

Royal Roundup

Connections Turning into Opportunities for WM Students

Superintendent, Darren Schuler

@DarrenSchuler



This spring has been remarkable in terms of local organizations giving back to our students. I would like to highlight a number of groups that have contributed financially to support WM Public Schools programming, and personally thank them for their generous support of our schools.

Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation

At our recent Senior Awards Night, the WM Education Foundation was proud to present almost \$68,000 in scholarships to over 80 seniors. The WMEF main fundraiser is their Gala Event in October. If you would like to be a part of this organization please contact Pat Hittle at pjhittle@gmail.com.

Watertown-Mayer Booster Club The WM Royal Booster Club is a volunteer organization that supports activities, athletics and other school district programs. The Booster Club's main fundraising event is the annual Booster Bash in March. The Boosters recently gave back \$55,000 to the Activities Department to support students and programs. If you would like be a part of this organization, please contact cyoungthurston@gmail.com.

Watertown-Mayer FFA Alumni and Supporters

This alumni organization has recently presented a check to the district in the amount of \$262,000 towards the construction of the new greenhouse and storage facility on our high school campus. The FFA Alumni and current students grow crops on the district property on Hwy 25 south of Watertown and fund many projects across the district. Prospective alumni members can contact Jim Burns at jim.burns@procisesolutions.com.



Watertown-Mayer PTOs These groups continue to impress me as volunteers work together to support our students and staff! The WMES PTO's annual Strides for Students recently raised \$30,000 to support our ES students and programming just this spring!

In addition, local community organizations such as the Watertown Lions Club and the Watertown Legion are consistent donors for student activities and events. Thank you to all our community partners for supporting WM students and creating amazing opportunities for all! Go Royals! 🏰



Watertown Mayer
Public Schools

Connections • Opportunities

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Watertown-Mayer Welcomes New Special Education Director

Ms. Rande Peyton will be joining our Royal family on July 1, 2023! We asked Ms. Peyton a few questions to get to know her better!

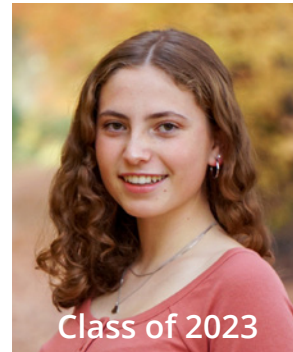
Why Watertown-Mayer? I learned about the position from a former colleague, who encouraged me to apply. My former colleague spoke of the wonderful work culture and people at Watertown-Mayer. I also appreciate the small town, close-knit, community feel of the school district. Working in such a place allows you to become an integral part of the community by developing strong relationships with students, parents, and colleagues. Building relationships and contributing to the success of students with disabilities motivates me to be better.

What assets do you bring to the WM SPED Program? What do you hope to accomplish as the new SPED Director? The biggest asset I bring to the WM Sped Program is my dedication to the field of special education. I have 20+ years of experience as a career educator, instructional leader, and specialist in working with students in special education. My goal is to offer a hands-on approach to my position that promotes communication on all levels. I'm committed to providing strong leadership to a team of professionals where excellence in education to all students is the goal. I'm passionate about special education and the opportunities it provides students. When special education programming works well, students and families prosper.

What do you like to do for fun? I love being with my family and friends. My husband and I have 3 boys and a black lab named "Leo". I enjoy running, yoga and being outside. Reading, traveling and attempting golf with friends are also some of my favorite things to do. 🏠

Watertown-Mayer Hosts Generations

Coming to Watertown was "the best decision I've ever made...I don't want it to be over!" This is the first thing German foreign exchange student Zoe Nothdurft said when asked how she liked being a student at Watertown-Mayer High School.



Class of 2023



Class of 1994

Zoe isn't the first member of her family to be a Royal – her mom was too! Britta (Schmidt) Nothdurft was an exchange student at Watertown-Mayer during the 1993-94 school year. When Zoe expressed interest in studying abroad, Britta contacted her host parents, Dave and Mary Sloneker to talk about Zoe coming to Watertown. They, in turn, reached out to Chris and Robyn Behrens, whose family was willing to give the exchange experience a try.

Although Zoe couldn't come up with just one "favorite thing" about being here, she has enjoyed the whole experience of being a Royal. The opportunities to be involved in clubs, sports, and attending school sporting events are at the top of her list. "I loved going to sporting events and being a part of the student community – the whole feeling of it. Being here at Watertown-Mayer gave me the opportunity to try new things – there are more options in school here other than just Science, Math, and History... I got to take Outdoor Adventures, Interior Design, Woodworking, Global Foods, be a part of school sports, and be in the choir and school plays."

In all, Zoe would recommend participating in an exchange program to anyone. Her only regret is that "it went too fast... but, I am grateful that I learned a lot and grew as a person."

Watertown-Mayer has enjoyed having you, Zoe! Once a Royal, always a Royal! 🏠

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2023

Achievements and Plans of the Royal Class of 2023:

- 51% of graduates plan on pursuing a four-year degree in colleges.
- 26% of graduates plan on attending a two-year technical, trade, or community program.
- 21% plan on immediately starting their career.
- 2% plan on joining the military.
- 6 Valedictorians.
- Our students have saved themselves and their families over \$800,000 in College in the Schools courses over their high school career.
- More than 65% of graduates have earned some college credits before graduation.
- We have several athletes participating at the collegiate level.
- We have state champions and participants in Wrestling, Gymnastics, Football, Mock Trial, Robotics, Speech, Business Professionals of America, and other events.
- 7 students working in the Medical Field (dietary aid, CNA, PCA) for the Work Experience Program have a combined total of 4,500 hours.
- 16 students working in the trades for the Work Experience Program have worked 10,000 hours combined.
- The 37 seniors involved in the National Honor Society have completed a total of over 1,600 service hours in our community.

These are just some of the accomplishments that our students have achieved in their four years here at Watertown-Mayer. We are proud of what they have done and are glad to share it with you!





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At Watertown-Mayer Public Schools, we make authentic learning connections with each of our students, providing them with the opportunity to reach the full potential of their passions and strengths.



Watertown Mayer Education Foundation (WMEF) was pleased to present almost \$68,000 in scholarships to over 80 graduating seniors on May 10, 2023.

Almost doubling the amount awarded last year, WMEF also awarded scholarships to every senior that applied! This would not have been possible without the support of the tremendous community and surrounding businesses. We have set a lofty goal for this year of raising \$100,000! Check out the Save the Dates for all the upcoming events planned. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get all the details. We are so proud of the Watertown-Mayer School District!

WMEF SAVE THE DATES

July 28 – Own the Crown Trap Shoot
July 29 – All School Alumni Reunion
August 9-13 – WMEF @ Carver County Fair
October 7 – Casino Royale Game Night &
Polaris Side-by-Side Raffle
November/December – Endowment Drive



WM Royal Booster Club Gives Back!

The Watertown-Mayer Royal Booster Club recently gave \$55,000 to the Watertown-Mayer Activities Department after a successful annual Booster Bash held this spring. Proceeds to this yearly event go towards a more significant donation made every spring. In addition to this yearly donation, the Boosters donates \$5,000 three times a year to help supplement the costs of the WM Activities Department.

The success of the Bash could not happen without the generous donation of sponsors, and the many volunteers needed, not only for this event, but throughout the year! The Royal Booster Club is responsible for all concession stands, all live-streaming, and much more!

To learn more about the WM Royal Booster Club, scan the QR code! Consider checking out this amazing group of dedicated volunteers who support the activities of our students!

Support. Stream.



Royal Boosters