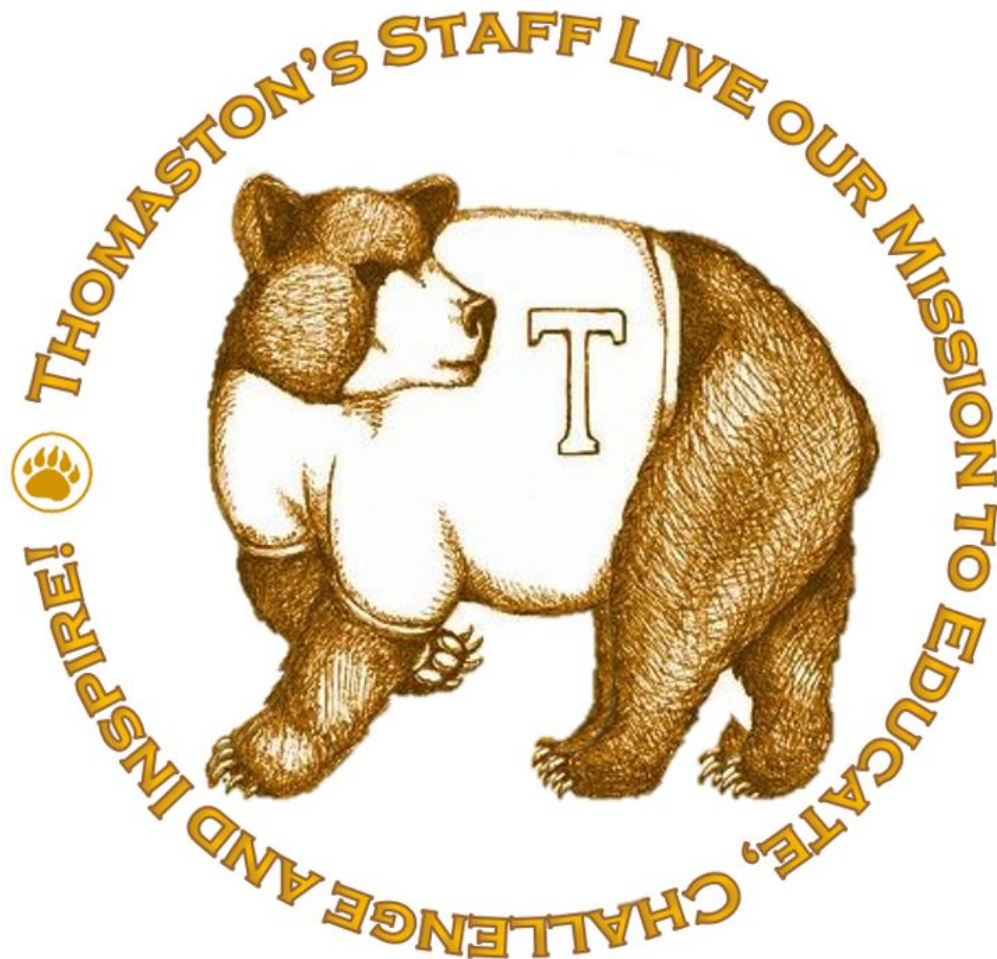


THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL

*Faculty/Staff
2020-2021*



We are very proud of the training and professional experience of our faculty and staff at Thomaston High School. Enclosed, you will find a brief biography for each of the adults working with students in our school. Please take some time to learn more about us. We are confident you will be impressed by the diverse backgrounds and experiences that our teachers and staff bring to our learning community.

Ms. Susan Abbott - Spanish

Susan started her teaching career in Thomaston in 2007. She received a B.A. in Spanish with a certificate in Latin American Studies from Dickinson College and completed a semester abroad at the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellín, Colombia during that time. She received her Master's in Education from Post University in 2013.

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 she is also the 10th Grade Team leader. Groups of students from the high school have accompanied Susan on trips to Mexico, Costa Rica, and Spain.

A life-long Thomaston resident, Susan, her husband and 3 children love any outdoor activity and biking.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1QVHxG5T_YqLMlxtLf-C5eNJmMWckqMJg

Mr. Thomas Andronowitz - Library Media Specialist

Tom began his teaching career in Shelton in 2000 and has taught various grade levels throughout his career. Tom has been employed in Thomaston since 2012 and joined the staff at THS in August 2017.

Tom's education began at The University of Connecticut, where he earned a B.A. in communications. After graduating in 1994, he worked at ESPN and ABC Television networks. He began substitute teaching on his days off and was hooked. Tom went back to school and earned his M.A. in Elementary Education at Sacred Heart University and later earned a 6th year in Administration and Supervision from Southern Connecticut State University in 2007. Most recently Tom earned an additional certification to be a Library Media Specialist through the eARCLMS program at ACES in Hamden.

Tom currently lives in Plantsville (Southington) with his wife and two children. Outside of THS, Tom enjoys golfing, is a weekend warrior with various household construction projects, and likes to vacation in most any beach location.

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QdAwt-AfwOnF6MSnF6orPjBkmDDROzwD/view?usp=drivesdk>

Mr. Aaron "AJ" Bunel - Music

Aaron "AJ" Bunel started his career at THS in 2006 and during his tenure he has helped grow the program from 17 kids (3 in band; 14 in choir) in his first year, to now, over 100 students. AJ attended the University of Connecticut where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in 2005, and he then went on to earn his Masters of Science in Education from the University of Bridgeport (UB) in 2007. As part of his program through UB, AJ was placed as a full time intern at Thomaston High School (THS) where upon graduating from UB he was hired to take over the 7th-12th grade Music Department in the Fall of

2007. AJ was selected as the Thomaston School District's Teacher of the Year in 2015, and he was the recipient of the THS Yearbook dedication in 2017. In addition to his classroom responsibilities, AJ has served as the Program Coordinator for the school's Advisory Program, which he also helped develop, since its inception in 2010. The program focuses on personalizing the learning experience for every student as well as addressing the social-emotional needs of each student. AJ has served as the Boys Varsity Basketball coach at THS since 2014, and he has been a Co-Athletic Director at the high school since 2015.

