

PLAINVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BUSINESS BRIEF

Promoting a challenging environment
creating an extraordinary community of learners

Volume 2 Issue 1



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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Kathleen Binkowski, Ph.D., Superintendent

Our many accomplishments districtwide are a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of the school district community and many others, working together to enhance education and expand opportunities for Plainville students. It is through these extensive efforts, that great strides are made together as we continuously reach for greater success and achievement.

We are fortunate to participate in a number of key partnerships with local businesses, institutions of higher learning, and nonprofit organizations in the greater Hartford area. One example is the Collaborative for Accelerating Learning Through District Leadership Effectiveness (CALE), a group of school district leaders, representatives from General Electric, and the Connecticut Center for School Change, that designed and launched two educational leadership training modules in the areas of data based decision making and developing capacity for change. Through this collaborative initiative, educational leaders across the school district were able to participate in this unique professional development training opportunity. General Electric continues to be a key supporter of our schools, in a variety of capacities--through mentor and tutor programs, active volunteerism, and financial commitments to enhance professional development opportunities.

We are thankful for the many outstanding collaborative initiatives that our school district is a part of. Working together with our partners, we will continue to achieve great things for our school district and our community.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JASON FAMILIETTI

How did your education in Plainville equip you for college and your career as an attorney?

Although I didn't know it at the time, I was very lucky to receive my high school education at Plainville High School. Many of the freshmen that lived on my floor at UCONN were not ready for the educational challenges that college presented. The demands and expectations placed upon me by the teachers at PHS truly helped me succeed as a college student.

Why did you decide to stay in Plainville?

I am blessed to be able to work at Famiglietti & Famiglietti, LLC., with my father. He has such a wonderful reputation in the community both personally and professionally. It was a "no-brainer" to go into practice with him.

What influences from your school days in Plainville contributed to your success?

At PHS it was very easy to interact with the faculty. I carried that with me to UCONN and was able to develop relationships with my professors. I learned that it was OK to look to the teacher for help when the subject matter was difficult.

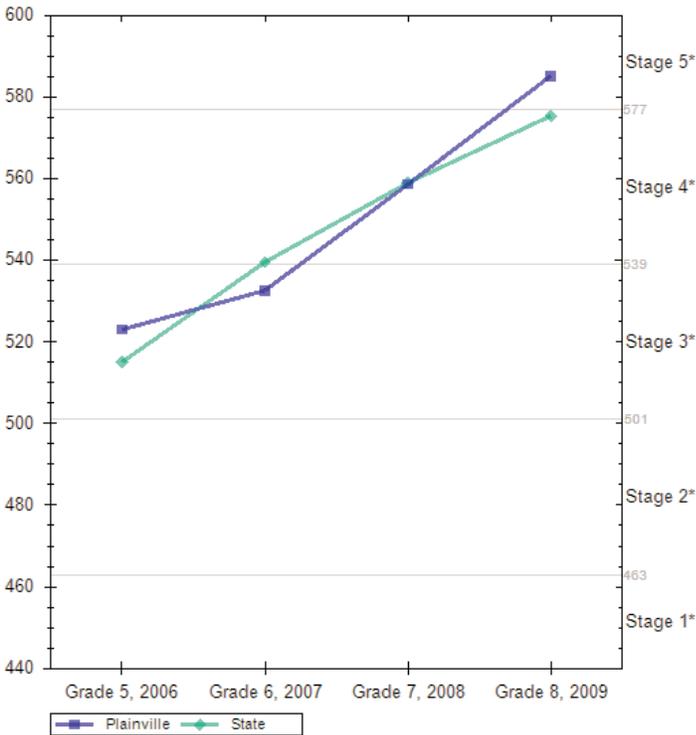


Jason Famiglietti is a 1989 graduate of Plainville High School, a graduate of the University of Connecticut and a cum laude graduate of the Western New England College School of Law. He is currently an attorney in private practice at Famiglietti & Famiglietti LLC., in Plainville.

