

FROM SUPERINTENDENT MARIA GERYK:

We opened the 2022 school year on Wednesday, August 31st for students with a warm welcome full of hope and anticipation for an exciting school year. We are thankful to have a fully staffed building to open the year as many districts have struggled with staffing issues.

We are thrilled to welcome the following new staff members to our school community: Maria Ancona (Spanish), Kate Caton (Music), Scott Gagnon (Middle School Math), Natasha Hart (Administrative Assistant), Heather Hawkins (RBT), Lyn Johnson (Reading/Intervention), Andrea Ortiz (Reading Coach/Interventionist), Cheri Rivard-Lentz (Counselor), Jacquie Rosado (Board Certified Behavior Analyst), Carol Salos (Facility Technician), Robert Salas (Facility Technician), Mark Theriault (Facility Technician), and Lynda Thornton (Middle School Language Arts). They will join a skilled group of educators and support staff, who are dedicated to continuous improvement of teaching and learning, school climate, and communication.

Congratulations goes to our 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year, Janna Traber, and Paraprofessional of the year, Jennifer Goddard!



Jennifer Goddard & Janna Traber



Karen Caputo, Assistant Principal, Janna Traber, Teacher of the Year, & Kara Levenduski, Principal.

Please help us in congratulating H.W. Porter 8th graders who moved onto high school and our 2022 high school graduates:

Grade Eight Porter Students

Tristan Badio, Joseph Baker, Cameron Belanger, Kyle Bowen, Ian Bowles, Rachel Buskey, Avery Callahan, Lilliya Chchon, Anthony Colon Ortiz, Luca Cordone, Matthew Cranick, Gavin DeForest, Torin DelMastro, Gavin Dunne, Michael Franco, Adriana Gauthier, Andrew Greb, Talan Hancox-Mellady, Andrew Hornung, Gabriella James, Robert Kovach, Logan Lemieux, Addison Lussen, Abigail Magaldi, McKaela Magaldi, Braden Marsh, Camden Mazerolle, Carmine Morizio, Jaymeson Morrison, Ava Natale, Mariangelly Pacheco Cruz, Giovanni Rafala, Caitlin Reagan, Isaac Riendeau, Macy Ripoll, Maya Roldan, Lilyan Scolaro, Aden Shahan, Vikram Sharma, Savannah Shea, Illiana Smith, Kelly Szegda, Corryn Tarbell, Gwendolyn Tew, Anne Tigeleiro, Alexander Volpe, Emerson Whalen

EO Smith High School Graduates

Ava Baker, Madison Bonnenfant, Cayden Boukus, Sabrina Calande, Erin Dwyer, Peter Elumogo, Gianna Federico-Kelly, Anna Fiore, Mara Gamache, Austin Garrison, Katherine Griffin, Nicholas Haddad, Nicholas Hollister, Justin Hornung, Nikolas Ingenito, Kyle Irrig, Abigail Levine, Elisabeth Levine, Ashley Lewis, Ethan Luce, Sage Magowan, Myra Morgan, Jordan Narotsky, Bryn Pederson, Timothy Plourde, Hayden Richardson, Jack Riquier, Jade Rodriguez-Falcon, Alexander Semenza, Camden Shea, Katherine Simmons, Andon St. Laurent, Jake Stavens, Jayden Stygar, Madison-Claire Turner, Olivia Verboven, Natalie Villanueva

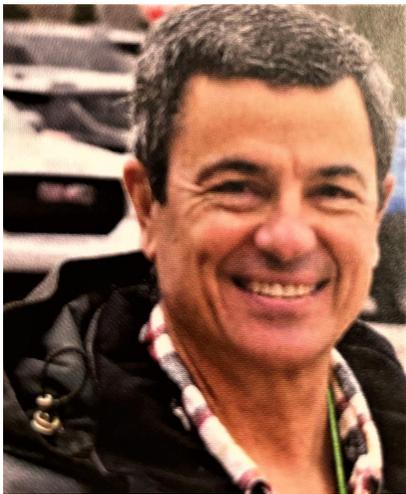
Bolton High School Graduates

Cal Bulley, Justin Decker, Jaden Desso, Lilly Dudek, Alexander Frommer, Patrick Frommer, Jace Kramer, Ron LaGasse, Nicole Lange, Israel Miranda, Aimee Pelletier, Matthew Sehl, Matthew Shaw, Elijah Youngblood