Outside of school, AJ has worked extensively in Musical Theater throughout the state. He has served as the Music Director, rehearsal accompanist, vocal clinician, and pit musician for countless productions in various theaters statewide, including the Warner Theater, Thomaston Opera House, and the Connecticut Repertory Theater. He has also served as the Music Director for Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Harwinton since 2012.

AJ currently lives in Canton with his wife, Alyssa Fontana Bunel, their two beautiful children, Lily Margaret (3 years old) and James Christopher (4 months old), and their dog, Scout.

Video Link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CDx4eSEZPxnV0zjdGzMtd2i_Eh5aiEmN/view?usp=sharing

Mr. Douglas Craig - Industrial Arts/Technology Education

Doug grew up in Goshen, Conn. and is a graduate of Northwestern Community College with an AS in Recreation Leadership. At Central Connecticut State University, Doug earned his BS in Technology Education and began working at East Windsor Middle School for two years.

In 1985 Doug began teaching at the Thomaston Middle School (Thomaston Center School) and taught 7th and 8th grade Technology Education. It was during this time he returned to CCSU to complete his Masters of Science degree in Technology Education. As grades changed location within the school system, Doug taught at both the High School and Center School, grades 4-12. Construction began on the Middle School addition, and Doug took a full-time position at the Center School teaching Technology Education, Communication Technology and Computer Education Technology.

Doug began a new assignment teaching in both Black Rock School and Thomaston Center School, teaching Technology Education and Computer Science to K-8 students. This year Doug taught in all three Thomaston schools and all grade levels pre-K through 12. With the retirement of Mr. Carter in 2018, Doug returns to the High School for his 34th year teaching in Thomaston. Doug has a beautiful wife and two beautiful adult children.

Video Link: <https://www.loom.com/share/4edcb0989aa14c8ba70006ea6c901614>

Ms. Elizabeth Cotter - Effective School Solutions Regional Director

Elizabeth received a B.S. in Dance Education from New York University and an M.S. in Community Counseling from Western Connecticut State University. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (L.P.C) with over fifteen years experience working with children and families.

Ms. Marie Danis - Psychologist

Marie completed her Bachelor of Arts in the field of Psychology at Wells College in Aurora, NY; Masters of Arts in Education and a sixth-year degree in School Psychology, at the University of Connecticut. Her career began as a behavioral specialist at the Devereux Glenholme School, a residential treatment facility for children with behavioral disorders. She has over twenty years of experience in public school as a school psychologist. She also maintains a small private practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Currently, Marie's services are shared between Thomaston High School, Thomaston Center School and Black Rock School. She is responsible for the evaluation of student learning profiles in order to assist in the determination of eligibility for special education services. Most recently, she has participated in the evaluations of those students who may be gifted or talented.

Ms. Michelle Dayton - Digital Media Specialist

Michelle received her undergraduate degree in Sociology at Central Connecticut State University and her graduate degree and certification at Southern Connecticut State University. She is a certified Library Media Specialist with a concentration on instructional technology for her sixth year degree. She had been the Media Specialist for Thomaston High School for fourteen years and now teaches Desktop Publishing, Digital Arts, Digital Media and Digital Age Experience courses.

Michelle is currently the Career and Technical Education Coordinator, Senior Class Advisor, Co-Chairperson New England Association of Schools and Colleges committee, Culture Committee chairperson, and Communications Coordinator. Michelle is also the adviser for the student environmental organization, Student Alliance for a Greener Earth (S.A.G.E) and Film Club.

Michelle and her husband have two children and live in Thomaston. She loves to cook, decorate and renovate her home, gardening, movies, concerts and travel.

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pBsYQk25mz--BjBHyexUSB0TFz9ZXcvM/view?usp=sharing>

Ms. Olivia DeLuca- Effective Schools Solutions Clinician

Olivia completed her undergraduate studies in social work at Western CT State University and later graduated from UCONN School of Social Work with her Master's degree. Olivia previously worked at Wellmore Behavioral Health both in the IICAPS program and EMPS Mobile Crisis Intervention Services. Olivia has been licensed as a social worker in the state of CT since 2015.

Mr. Geoffrey Dobos - I.T. Senior Support Technician

Geoffrey graduated from Northwestern Connecticut Community College with an A.S. in Computer Systems Technology. He earned his B.S. in Business Administration from Post University in 2010. Prior to working for the Thomaston school district, he was the Technology Coordinator for the Torrington Library for twelve years. In 2012, Geoffrey joined the Thomaston school district as the Information Technology Network Specialist. In 2016, he was appointed to the position of I.T. Senior Support Technician and became the district's Powerschool SIS Coordinator in 2019.

Geoffrey is a life-long resident of Thomaston having graduated from Thomaston High School in 1998. He currently lives here with his wife and two sons. He is an avid Boston Red Sox fan and likes to spend his free time relaxing while fishing, travelling, or working in his gardens.

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 has served as the grade nine Team Leader and Special Education Coordinator at the high school. She provides academic support within the classroom, co-teaching both Math and English, and outside of the mainstream with Academic Support classes. She has previously held positions of seventh and eighth grade program specialist and eighth grade class advisor.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZcNeDw6_uGOWVCGmkbas39thLxahbZoF

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. She spent several years serving as the head teacher in Thomaston's alternative education program. 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, where she served as Superintendent of the Sunday School for twelve years, retiring in 2011.

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EI-pj966dPcfZLlwR4cLQ3IYIA5tWSP5/view?ts=5ed17252>

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 has also completed another thirty credits of coursework beyond her Master's degree.

