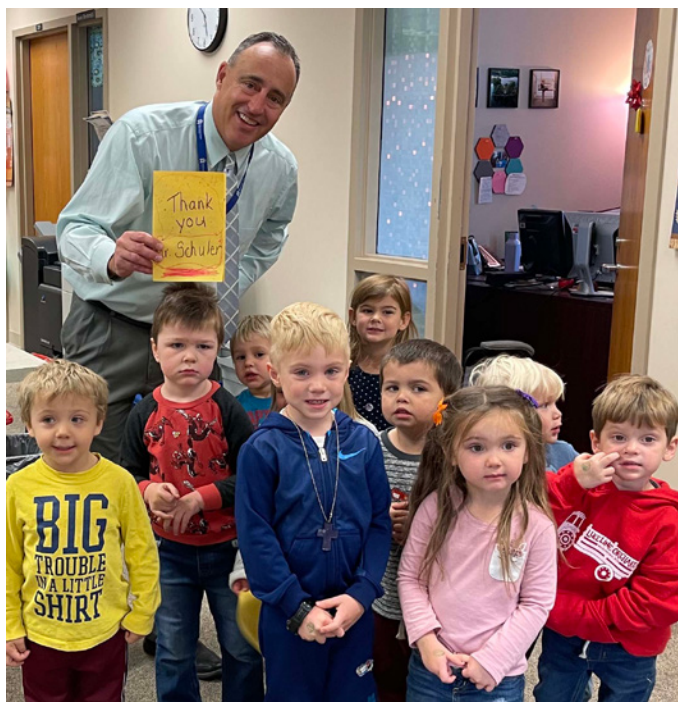


Royal Roundup

Construction: Completions and Continuance

Superintendent, Darren Schuler
@DarrenSchuler



We are entering the second summer of construction at Watertown-Mayer Public Schools. Last summer, we completed the majority of our 2019 Construction Bond Referendum construction projects including remodeled middle school classrooms, special education classroom updates in the elementary, middle school, and high school, and the new athletic stadium/track/turf project.

In the summer of 2022 we will be completing the construction of the new middle school entrance on the north side of the middle school building. In addition, we will be increasing the width of the loading dock driveway and truck entrance along the North side of the high school building along with prepping this area for a future greenhouse. Keep up-to-date with these changes via our website and social media throughout the summer.

With favorable bid pricing, we were also able to extend our district dollars to increase the scope of projects that were not originally scheduled to be completed. Here is what we were able to do:

- **Purchase additional classroom furniture.** After completion of construction, 95% of student and staff furniture has been updated.
- **Remodel the Middle School and District Offices.** This area had not been updated since 1992. This remodeling project separates the two offices and creates a new entrance for district office visitors (to be completed Summer of 2022).
- **Remodel the middle school and high school swim locker rooms.** The swim locker rooms were built in 1974 and needed a major facelift. This newly remodeled area will include family changing rooms for our young families in addition to ADA complaint spaces for all (to be completed Summer of 2022).

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our parents, community members, staff, and students for their patience and flexibility throughout this very unique and sometimes challenging school year. We appreciate your continued support of Watertown-Mayer Public Schools. Go Royals! 🏠



**Watertown Mayer
Public Schools**

Connections • Opportunities

In this Issue:

Welcome New WMES Principal	2
Curriculum Corner	2
Celebrating the Class of 2022	3
Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation	4



Welcome to Our New WMES Principal

Ms. Katie O'Connell will be officially joining the Royal family starting July 1, 2022! We asked Ms. O'Connell a few questions to get to know her better!

Why Watertown-Mayer? Growing up in the suburbs of Chicago, when we visited Minnesota, we would spend time at my grandfather's farm, so I was familiar with the area and knew its reputation for being a community with strong support for its schools. I was drawn to WM's mission of "growth through connection and opportunities," as this aligns closely with my own beliefs about education.

What's been your experience in education so far? I have spent nearly twenty years in education. For the past eight years I have held a variety of leadership positions within Mounds View Public Schools and most recently served as a building administrator.