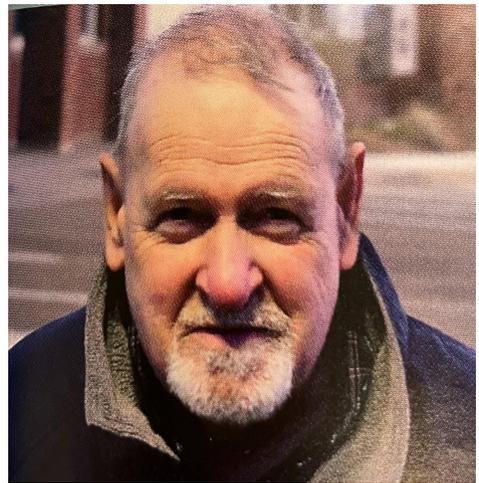
Windham Tech Graduates

Dunkan Rodrigueq-Ortiz, Daniel Toce

Please join us in wishing our recently retired staff all the best as they find new ways to spend their days: Thomas Doyle, Jeremiah O'Leary, Bonnie Quinn, Donald Spooner, and Judy Zemantic.



Thomas Doyle



Jeremiah O'Leary



Janna Traber, Shawn Dousis, and Don Spooner



Bonnie Quinn, Tammy Nye, and Judy Zemantic

Porter School

H.W. Porter's enrollment has increased by 9.5 % this year compared to last year which allowed us to open an additional kindergarten classroom. We currently have 460 students, preschool through grade eight attending Porter School!

H. W. Porter has several project based experiences planned for this year.

- Grade 4 students will be participating in the Invention Convention. The Connecticut Invention Convention is an internationally recognized organization that provides teachers with a curriculum to teach creative problem solving and critical thinking through invention and entrepreneurship.
- A Porter Parent, Dr. Arico, partnered with Porter School to support our Grade 5 students participating in the Plant the Moon Challenge. This partnership is in conjunction with University of Hartford and provides an opportunity for students to be part of a global science experiment and research challenge to examine how crops can grow in lunar or Martian soils.
- Project Oceanography will be available to our 7th grade students again this year. Project O provides engaging activities in the classroom, and at the shore and on the water.
- Grade 5 students will be able to participate in the Kid Governor Project. This experience offers our students the opportunity to see themselves as being able to make changes in the world by their role in civic engagement.
- Our 8th grade students will be creating capstone projects. A capstone project is a culminating personalized project/activity that provides students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. These projects are most often student driven, inquiry based, interdisciplinary and/or community based projects that stretch and enhance relevant student learning.

In addition to these engaging programs, our students will engage in learning in the new Science, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) Lab and in our technology class which now includes coding and robotics.



Hannah Osleger, Aubrie Calef



Ava St Juste, Rydan Kenney

Porter School strives to create a positive and supportive learning environment. The interests and talents of our students are fostered in academics classes, extracurricular clubs and athletics, and related arts classes. Our related arts teachers provide a broad and rich experience for our students including physical education,

health, visual arts, world language (Spanish), technology, STEM, Library Media Center, Latin dance, and music (classroom, Instrumental and chorus).