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, she accepted a position to teach seventh grade mathematics in Thomaston and currently teaches seventh grade mathematics and geography. She also held the position of seventh grade Team Leader for many years.

Ms. Ellis loves to travel with her two daughters.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1w5QtRPtziYn_f3hxudaAADBhuAOIkWG5

Ms. Jennifer Ewart - Physical Education/Health

Jennifer went to Central CT 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 and was inducted into the CCSU Hall of Fame along with her teammates.

She has been teaching Physical Education and Health Education at Thomaston High School since the 2006-2007 school year. In addition to teaching, Jennifer is the head coach of girls soccer and coordinator of the Hiking Club. She is a member of the Advisory and Culture Committee and serves as the Junior Class Advisor. Jennifer lives in Southington, CT with her husband and two children.

Video Link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FdjjDwIsLC0SwRW52iNpqqxzgl4KeqcR>

Mr. Timothy Ferris - Custodian

Tim was born and raised in Newtown, CT and attended Newtown schools. Tim has a wife, son, and stepdaughter. Tim worked for an electronics manufacturer/distributor from 1985 to 2014. For the past nineteen years, Tim has lived in Thomaston. In 2015 Tim started working at Thomaston High School as a Custodian, and he loves what he does!

Ms. Erica Flanagan - Language Arts

Erica graduated from Central CT State University with a Bachelor of Arts in English. During her time at Central, Ms. Flanagan studied abroad at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, England. After she received her Bachelor's Degree, Ms. 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 CT middle school, and the remainder of her tenure at Thomaston High School. Ms. Flanagan has been teaching grade 9 English and grade 12 English for the last 8 years here at Thomaston High School.

Video Link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1--Zr-nP-ZChSPOqVS2u8_Qfld6HDquV7/edit?userstoinvite=%22%22

Ms. Terri Franzi - History

Terri began teaching at Thomaston High School in 2014, after having served as a long-term substitute. Prior to teaching in Thomaston, Terri taught for eight 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 earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix. She currently teaches Global Studies, AP Psychology, and American and

World Citizenship. She currently advises the THS Student Council and the THS Mock Trial team. She is a resident of Harwinton and lives with her husband, son, and daughter.

Video Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dzocv-dbyfTIPZhUJRErnGZgXSZZMfjY/view>

Ms. Kimberly Guerrero - Language Arts

Kimberly Guerrero graduated with the degree of 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 and 30 credits beyond her Master's Degree through Walden University. Ms. Guerrero taught Pre-Kindergarten at a private preschool in Southington, substituted in long term teaching positions in surrounding school districts, and taught middle school at Charter Oak Preparatory Academy in New Britain before joining our district.

Since 2002, she has been a teacher in the Thomaston school system. She is presently teaching seventh grade ELA and eighth grade US History. She also serves as seventh grade Team Leader.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZcTL_J80DXL6borDdGt2lhE59Ie7zTC

Ms. Shannon Haluchak - Effective School Solutions Coordinator

Shannon Haluchak graduated from Emmanuel College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Studio Art, with a concentration in Art Therapy and a Minor in Psychology. She also completed her Master's Degree in Art Therapy from Albertus Magnus College. Mrs. Haluchak has been a Licensed Professional Counselor through the State of Connecticut since 2012.

Mr. Bryan Holmes - Science

Bryan Holmes graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Physics in 1984 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. He spent twenty years in the Air Force as a pilot and engineering manager. He flew and became a flight instructor in the T-38 supersonic jet trainer, the C-130 passenger and cargo aircraft, and the KC-135 air refueling aircraft. He also helped manage the development of the Air Force's newest airlift aircraft, the C-17. During his time in the Air Force, he lived in Japan for almost five years and England for almost five years, and he completed a tour at the Pentagon. He and his wife Christi have three children - two grown sons, Zachary serving as a B-52 aircrew member in the Air Force and Jacob serving as a ship's officer in the Navy, and a daughter, Rebekah, who attends Watertown High School.

After retiring from the Air Force, Mr. Holmes settled with his family in Watertown and became a teacher, starting out in the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Danbury High

School, where he brought physics and engineering into the curriculum. After several years, he became a physics and engineering teacher at Ridgefield High School, then took on an opportunity to set up an Academy of Aerospace and Engineering at a middle school in Newington, where he taught science, math, aerospace science, and engineering.

Over the years, he completed a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University, a Sixth Year degree in Educational Leadership from Southern Connecticut State University, and a Master of Liberal Studies in Teaching and Learning from Fort Hays State University (online program). Mr. Holmes teaches Physics and the Science and Engineering Cohort Program, and he oversees the STEM Competition Club as well as other STEM activities.

Video Link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ju5-J8bwHU0TdghDjnNlfgmmkr8xDQI/_view?usp=sharing

Ms. Barbara Jarvis - Special Education Paraprofessional

Barbara graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education. She began working as a paraprofessional at Black Rock School in 2001. She has also worked at Center School, but since 2006 has primarily worked at Thomaston High School, mostly with 7th and 8th graders. Barbara was honored with the Staff Appreciation Award in 2008. In March of 2009, she was named Employee of the Month. She was also a recipient of the Michael's Jewelers Staff Recognition watch in June of 2009. Before joining the staff in Thomaston, Barbara was a stay at home mother raising her two daughters, Katie and Michelle. During this time, she worked part-time as a substitute teacher for both Watertown and Thomaston schools. From 1990-2006, Barbara served her community as an active member of the Watertown Junior Women's Club. She chaired several committees including the health committee where she organized preschool vision screenings in coordination with Prevent Blindness. She also served as president and vice president of the club. Prior to this time, she worked in both special education and as a customer account representative for several computer consulting firms.

