps. Engineering Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) and CADD Occupations students had a month to design, build, and test their chosen project(s) to prepare them for test day. Competing against 14 different schools throughout Michigan, students worked in teams or entered projects individually in the following areas: Catapult launch, Egg drop, King of the hill, Toothpick Bridge and Rube Goldberg. Students earned second place in the catapult launch competition.

Non-Discrimination Assurance

The Waterford Board of Education will comply with all federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U. S. Department of Education. No person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, disability, height and weight, or marital status shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program, activity, or event.

Inquiries related to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1973 should be directed to the appropriate compliance officer at:

Waterford School District
501 N. Cass Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan, 48328
248.682.7800

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1973

Inquiries Regarding Personnel:

Assistant Superintendent, Business & Human Resources

Inquiries Regarding Programs/Courses/Students/Elementary:

Supervisor, Elementary Education

Inquiries Regarding Programs/Courses/Students/Middle & High School:

Supervisor, Secondary Education

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Assistant Superintendent, Business & Human Resources

Title II of Americans with Disabilities Act & Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Executive Director of Student Support Services

Grievance Procedures for Non-Discrimination

Section I

Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against or denied equal opportunity or access to programs or services may file a complaint, which shall be referred

to as a grievance, with the District's Civil Rights Coordinator:

Assistant Superintendent, Business & Human Resources

The individual may also, at any time, contact the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 600 Superior Avenue, Room 750, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2611.

Section II

The person who believes s/he has a valid basis for grievance shall discuss the grievance informally and on a verbal basis with the District's Civil Rights Coordinator, who shall in turn investigate the complaint and reply with an answer to the complainant. S/He may initiate formal procedures according to the following steps:

Step 1

A written statement of the grievance signed by the complainant shall be submitted to the District's Civil Rights Coordinator within five (5) business days of receipt of answers to the informal complaint. The Coordinator shall further investigate the matters of grievance and reply in writing to the complainant within five (5) business days.

Step 2

If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision of the District's Civil Rights Coordinator, s/he may submit a signed statement of appeal to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) business days after receipt of the Coordinator's response. The Superintendent shall meet with all parties involved, formulate a conclusion and respond in writing to the complainant within ten (10) business days.

Step 3

If the complainant remains unsatisfied, s/he may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board of Education within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's response in step two. In an attempt to resolve the grievance, the Board of Education shall meet with the concerned parties and their representative within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days.

Board of Education
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Heather Halls
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Bob Piggott
Robert Seeterlin

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Vice President
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Superintendent
Editor/Layout

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501 N. Cass Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328

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Points of Pride

Kettering CAD Engineering Teacher Steve Smitka was inducted to the Oakland County Competitive Robotics Association Hall of Fame Association. Smitka was recognized for the work he has done to make the robotics program one of the top in the Country.

Waterford Mott Boys Cross Country Team were named Regional Champions. The Mott Girls Cross Country Team completed well and finished as Regional Runner-Up.

Cooley Elementary Student Abby Carlson was a top winner in the Holiday Extravaganza writing contest. Her essay was selected and she was awarded a lap top computer and served as the Grand Marshall in the Holiday Extravaganza Parade.

Waterford United Swimmer Maddie Wright became the Oakland County Champ in 200 Freestyle (1:50.26, pool and county record), and 100 Butterfly (55.16, pool and county record), both Division 1 State times which are currently the fastest in the State.

Waterford Teen Health Center Nurse Practitioner Dottie Rodriquez has earned the Marilyn Keesler Legacy Award from the School Community Health Alliance of Michigan. The award recognizes an individual who is a strong and passionate advocate for children and school-based and linked health centers and programs.

Shannon Pathe, Language Arts Consultant and Title I Coordinator, is a recipient of the Reading Recovery Council of Michigan Award. This award recognizes significant contributions to the implementation of Reading Recovery ® in the State of Michigan.

Waterford School District... what students deserve

www.waterford.k12.mi.us

Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and Michigan Merit Exam (MME) Scoring Changes

Waterford School District is taking a proactive approach to communicating with parents and the community concerning scoring changes to the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and Michigan Merit Exam (MME) tests this year. Each year, Waterford School District students, along with all other Michigan public school students in grades 3-9, are required to take the MEAP and eleventh graders are required to take the MME. If you haven't already, you will soon begin hearing news reports about new cutoff scores, or "cut scores" that the Michigan State Board of Education recently adopted for these tests.

So, what are cut scores and why has the Michigan State Board of Education changed them? MEAP and MME cut scores separate test takers into various categories, such as advanced, proficient, partially proficient and not proficient. Michigan's previous cut scores for these state tests were set at a very basic level. The intent of raising the cut scores is to give Michigan parents/guardians and students a much better sense of whether they are adequately prepared for the next step in their education and a future career in a global economy.

The new cut scores represent a significantly higher standard for student achievement and are designed to more accurately reflect a student's progress toward college and career readiness. Under the new scoring system, students will have to correctly answer a much higher percentage of questions. Michigan is one of only three states in the nation (along with New York and Tennessee) to move to this top tier level of

test scoring.

Like school districts across the State, Waterford School District MEAP and MME proficiency results are expected to decline when publicly released next spring. While we anticipate an initial drop in the number of students reported as "proficient," we are confident that our scores will ultimately trend upward due to ongoing school improvement efforts and student support.

The MEAP and MME tests are only two of several measures used in our district throughout the year to ensure that students are making academic progress. We remain committed to using all assessment results to help improve our practice and to raise student achievement.

For more information, feel free to contact Mike Batten, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Accountability at 706-3529 or by email at battem01@wsdmi.org.

Help Maintain Good Air Quality

The Waterford School District's No Idling Policy is in place to reduce emissions, save fuel costs, and maintain good indoor air quality by eliminating toxins from vehicle exhaust systems. Because there are outside air dampers on the school buildings that bring outside air in, idling vehicles could compromise fresh air. This policy should be followed by drivers of any vehicle on all Waterford School District property. If you are picking up a student, please turn your vehicle off while waiting.