

PLAINVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BUSINESS BRIEF

Volume 6
Issue 1



To provide rigorous and enriching experiences that prepare each student for success in a changing global society

IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

HIGHLIGHTS: CLASS OF 2014

MARKETING PRESENTATION AT PHS

SPOTLIGHT ON LIBERTY BANK

ENERGY CONSERVATION UPDATE

NEW STEM LAB & CULINARY UPGRADE

SHADOWING FOR SUCCESS



DR. JEFFREY C. KITCHING, Superintendent of Schools

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

To provide rigorous and enriching experiences that prepare each student for success in a changing global society

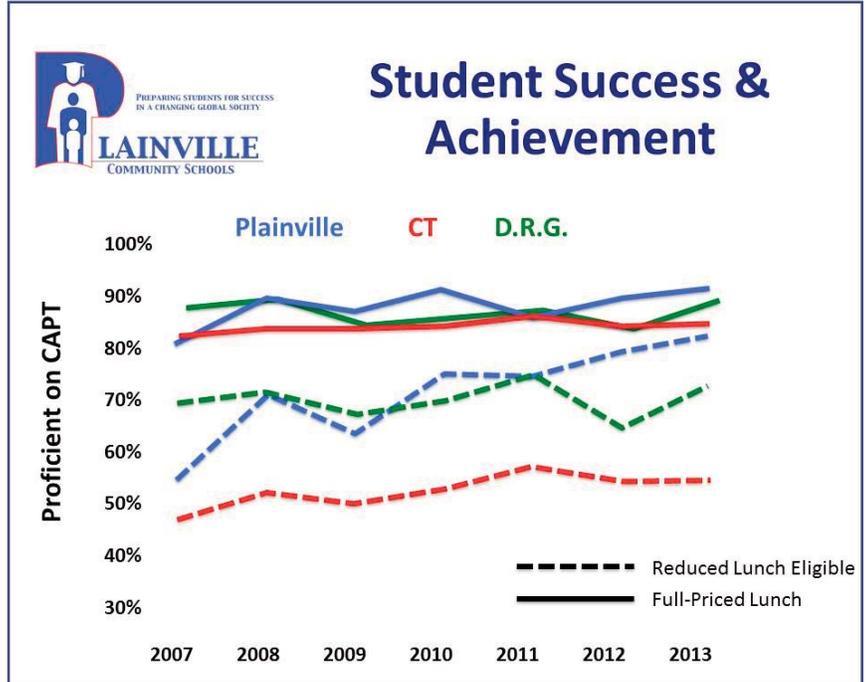


Dr. Jeffrey C. Kitching

The graph to the right shows student scores on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) given to all grade 10 students in the State over a seven-year period. The graph illustrates the State, in red, and the District Reference Group (DRG), in green, (DRG is the 14 other towns in Connecticut that are most like Plainville economically and demographically), have had limited or no success in closing the gap between the two groups of students. Plainville however, has had tremendous success increasing achievement for all students (dotted line represents students qualifying for free/reduced lunch and the solid line depicts those that do not and are expected to pay full price.)

We are extremely proud of our work in this area and of the results we have seen. We are committed to a philosophy of continuous improvement, and will keep working to provide the highest quality educational experience for the students of Plainville.

When we assess the success of our schools, programs, and services, the ultimate benchmark is student achievement. Across the nation, and in Connecticut particularly, school districts are working to close what has been termed as an alarming “achievement gap.” This gap is represented by the significant differences in standardized test performance between wealthy students and students from families with more economic need. The best indicator of this need is a family’s qualification for free or reduced lunch prices. The Plainville Community Schools have worked extremely hard to set high standards and improve instruction for all students. Our programs and services have been designed to close this gap and level the playing field for ALL students. The results of our work are dramatic.



MARKETING @ PHS



Students in the Plainville High School Marketing 2 Class recently enjoyed a presentation by Director Of Business Development for Loureiro Engineering, Bob Heslin. Mr. Heslin provided students with an overview of branding, core competencies of marketing, the importance of building business relationships, and more.

HIGHLIGHTS: THE CLASS OF 2014

- 53% will attend a four year college
- 33% will attend a two year college
- Of those students going to college, 76% will remain in Connecticut while 24% will go out of state
- 82% of those attending college were accepted at their first choice college or university
- Nearly 6% of the class will attend a vocational / trade school
- 3% will enter the military
- Nearly 4% will go directly into the workforce
- The Class of 2014 completed 4,680 hours of community service



From left to right: Liberty Bank employees: Kathy Aubrey-Bergonzi, Kathy Wallace, Sebastiana Fragione, and Faith Wilson