Barbara resides in Watertown with her husband, Glenn. She enjoys the beach, concerts, and theater. Barbara mostly loves spending time with friends and family, especially her grandchildren, Joan and Saachi.

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, CT. 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.

Doreen has been teaching at Thomaston High School since 2004, where she taught Biology and General Science at the high school, before moving to eighth grade science the following year. 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 lives in Torrington with her husband Brian and two sons, Scott and Jake.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_ieZxAz_FyTMYUYISdEISMd83onNjUuY

Mrs. Laura Johnston- Art

Laura is the new art teacher at Thomaston High School, but you may remember her as the art teacher from BRS and TCS not so long ago! Mrs. Johnston has been teaching art in Thomaston for over 20 years and has no plans to stop anytime soon. She attended Southern Connecticut State University, earning her BS in Art Education with an endorsement covering Pre K-12th grade. She graduated in 1991. Mrs. Johnston returned to SCSU for their Masters in Art Education Program and has been teaching art ever since. She lives in New Hartford with her husband, two children, two dogs and one cat. She enjoys painting, walking her dogs, reading good books and seeing her friends.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mX3g0C90lw&feature=youtu.be>

Ms. Karen Keith - Lead Secretary

Karen graduated from Naugatuck Valley Community Technical College with an associate's degree in Executive Secretarial. Before coming to Thomaston, Karen worked for a condominium management company in Southbury for ten years, where she was the office manager. In August 2005, Karen joined the THS family as the Lead Secretary and was named Employee of the Month in December 2005.

Karen grew up in Naugatuck, but now lives in Wolcott with her husband Rob, son Logan and two puppies Copper and Chloe. She is an avid 49ers fan; however, her husband is a Cowboys fan, so Football season is their favorite time of year. Luckily, they are both Yankee fans. Karen is very competitive, and she loves to cook, spend time with family and friends, and have a family game night. She especially loves to watch her son play baseball in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. In between games and practices they somehow fit in Karate, but Karen would not change the busy, hectic schedule for the world.

Ms. Megan Kellogg - Language Arts

Megan graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's degree in English 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. Megan started her teaching career as a Literacy Interventionist for grades six through eight in the Waterbury School District in 2013. In 2016, Megan became an English teacher for grades seven and

eight at Thomaston High School. Megan spent the summer of 2016 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. She also became a certified Google Educator and learned how to effectively incorporate technology into the student centered classroom. In 2017, Megan graduated from CCSU with a Masters in Reading.

Megan will be teaching grade seven ELA and will be an Instructional Coach for THS. Megan is also the Assistant Advisory Coordinator, Team Leader to the eighth grade team, and grade eight Class Advisor. She currently carries on the tradition of the eighth grade class trip to Gettysburg and Washington D.C., Heidi Laus started. Outside of school, Megan enjoys spending time with her husband and their son, Joey. She loves to read, going to the Cape, playing with Joey, and baking.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WFAxUWVzYcl5psINZbV3y-W_hiEnoDoa

Ms. Martha Kelly - Family & Consumer Science

Martha received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of New Haven with an emphasis in community nutrition and nutrigenomics. She began her career in clinical nutrition working for Bristol Hospital where she worked providing nutrition education and support to patients in an in-patient clinical care setting for seven years. A love for community nutrition and working with children guided Martha toward a career in teaching. Upon becoming certified in Family and Consumer Science education, Martha started teaching at Thomaston High School in 2017. Martha also serves on the THS Culture Committee and the district Professional Development and Evaluation Committee.

Martha is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Special Education at Western Connecticut State University. In the last year, Martha has also cross endorsed in Biology and Technology Education. She also serves on the board for the Connecticut Affiliate of the AAFCS (American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences). Outside of school, she enjoys designing and creating costumes, playing video and board games, working with electronics, and spending time with her loved ones.

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12VNZqtD0vH2B8nKkJFqaX5ZF4J4dck8w/view?usp=sharing>

Mr. George LaChance- Mathematics

George earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education focusing on Mathematics from Western Connecticut State University. He began teaching in Waterbury at Michael F. Wallace Middle School, where he taught seventh grade

mathematics for two years. George has been a resident of Thomaston for sixteen years and is excited to be a part of Thomaston's school community. George likes to spend time with his wife Kelly, his three children Leah, George III and Chase, and his two dogs, Livy and Nick. He also works with a general contractor to remodel homes. In his spare time, George likes to watch sports, bowl, and go to his children's activities.

Video Link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1GYDKXIFfOZiSEr9pl0xTj8Wa2f4uS5f8>

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 began teaching at Thomaston High School in 1999. She developed the Vocational Life Skills Program at Thomaston High School in 2003, in which she is currently teaching. She also provides academic instruction to students with disabilities in both mainstream and resource room settings. A resident of Thomaston for thirty years, Pat is the mother of six children and six grandchildren. In her spare time, she tutors adults and children and enjoys spending time outdoors.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vUOLXnaNjNbqA0eqyW9c_UIP7rD1kPVr

Ms. Maureen Laplante - Counseling Office Secretary

Maureen has been a secretary at THS for twenty-nine years, most of those years in the Counseling Office. Prior to that she was a secretary in the Purchasing Department of Tech Systems before her most important job of stay-at-home mom raising two children. Maureen is a life-long resident of Thomaston, and she is very proud of it.

When not at work, Maureen enjoys hobbies such as reading, sewing, gardening, and swimming and/or water aerobics at the YMCA. She also loves to spend time outdoors and vacationing in her camper. In addition to her children, she has two grandchildren, Audrey and Calvin.

Ms. Heidi Laus - Social Studies

Before entering into her teaching career, Heidi was employed at the Hartford Insurance Company. She returned back to CCSU to pursue her undergraduate degree. She graduated from Central CT State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a concentration in History. Currently, she is in her 20th year of teaching, spending

nineteen of those years at Thomaston High School. During this time she completed her graduate studies in education at the University of Bridgeport. Most recently, Heidi is working on a second Master's Degree in American History from Pace University.