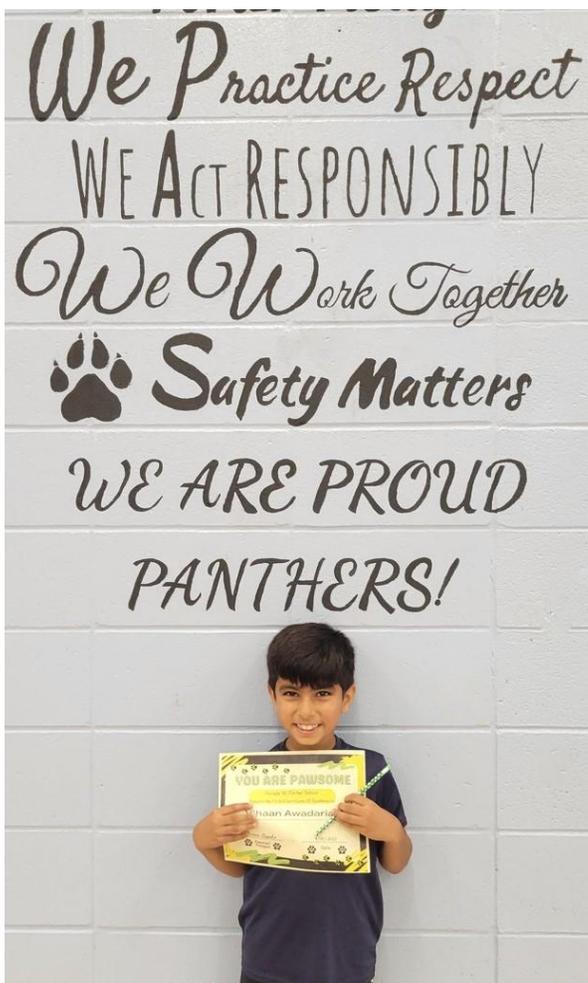
School and Classroom Climate

All members of the Porter Community practice our core values everyday and in all settings. A framework of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) focuses on teaching expected behaviors, and providing opportunities for students to be acknowledged for meeting these expectations.

A Social-Emotional Learning curriculum, Mind-Up, is taught in all grades to support our students in strengthening mindful awareness, self-regulations, and to address challenges with optimism, compassion, and resilience. Students learn about the brain and how it regulates our emotions.



Below you will find a few of our many students who are being recognized for being a Proud Panther!



Vihaan Awadaria

Livvia Barrea



Callie Tremblay, Alexa Hauschild, Aubrie Calef

Professional Learning

We would like to congratulate three of our teachers who were awarded fellowship grants last school year to continue their professional learning. The Fund for Teachers supports educators' self-determined professional development, so the educator can bring innovation to their classroom and Porter School.

Helen Martin studied the local ecosystems associated with the Florida Keys and southern points of the state to lead third-grade students on efforts to conserve and protect locally vulnerable plants and animals from pollution. "I learned that I can be someone who inspires my students to be excited about their passions. In particular, the need for protecting our environment and learning about the plants and animals, big and small, that we can help protect as humans is so powerful!"

Shawn Dousis and Nicole Henry visited schools throughout Australia to learn how they implement the Australia Sustainability Curriculum. This included learning about a circular economy, how to make school farms thrive, and also how to actively engage students in leadership roles surrounding recycling, composting, and waste management. In addition, we learned about the wildlife in Australia as a means of connecting our real life experiences with the L.A. and Science curricula that we teach.

**Helen Martin,
Grade 3 Teacher**



**Shawn Dousis,
Grade 2 Teacher**



**Nicole Henry,
K Teacher**





Communication

Principal Kara Levenduski and our administrative team are working hard to incorporate new and innovative ways to share information and communicate with families about what is happening at school. We are sharing an example below and hope to have more available soon.

[OPEN HOUSE Loom Video](https://www.loom.com/share/a9b535effb8e4c37be7d6ea8d64ff4cb) <https://www.loom.com/share/a9b535effb8e4c37be7d6ea8d64ff4cb>



Do you have a question? Are you wondering who to reach out to within the district to get answers for your questions? Please access the [Communication Flow Chart](#)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10fhgyDs7HDOOd2zPt93PE8ZpETseCkc9/view> for helpful resources.