What are you passionate about? Relationships are at the root of all I do and I believe strong connections are integral to building a healthy school foundation. I am passionate about developing strong partnerships to foster a culture of collaboration and ensure success for each and every one of our students. It is evident that WMES is deeply committed to providing students with the best possible learning experience. I look forward to continuing to enhance the student experience as we work together to identify opportunities for innovation and improvement. I am excited about the future of WMES and look forward to getting to know each member of our community. Go Royals! 🏠

CURRICULUM CORNER

by Joe Vieau, Director of Teaching & Learning

Our Middle School Science Staff has been focusing on an upgrade in curriculum resources. Due to changes from the Department of Education, WM will be swapping Earth Science from Grade 8 to Grade 6 and Physical Science from Grade 6 to Grade 8 over the next three years. Additionally, the curriculum resource chosen is a program called Amplify Science. Amplify Science earned positive reviews from the independent nonprofit organization edreports.org and has already been adopted by several Minnesota districts. We are excited to bring this new resource to our students.

During the past two years, or so, COVID has left a lot of troubled minds in its wake. Schools across the state have noticed an increase in social and emotional deficits caused by the pandemic. Watertown-Mayer schools has implemented the Second Step program supporting students' social and emotional needs. This program supports the implementation of a positive educational environment across the different developmental stages for our students to aid in self-regulation and promotion of a positive school climate. 🏠

Five Watertown-Mayer Teachers Retire

Watertown-Mayer has been fortunate to have these teachers leading and supporting our students for a combined 127 years! They have been determined to leave a positive impact on their students' lives, their families' lives, and our Watertown-Mayer community! Thank you for your service to our students in making Watertown-Mayer schools the great place it is today!



Left to right:

Colleen Kelzer, 4th Grade Teacher
Steve Hangartner, 5th Grade Teacher
Dave Hoffmann, High School Science
Jen Dietz, Middle School Science
Jill Peters, Special Education

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2022

The Class of 2022 has had more than its fair share of challenges in the last few years, but we are excited to watch them cross the graduation stage and take a step towards the future. Our 2022 class demonstrates the qualities set forth in the Watertown-Mayer Profile of a Graduate.

Achievements and plans of the Royal Class of 2022:

- 58% of graduates plan on pursuing a four-year degree in colleges spanning from Maryland to Tennessee to Hawaii.
- 29% of graduates plan on attending a two-year technical, trade, or community program.
- 13% plan on immediately starting their career.
- 7 Valedictorians.
- Our students have saved themselves and their families over \$700,000 in College in the Schools courses over their high school career.
- More than 60% 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, Mock Trial, Speech, Business Professionals of America, and other events.
- 16 students working in the Trades for the Work Experience Program have a combined total of 8,588 hours worked.
- 6 students working in the Medical Field (dietary aid, CNA, PCA) for the Work Experience Program have a combined total of 2,580 hours.
- 2 students working for the Department of Labor Journeyman for the Work Experience Program have worked 1,500 hours combined.
- The seniors involved in National Honor Society have completed a total of over 1,000 service hours in our community.

These are just some of the many 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 Awards

The Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation (WMEF) proudly presented \$35,000 in scholarships to 26 seniors at the Senior Awards night on May 11, 2022.

Since 2017, the Foundation has provided over \$165,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors. We're able to do this due to generous financial support from community members like you! We accept donations to our Community Scholarship fund year-round. To donate, visit our website at www.wm.k12.mn.us/wmef. WMEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that operates independently of the School Board and the District. Gifts to WMEF are tax deductible.

The Foundation is currently selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a 2022 Polaris Ranger 1000 Premium side-by-side. Tickets can be purchased at Marketplace Foods in Watertown or CorTrust Bank in Mayer. Other prizes include \$500 cash, a 21-speed Trek bicycle, and a Wings of Watertown pheasant shoot. The winning tickets will be drawn on October 8 at the Royal Celebration "Diamonds and Denim" fundraising event.

Individual and group tickets to the "Diamonds and Denim" event can now be purchased. The event will feature a



Watertown-Mayer
EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Enhancing Education Through Community Support

catered dinner, beverages, entertainment, and silent and live auctions. If you're interested in being a sponsor or donating items for the auctions, contact us at wmeducationfoundation@wm.k12.mn.us or 612-516-3434.

Also, save the date for an All-School Reunion to be held during Rails to Trails on Saturday, July 30. We hope to see you this summer! Stay up to date on all of our events, alumni stories, and legacy families on our Facebook and Instagram pages. 