While at THS, she has spent eight years as the CMT Coordinator for grades seven and eight. She has also led two trips to Spain in 2005 and 2007, a trip to Ireland/England in 2015, and a trip to Italy in 2018. She has spent many years as the eighth grade class advisor, initiating a four day trip to Gettysburg and Washington D.C., which has become an annual tradition here at THS. In the Summer of 2020, Heidi is headed to France and England with a new group of students. Ms. Laus is also the advisor to B.I.O., Beauty Inside and Out, a group led by and created by female students.

In addition, she has been a co-chair of the NEASC Steering Committee. As co-chair, Heidi led the faculty through the self-study process and visitation, for the recent accreditation process in October of 2018. While teaching middle school Heidi 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.

Heidi is a life-long resident of Torrington. She was elected to the Torrington Board of Education in Torrington for a four-year term beginning in 2005. In the summer, she enjoys spending time with her family in North Carolina. She is also a Justice of the Peace.

Video Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DU1dcFOdM9VspNWGWUsrcXJBrYvXkEGf/view>

Mrs. Lisa Lavoie Board - Certified Behavior Analyst

Mrs. Lavoie grew up in Meriden, CT and currently resides in Naugatuck, CT with her husband, Matthew, and their two sons, Matthew Jr (8) and Samuel (2). Mrs. Lavoie received her undergraduate degree at Central Connecticut State University and her Masters Degree at Sage Colleges.

Mrs. Lavoie works at all three schools within Thomaston and helps staff and students focus on increasing positive behaviors and positive outcomes. Mrs. Lavoie's has a passion for seeing students grow and develop in the best way possible. She especially loves to come up with creative ways to help students learn academics, social skills, and emotional regulation tools and strategies.

Outside of school, Mrs. Lavoie is an active member of her church and sings with the band. You can almost always find her whistling, humming, or singing a tune. She is also currently learning to play the piano.

Mrs. Barbara Lee- Paraprofessional

Celebrating twenty years as a paraprofessional in the Thomaston School District, Barbara has rotated roles in each of our three school buildings in a variety of educational settings.

She started her career at the Center School in 2000 in the special education department. In 2005, Barbara transitioned roles in the Center School to a physical education assistant, assisting the teacher for four years with developing the middle school students' sport safety skills. During 2009-2013, as the high school library assistant, Barbara met nearly the entire high school student body by day to day contacts at the circulation desk, during study hall assignments, or while aiding computer research in the library. From 2001-2003, Barbara worked with two different teachers in the Alternative High School Program (ACE). For this 2019 school term, she has once again returned to the high school for what is now called the THS PATHS program.

Barbara resides in Thomaston with her husband of forty years. They have a daughter Deborah, with two grandchildren. Her son, Alex, is an accountant and 2011 THS graduate. Barbara loves listening and dancing through life with classic rock, walking outdoors, reading all that she can, dabbling in crafting, relaxing at yoga classes, and playing tennis.

Mr. D. John Long - Language Arts

After graduating from the Taft School in 1988, John earned a Bachelor of Arts 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 since 2002 in Thomaston Public Schools, teaching primarily eighth grade. Over his many years 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 grade eight Reading and English.

In addition to teaching, John is the founder and director of Litchfield Hills Girls Lacrosse and coaches the THS Varsity Field Hockey Team. Over the past few years, he has encouraged several girls from Thomaston to pick up the games of lacrosse and field hockey. He is an avid lacrosse and ice 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 and Cameron.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1VNOgitOLP_kuNECs7Ntw1GfnBEQU02Vy

Mr. Spencer Luthy - Head Custodian

Spencer graduated from Thomaston High School in 2007. His career in the maintenance field started in 2005, when he was working seasonally for the Department of Environmental Protection. In January of 2008 he started his career with Thomaston

Public Schools working at Black Rock Elementary School as a night custodian. In July of 2009 he transferred to Thomaston High School to continue his work as a night custodian. In October of 2015 he then took on the role of Head Custodian. He enjoys what he does for our school!

Spencer resides in Harwinton, Connecticut with his wife Kristen and his two-year-old son Hunter. They own a small farm on which they grow vegetables and raise chickens and goats. He also enjoys his favorite hobby on the farm, making maple syrup! He is a very active volunteer working at the Harwinton Agricultural Society. Spencer is a very big Patriots and Red Sox fan and enjoys watching the games with his son.

Mr. Stephen Malo - School Counselor (A-L)

Steve attended and graduated from Johnson State College, a rural college located in Johnson, Vermont. There, he earned his Bachelor of Arts in English with Teaching Licensure in 1994.

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 completed coursework at the University of New England. These behavior modification classes were taken in pursuit of his Sixth-Year Professional Certificate.

Steve began his professional career at Education Connection in Litchfield, CT. 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 both Seventh and Eighth Grade Team Leader. In 2015, Steve wrapped up his teaching career and moved to the School Counseling Department, where he serves as the School Counselor for students A-L alphabetically. Steve also serves on the building and district-level attendance committees, the NEASC committee, the SEL Committee and the Crisis Team. He holds the positions of AP Coordinator and Administrator for the high school's Facebook group. He was also honored with the 2019 THS yearbook dedication.

Steve resides in Litchfield, Connecticut with his wife Maura and two children, Molly and Colleen. He currently serves as Secretary for The Litchfield, Connecticut Board of Education and is also President of the Northern Vermont University—Johnson Alumni Council. An avid Boston Red Sox and Boston Bruins fan, he also enjoys playing guitar and administering multiple Facebook groups.