Plainville Community Schools is fortunate to have a number of local businesses and organizations that partner with the school district to enrich and expand learning and opportunities for students. Liberty Bank, led by Assistant Vice President Kathleen Aubrey-Bergonzi from the local Plainville branch, has been a district partner since the branch opened on East Street in Plainville in 2010. Since that time, bank employees have shared their time and talent in Plainville schools in a variety of ways. Staff members volunteer as Reading Partners and Mentors to students in several schools, serving as positive role models and instilling support for literacy. Liberty Bank also donated items to Louis Toffolon Elementary School's reading incentive program last year, and

helped spearhead a card making project for the Navy, at the three elementary schools. Last spring, Aubrey-Bergonzi, also president of the local Chamber of Commerce, helped launch the Plainville High School College and Career Readiness Center's "Shadowing for Success" program, matching high school students with job shadow opportunities at local businesses, including Liberty Bank. Further, Aubrey-Bergonzi assisted in partnering the local VFW organization with the school district and support for literacy through several grants from the Plainville VFW Madeley Roberts Post 574's Community Outreach Program. Liberty Bank also provided financial support to several district programs. When the local Liberty Bank branch opened in 2010, the Plainville Family Resource Network received \$1,500 to support their Conscious Discipline parenting workshop series. Similar grants were made to several Plainville nonprofit organizations in celebration of the branch opening in town. For the past five years, Liberty Bank has also provided the Plainville Adult and Continuing Education Program with funding for scholarships for graduates of the Adult High School Credit Diploma Program.

Last year, Plainville Community Schools was one of three districts selected to receive funding under the brand new Liberty Bank Foundation Early Literacy Grants Program. The district received a three-year, \$30,000 grant toward a Leveled Literacy Intervention program for 100-120 kindergarten and first grade students at the town's three elementary schools. The goal is to bridge the achievement gap and ensure that the students participating are reading at grade level by grade three--a critical step to future learning.

"I'm proud to work for an institution that really believes in giving back to the communities where it does business," said Aubrey-Bergonzi, noting that Liberty Bank offers each employee four full days of paid release time to do volunteer work each year. "I think that commitment has been a major ingredient in Liberty's success for the past 189 years. We really are a company that cares."

“
The Energy Conservation
Program **continues**
to see results”

Energy Conservation Update

The Plainville Community Schools energy conservation program continues to generate cost savings and reduce energy consumption. Beginning the third year of the collaboration with energy conservation partner Cenergistic, district utilities consumption continues to decline, with an accrued utilities cost savings of more than \$570,000 since the inception of the program in March, 2012. Specifically, consumption of electricity has decreased more than 23% and gas consumption has been reduced by nearly 30%.

Plainville Board of Education
Plainville Community Schools
1 Central Square
Plainville, CT 06062
Phone: 860.793.3200
Fax: 860.747.6790
www.plainvilleschools.org

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Grant Funds STEM Lab & Culinary Arts Upgrade

When students return to Plainville High School this fall, they will find a new STEM Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and an upgraded culinary arts classroom, thanks to a \$75,000 grant received from the Open Choice program. The Culinary Arts classroom will feature an additional work station and upgraded state of the art convection ovens and cookware that allows for expanded catering and food preparation opportunities while maximizing safety for students. In addition, the grant will fund a new STEM lab where two new honors level robotics courses will be offered. The STEM lab is being created in the former high school CAD lab and will include specialized flooring and a large window facing the hallway so students and visitors can observe the classroom in action. The lab will feature state of the art technology and allow for collaboration amongst faculty and students in various courses. The lab will also support the high school's successful robotics team (Digital Devils), which was formed during the 2013-14 school year, and competed successfully in multiple FIRST Robotics competitions last year.

SHADOWING FOR SUCCESS

Plainville High School's "Shadowing for Success" program, part of the new College and Career Readiness Center, placed 11 students in job shadows in its first year. The program partners with the Plainville Chamber of Commerce and other local businesses to provide job shadow opportunities for students. During the 2013-14 school year, 17 businesses and organizations committed to participating in the shadowing program.

Shadowing for Success is designed to offer 11th and 12th graders the opportunity to explore careers that they have expressed an interest in. Students spend time in a variety of businesses and organizations observing and interacting with individuals in varied occupations. This one-on-one contact enables students to learn firsthand about the work activities, education needed, and skills required to perform the job.

Job shadows range from a one hour visit to a full day. Businesses and organizations that participated in the Shadowing for Success program during the 2013-14 school year include: AXA Equitable Insurance, Bristol Hospital, Embroidery A2Z, General Electric, LaQueerre, Michaud & Co, the Law Office of Refai Arefin, Liberty Bank, Linden Street School, Loureiro Engineering, the Plainville Police Department, Russell's Garage, the Middle School of Plainville, the Town of Plainville, Trumpf, UBI Federal Credit Union, UConn, and VCA Old Canal Animal Hospital.

If your business would like to partner with the Plainville High School Shadowing for Success program to host a job shadow or a tour of your business, please contact Sue Bradley, College and Career Readiness Center Coordinator, via email at: bradleys@plainvilleschools.org

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