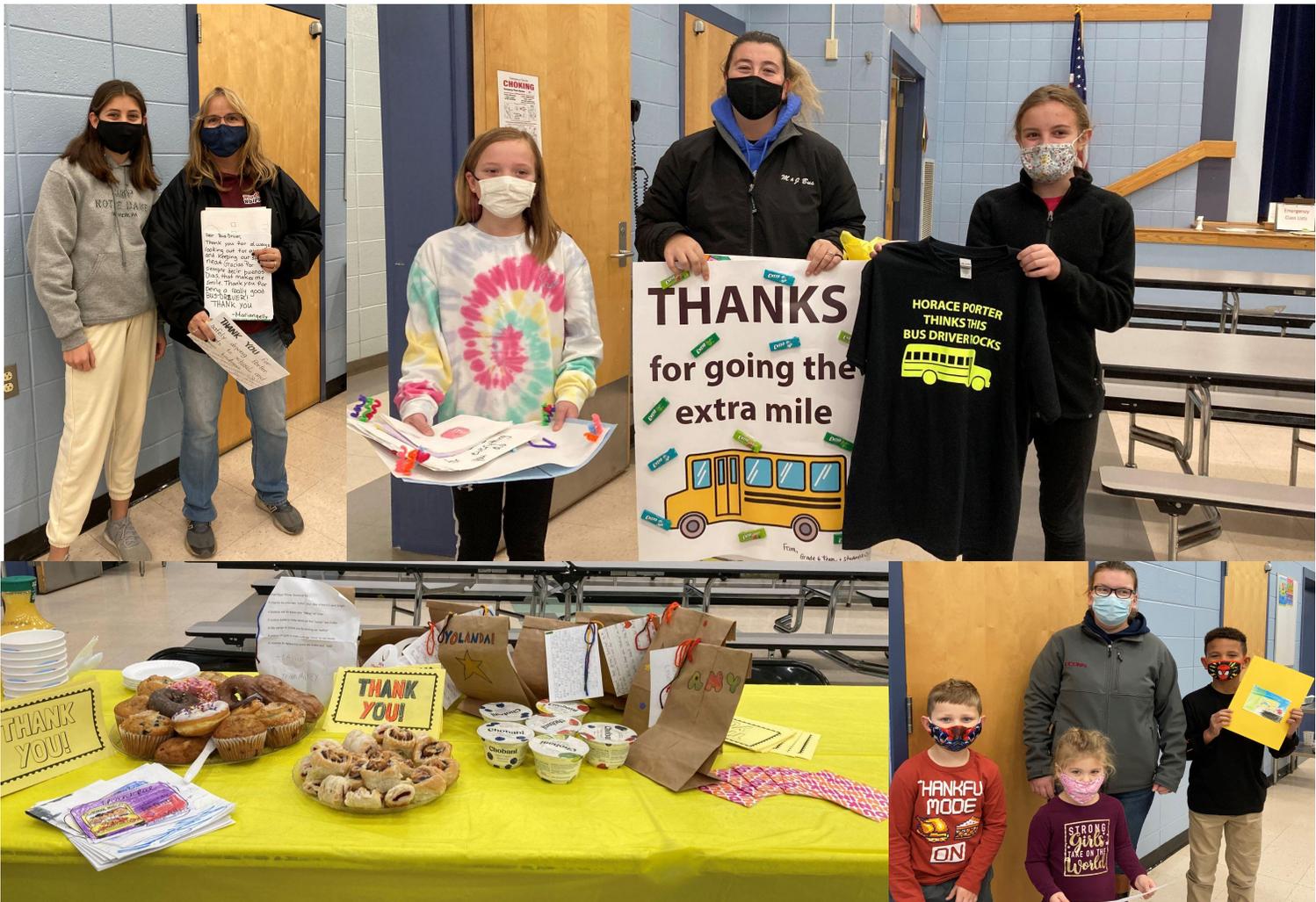
Transportation

As with many districts across the country, we are facing **transportation challenges**, and we are working with **M&J Bus Inc.** <https://www.mibusinc.com/employment> to address these issues as they arise. We would like to thank the community for their patience as we move forward to address our students' transportation needs and the lack of school bus drivers. If you know of someone who may be interested in a position driving a school bus, please contact M&J Bus Transportation at 860-423-9552 or share the link above.

For the past three years, we have recognized our bus drivers at Porter School. Driving a school bus is one of the most challenging roles. We thank our drivers for their dedication to the safety and success of our students. We look forward to celebrating our drivers again in November 2022. Please take a moment to thank our bus drivers!

Caitlin Reagan, Melanie Boutot

Zoey Kagerer, Samantha Jones, Rachel Calande



Sean Capstick, Teagan Joseph, Andre Spisak