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/139TstojexVeqo7WGH6U-UVSm3tUK5Doe/view?usp=drivesdk>

Ms. Shana Marques - School Social Worker

Shana attended Southern Connecticut State University located in New Haven, Connecticut for both her Undergraduate and Graduate school degrees. Shana graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a minor in Theatre in 2012. Shana then obtained her first position in the mental health field working for Wellmore Behavioral Health in Waterbury in the Intensive In-Home Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services (IICAPS) program for youth who were at risk of psychiatric hospitalizations/out of home placements as well as for those just transitioning back into their homes from a higher level of care. Shana went on to be an IICAPS Mental Health Counselor for just over three years where she worked with children and adolescents (ages 4-18) who struggled with behavioral/mental health disorders as well as substance use disorders. This position allowed Shana to be well trained in crisis intervention, safety planning, individual counseling sessions, as well as family therapy sessions.

Shana pursued graduate school full-time in 2016 to begin her Master of Social Work (MSW) degree with a concentration in School Social Work. She completed over 1,100 internship hours between her first year field placement at Bunker Hill Elementary School in Waterbury and her final year field placement at Wellmore Behavioral Health's Adult Intensive Outpatient program in Waterbury.

Shana graduated in May 2018 with her MSW degree and is beginning her second year at Thomaston High School servicing grades 7-12 in hopes to increase students' social and emotional wellness.

Shana resides in her hometown of Naugatuck with her husband, Christopher and her Yorkie, Jack. Shana loves the fall and winter seasons and all the activities that come with them. She is an avid movie watcher and movie "quoter"—Nothing makes her happier than watching a great film, reading a suspenseful book, dancing, spending time with her friends and family, and helping others.

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14Kul44UW1pn2Kij7Tvax-uyOV3KgPQNV/view?usp=drivesdk>

Mr. Christopher McMullen - Science

Chris is a citizen of Canada and came to the USA with his wife in 2001. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology from Brock University (1996) in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada and his PhD in Immunology from the University of Western Ontario (2001) in London, Ontario, Canada. He worked in the biotech industry for ten years as an Immunotoxicologist for companies such as Alexion Pharmaceuticals Inc, Pfizer Inc, Amgen Inc, and Boehringer Ingelheim, where he was in charge of running clinical and non-clinical biologic toxicology studies. After a rewarding career in the

private sector, Chris went back to school and received his Master of Education from Central Connecticut State University (2014) and began his first teaching assignment at Thomaston High School in August 2014. Interesting fact about Chris: he also holds a Bachelor of Science in Mortuary Science, was a member of the National Select Morticians (NSM), and is a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in immunogenicity and toxicology. Chris currently teaches Anatomy and Physiology, UCONN Biology, Infectious Diseases, Science and Engineering Cohort, and Forensic Science. He also is an advisor to the Gaming Club and serves as Team Leader for grades eleven and twelve.

Chris lives in Madison with his wife Andrea and two daughters, Sydney and Paige. He is a big hockey fan (Montreal Canadiens) and is a weight lifter.

Video Link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1C0PAzMg2NkDinmGGSwYNJsxyf1YNEkBB>

Mr. Seth Murphy - History

Seth earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2006 and a Master of Arts degree in 2008 in history from Western Connecticut State University. During his undergraduate work he concentrated on German history, specifically the rise of the Nazi Party and the beginnings of World War II. During his graduate work he shifted his focus toward American Constitutional history, discovering how the Constitution works and how it was founded. He spends most of his free time reading books on early American history and how the Supreme Court interprets the Constitution. It is his hope to go back to school one day and earn a PhD in history.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N-n_ltmiby1SI-1aizHsPW1UEI_V_AzU/view

Mr. Robert (Bob) Newsome, Sr. - Custodian

Bob, a 1976 graduate of Thomaston High School, has been married to his wife Louise for 40 years. They have three children and three grandchildren. Bob has worked for the Thomaston school system as a custodian since 1999.

Mrs. Sarah Norck - Main Office Secretary

Sarah has lived in Thomaston since 2008 with her husband, Dan. She graduated from Pomperaug High School in Southbury in 1998. Later on she obtained an Associates Degree in General Studies from Naugatuck Valley Community College. Before joining Thomaston Public Schools, she worked many years as a Pharmacy Technician in a long-term healthcare pharmacy. She then took a few years off to stay home with her daughters, Tinsley and Wynne. In 2017, Sarah started working at Black Rock School as a lunch monitor. From there she moved on to the Paraprofessional role, and finally in 2019, she became a Secretary in the Main Office at Thomaston High School. Outside of school, Sarah enjoys camping with her family.

Mr. Chris O'Keefe - Custodian

Chris was a graduate of Nonnewaug High School in 1984 and began his career that year with the State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services. He worked with the State for thirty years as a State school instructor. He started employment at Thomaston High School as a custodian in November of 2017. Chris is a lifelong resident of Woodbury, CT, where he currently lives with his girlfriend and two daughters. He enjoys spending time with his family and is an avid music fan.

Mr. Mark Olsen - Mathematics

Mark graduated from Purdue University with a B.S.C.E. and M.S.C.E. (civil engineering) in 1983. While at Purdue, he was inducted into both Tau Beta Pi (All Engineering National Honor Society) and Chi Epsilon (Civil Engineering Honor Society). 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, Mark joined the Thomaston High School staff as a math teacher. His current classes include Algebra, PreCalculus and AP Statistics. Mark was Thomaston's Teacher of the Year in 2016.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Olsen coaches high school cross-country and track and field. His teams have won six state championships and fourteen Berkshire League championships. He was honored as the Connecticut Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2013 and the Connecticut Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2019. Mark resides in Thomaston with his wife, Joyce. His five children, Tim, Josh, Gabe, Malik, and Sabrina, all attended Thomaston High School.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GLsUwklrO5nSn_peO_Jd09jABDYAivQC/view

Jose L Ortiz - IT End User Technician

Jose graduated high school in Guilford, CT in 1984. He attended Middlesex Community College from 1986 to 1988, studying telecommunications, and Porter and Chester in Watertown, CT, earning A+ Microsoft Certification in computer repair. In 1989, Jose began working at A&T Communications, LLC as a computer technician and manager. He started working as a custodian in Thomaston Public Schools in January 2000, until 2014 when he joined the IT Department for Thomaston. Jose states that this is the best job that he has ever had and enjoys the great staff.