ADULT EDUCATION FOR TODAY'S EMPLOYEE

Plainville Adult and Continuing Education offers a wide variety of programs meeting the educational needs of the working community. Courses include: Adult Basic Education, GED preparation, Adult High School Credit Diploma Program, Citizenship, and English as a Second Language. A number of enrichment classes are also available to assist today's employee with 21 century workplace skills, such as: Introduction to MS Publisher, How to Improve Communication Skills, Chinese and Spanish languages classes, Basic Computer Skills and more. **To request a Spring Program Guide, please call the Adult and Continuing Education Department at: (860) 793-3209.**

Average Vertical Scale Score Mathematics Eighth Grade Cohort, 2009



Vertical scale scores help us to follow the progress of a group or cohort of students as they move from grade to grade. We can also compare Plainville students to the statewide cohort. The vertical scale assigned students to five different "stages" of conceptual understanding ranging from "Stage 1" demonstrating limited knowledge of most of the assessed content areas but an adequate knowledge of basic number concepts and computation skills, to "Stage 5" demonstrating extensive knowledge of all assessed content areas.

The chart to the left shows Plainville's current ninth graders' performance in mathematics as they moved from fifth through eighth grades. Plainville's fifth graders were above the midpoint of "Stage 3" (demonstrating adequate knowledge of most and extensive knowledge of some of the assessed content areas) on the scale score, and by the end of eighth grade these students were well into "Stage 5," compared to their peers across the state who were still in "Stage 4" at the end of eighth grade.

WANTED:

Real World Experience For High Schoolers

As high school students prepare academically for their future, they also begin to think about and plan for joining the workforce. While some students work part time during their high school years, it is not necessarily in the field that they are considering for a future career path. In planning for the type of field students would like to enter, career exploration is key. One aspect of career exploration that provides an

excellent opportunity for students to get a sense of a particular job or field, is through job shadowing. Job shadowing sheds the light on career opportunities and offers many benefits to both the student and the employer. If you are interested in providing a job shadowing opportunity for Plainville students, please contact:

Karen Raia-Courtois
(860) 793-3200 ext. 109



BE A MENTOR



General Electric employee volunteers spend time with their student mentees during the 9th Annual "Thank Your Mentor Day" social at the Middle School of Plainville.

Each week, volunteer mentors visit their student mentees in each of our five schools in Plainville.

These mentors act as consistent, reliable role models and friends to students in grades 1-12. Business involvement is an integral component of the Plainville Community Schools Mentor Program.

For more information, or to learn how your business can become involved in the mentoring program, please contact:

Karen Cox, Volunteer Coordinator
860-793-3210 x212

YOUTH AT WORK



Nicole Angelillo is a junior at Plainville High School. She is employed by Executive Press, Inc., in Plainville.

What do you like best about your position at Executive Press, Inc.?

What I like best about my position is the experience I have gained while working with customers. It is something new every day, but it is always an interesting experience.

How have your high school classes prepared you for the working world?

One class that has specifically helped me was my *Computing Essentials* class. This class helped me to learn how to use technology more efficiently.

What new skills have you learned on the job?

Some skills I have learned from this job are using a fax machine, scanner, printer, blue print copier and other printing equipment. I have also gained experience in working with the public.

How has this work experience impacted your life?

Working at Executive Press, Inc., has made me feel more independent. I am able to pay for my own things now, which makes me appreciate them more.

AT A GLANCE...

- Plainville's schools serve approximately 2,500 students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12
- 12.7% of Plainville students receive special education services in the school district
- 10.6% of Plainville students come from homes where English is not the primary language
- 21.7% of high school juniors and seniors work 16 or more hours per week
- 93.2% of students from the Class of 2008 pursued some form of higher education, while 6.8% moved into employment or the military
- There are 1.4 students per academic computer at Plainville High School
- Average high school class size is 18.1 students
- Class of 2008 graduation rate is 96.9%

SOURCE:
2008-09 Strategic School Profile

Board of Education Members:

Jesse Gnazzo
Anthony Goldberg
Lorri Goldsmith
Cheryl Provost
Patrick Ringrose
Andrea Saunders
Becky Tyrrell
Barbara Willard



Administration:

Kathleen Binkowski, Ph.D.,
Superintendent

David J. Telesca,
Assistant Superintendent

Richard Carmelich III,
Director of Finance and Operations