Mr. John Perrucci - Principal

John graduated from Springfield College in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 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 Environmental 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 continues to serve in this capacity.

John has interests in extra and co-curricular activities as well. During his twenty-seven 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.

John resides in Bethlehem, Connecticut with his wife Stacy, daughter Mia, and two stepsons Jack and Joey.

Ms. Kayla Policarpio- Science

Kayla graduated from Central Connecticut State University in December 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology Secondary Education. She completed her student teaching at Lewis Mills High School in Burlington prior to graduating. The following spring she began her first teaching assignment at Thomaston High School, teaching seventh grade science.

Kayla played club lacrosse throughout her college career, and was actively involved with the youth programs in her hometown of Bristol. While finishing her degree, she was the assistant coach for the Bristol Girls Co-op lacrosse team for two years. In 2019 she became head coach for Bristol Eastern High School as one of the youngest head coaches in the state at 22 years old.

She currently resides in Bristol with her rescue dog Mochi.

Video Link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/180lylaGSfHf_asqZRtrtk91IV9Jhr2lh/view?usp=sharing

Ms. Michelle Roulx Pope - Mathematics/US History Grade 8

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, in 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 Masters of Arts in Education, specializing in Reading, from 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 eighth grade Mathematics teacher. In addition to teaching Mathematics for twenty years, Michelle can also be found teaching grade seven Social Studies or grade eight U.S. History. During her time at THS, Michelle has actively been involved in numerous committees and held several positions including eighth Grade Team Leader and middle school Cheerleading Coach. Michelle is currently in her thirty-third year of teaching and her twenty-third year at Thomaston High School.

Michelle resides in Simsbury, CT with her husband and her youngest son, Mackey, who recently graduated from Keene State College with a major in Music Performance. He currently works as a private music instructor on the clarinet and saxophone. Her eldest son Tucker is a graduate of Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA, where he majored in Political Science and English. Tucker currently is an Admissions Advisor at Post University in Waterbury, CT. Tucker resides in San Diego California. Outside of her time spent at THS, Michelle enjoys her frequent vacations with family to Disney World, spending time on the beach in California, going to her son Mackey's numerous concerts, and hanging with friends by the pool.

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mfdfiaf3OdyUV0p8JPfexjVmZoTZsuB0a/view?usp=sharing>

Mr. Raymond Rabuska - Science

Ray is a proud graduate of Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Education in 2018, with a major in Chemistry and minor in Psychological Science. He completed student teaching at the CREC Academy of Science and Innovation before graduating. In February 2020, Ray completed a Master of Arts in Science Education program through Western Governors University.

During his undergraduate work, Ray participated in Chemistry research at his university. He was able to study various inorganic compounds and presented his findings at the American Chemical Society National Conference in May 2017. Additionally, Ray was a Resident Assistant, Orientation Leader, and Student Ambassador during his time at CCSU. Ray has also been a private tutor since 2016, and he was named Tutor of the Year 2016 at Ivy Bound Test Prep. Ray will be teaching Advanced Placement Chemistry, honor's and college preparatory Chemistry, and Robotics this school year.

Video Link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1baVgN4ZbA3TcTVWMCB9bxn_cncinT4gw/view?usp=sharing

Ms. Breanna Riollano - School Counselor (M-Z)

Breanna was honored to join the faculty at Thomaston High School as a School Counselor in 2018. Breanna conferred her undergraduate degree in 2014 at the University of Connecticut with a double major in Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies. Breanna graduated from Saint Joseph University in 2018 with a Master of Arts degree in School Counseling. Breanna completed her internship at Wolcott High School, where she was awarded Connecticut School Counseling Intern of the Year for 2018.

Breanna has been an active member of many local theatre companies in Connecticut, with many ties to Thomaston as her first community theatre production was *Music Man* at the Thomaston Opera House! She is very excited to be back in Thomaston and serve as the Drama Director and Advisor of the High School's Drama Club.

Breanna could not be more thrilled to be a part of such an amazing team and community! She is very much looking forward to the upcoming year!

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10ERXdQKWDhZdAiVSzRFJ9OjJUyXA72sS/view?usp=sharing>

Mr. Charles Ritter- Mathematics

Charles earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 2004 from the University of Southern California. He entered teaching at Fairfield College Preparatory school, where he taught math and physics. From there he went on to teach at Amity and Branford High School. In his spare time he does agility and trick training with his Border Collie, with the aim of entering future competitions.

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y9B85QPkzz87XvH-tl31OIQvs1U48fJo/view?usp=sharing>

Ms. Terri Rousseau - School-to-Career Coordinator

Terri joined the staff at Thomaston High School in 2013. She is the school's School-to-Career Coordinator. Planning job shadows, internships, and field trips is part of what Terri enjoys most about being a part of the team here. Terri resides in Thomaston with her husband Mike, where together they raised their two sons.. Corey is a Veteran having served with the CT Army National Guard for 8 years and is now a driver for UPS in Brookfield. Dylan received his Masters Degree in Engineering Management and is a Design Engineer at Sikorsky. Terri is also a Realtor, having held her license as a Realtor for twenty- four years. When not busy with work, Terri enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

Ms. Jennifer Samela - Special Education Paraprofessional

A long time Thomaston resident, Jennifer is an alumna of Thomaston High School and Post College, receiving a degree in Recreation and Leisure Science.

In the past, Jennifer has spent many summers working with the youth of Thomaston staffing and supervising the Summer Playground Program, assisting with gymnastics instruction, and as a Water Safety Instructor training lifeguards. After more than a decade as a stay at home mom, many of those years spent volunteering with PTO, book fairs, field days/carnivals, etc., Jennifer joined the staff at Black Rock School in 1995 and in 1998 moved to Thomaston High School where she remains. Along with her responsibilities as a ParaEducator, Jennifer has in the past been the seventh grade class advisor and for more than a decade served as the Team Leader/School Liaison for Litchfield Performing Arts seventh grade diversity program Project Poetry Live! (PPL!). As a former cheerleading coach for both middle and high school, Jennifer has taken student athletes to regional competitions and summer cheer camp at Mitchell College as well as hosting an in-house cheer camp with New England Cheerleading Association (NECA). As a continuation in supporting student athletes, Jennifer has been a member of the Thomaston Booster Club for over twenty years. Professionally, Jennifer considers it a tremendous honor to have been recognized as the 2014-2015 ParaEducator of the Year by the Thomaston Public School District. Additionally, Jennifer has been named Employee of the Month along with receiving the Michael's Jewelers Staff Recognition award.

In the community, Jennifer has been a Sunday School Teacher, served on the Recreation Commission, and belonged to the Thomaston Woman's Club, where as a scholarship committee member was able to help select a deserving graduate recipient. Through the Woman's Club, Jennifer was also very proud to have been a part of the THS Senior Art Contest, a juried show held annually at The Alzheimer's Resource Center of Connecticut.

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 Arts 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 Harriet Beecher Stowe Center through the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has published various articles on literature, social justice, and law. Ms. Santovasi 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 UConn Literature and Composition, UConn Rhetoric and Legal Issues, English 11 American Literature, and Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles. She currently teaches courses for Post University's Paralegal and Pre-Law programs as well. She is the advisor to the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) and the Moot Court Competition Team. She also serves on the Grading Policy and NEASC Steering committees at THS. In 2014 Ms. Santovasi was named Thomaston Teacher of the Year.

Vidoe Link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=14me5fX1SAquNMoxhJnictRbK-Skw8r6h>

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 has been teaching Physical Education and Health Education at Thomaston High School since 1998.

In addition, 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, and once again holds this position. 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.

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V8YebJrJAyUsZ6XcvxULzJv1NbKLxm7r/view?usp=drivesdk>

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 then attended the University of New Haven, where he obtained his Master's Degree in Secondary Business Education. While attending classes, 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. He currently is the Yearbook Advisor, Assistant Athletic Director, and coaches the freshman basketball team

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D0q5rKvMxGbuONQWsKvgCI5GlrFKYiGI/view?usp=sharing>

Ms. Nancy Stancavage - Registered Nurse

This is Nancy's 2nd year as the school nurse at THS. Nancy attended Post University on a full scholarship for softball and field hockey, and Mattatuck Community College. She has been a registered nurse for twenty-eight years and has held a multitude of positions ranging from pediatrics to geriatrics and psychiatrics. She holds certifications in infection control, safety, and wound care. This summer she completed the American Red Cross Instructor Course so she can teach district staff CPR and basic first aid. She is a veteran of the United States Air Force where she spent a year in California and three years in England. Before nursing she dreamed of being either a singer in a band or a comedian. After a stint with the Navy Seals, she realized that was not challenging enough and thought school nursing would be much more challenging (kidding). She is married to Matt and has two boys; Mac is a freshman at UCONN and Dan is in 8th

grade. She loves to workout and stay active, and she spends her free time on their boat, at their cottage in Maine or anywhere near the ocean.

Ms. Wendy Thomas - Paraprofessional

Wendy attended Gateway Community College in New Haven, CT, where she earned her license in Phlebotomy. Wendy was a stay at home mom before she started working with Thomaston Public Schools in 2003. Wendy has worked at all three schools, with the majority of years spent at Thomaston High School where she remains. For most of those years Wendy worked as Special Educational Paraprofessional in the classroom setting. In 2015, Wendy took on the role of supervising In School Suspension (ISS) and coordinating Guided Study. Wendy is the advisor for the Thomaston High School Tobacco Free Club.

Wendy resides in Thomaston with her husband Mark, her son Zack, and her dogs Boomer and Ziggy. Wendy is an avid dog lover and Los Angeles Rams fan. In her free time, Wendy loves to spend time with her family and friends.

Mrs. Jessyca Tucker--Language Arts

Jessyca joined the Thomaston High School English Department in October 2019. She currently teaches English 10, English 11, Marvel is Myth, and Creative Writing. Jessyca earned her Bachelor in Arts in English with a Secondary English certification at Saint Thomas Aquinas College and her Master in Science of Secondary English Education at Fordham University. Her past teaching experience ranges from preschool to high school, and she also worked as a behavioral therapist with special needs children.

When not in her classroom, Jessyca enjoys woodworking projects, listening to live music, attending the theatre, reading with her kids, and participating in dance parties. Her favorite place to be is in the Berkshires with her family, listening to music at Tanglewood, and watching dance at Jacob's Pillow.

Video Link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1pkG3CC67pcPuBx_cZMA0VDxpxpQwkn2

Ms. Maria Zamora - Spanish

Maria was born in Santiago, Chile. She currently lives in Watertown, CT with her husband, Jonathan, and son, Jack.

In 2011, Maria graduated with a law degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. She continued her education at Central Connecticut State University and received a Master of Arts in teaching in May 2018.

This is Maria's third year of teaching Spanish at THS. In her free time she enjoys doing

puzzles and traveling with her family.

Video Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PFecP0Aq13vDVYIP3btQbPgFGY1XycYc/view>