

# PLAINVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BUSINESS BRIEF

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Issue 1



*Plainville Community Schools inspire and prepare lifelong learners to follow their passion, engage in their communities, and positively impact student achievement*

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent of Schools





Dr. Maureen Brummett

Last fall, Plainville Community Schools conducted a strategic planning process. This involved setting a vision, belief statements and goals for the school district for the next five years. The committee was comprised of an extensive group of over 50 stakeholders including school administrators, teachers, school staff, parents, students, town employees, community members, government officials, local business leaders, and Board of Education members. After more than two months of meetings, the committee finished its work in late October, and in December, I presented a summary of the committee’s work to the Board of Education. One of the key outcomes of the process was the creation of a new vision statement for the district, which reads:

***“Plainville Community Schools inspire and prepare lifelong learners to follow their passion, engage in their communities, and positively impact student achievement”***

The committee also revised the district’s belief statements, which reflect the ideas that drive the work of the schools, as well as the overarching goals of the district. These goal statements are critically important as they reflect the day-to-day work of the district and also help guide our budgetary decisions. At the start of the school year, these goals will be posted in every classroom and school office. This will allow all of our stakeholders to see what drives our work with the students. Each goal has desired outcome statements as well as actions that the Strategic Planning Committee believes will lead to their attainment. All outcome statements describe which school staff or stakeholders will be responsible for their achievement as well as a timeline for completion. The three new goals for the next five years are:

**GOAL 1 STUDENTS:** *Develop a student centered curriculum with an emphasis on mastery of power standards (most important learning standards) and essential skills that ensure students are college and/or career ready upon graduation.*

**GOAL 2 TEACHING:** *Provide teachers with regular collaboration time, relevant professional development, and meaningful feedback to promote engaging and innovative teaching practices.*

**GOAL 3 LEARNING:** *Ensure that systems for assessing and measuring learning targets provide data to improve teaching practices and student learning.*

I am incredibly grateful to all the members of the Strategic Planning Committee for their amazing work throughout this process. Our new strategic plan will guide the work of the Plainville Community Schools for the next five years. As a result of these efforts, we have also slightly modified our district logo to feature the key words: **Inspire Prepare Engage.**



**Plainville Community Schools has a strong connection with local businesses and the community.”**

Volunteers serve as mentors, tutors, classroom helpers and reading partners, sharing their time and talent and playing a vital role supporting students’ educational journey. Through the Career Center at Plainville High School, students also partner with local businesses via job shadowing, tours, internships, the annual Career Day event, and more. To become involved, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Sue Bradley: (860) 793-3210 ext. 212 [bradleys@plainvilleschools.org](mailto:bradleys@plainvilleschools.org)

## PHS CLASS OF 2017



### 177 STUDENTS:

- 84% pursuing higher education
- 6% vocational/trade school
- 3% entering the workforce
- 2% entering the military
- 2% undecided
- 2% retained
- 1% special programs

### 149 STUDENTS PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION:

- 61% four year college
- 39% two year college
- 79% in-state schools
- 21% out-of-state schools
- 72% accepted to 1st choice college
- 1,131 college credits earned through UCONN Early College Experience

# SHADOW FOR SUCCESS

The 2017-18 school year marks the fifth anniversary of Plainville High School's "Shadowing for Success" program, according to College and Career Readiness Coordinator Sue Bradley. The primary focus of the program is to partner with local businesses that are able to host a high school student(s) for the purpose of exploring potential career fields. Shadowing for Success program partners are asked to host students for a one day job shadow experience that typically runs between 2-4 hours. Shadows are scheduled at the convenience of the business or organization, and may occur days, evenings or weekends. "The goal of the program is to have the high school students explore a day in the life of a career to really get a feel for what the particular job entails," explained Bradley. The benefits of the job shadow experience are many for both the students and the business partners. "It is valuable for a student to come away from a job shadow confirming that it is indeed a path they would like to pursue, or equally valuable, to learn that a particular career path is not a good match for them." The job shadows also help students to determine which courses of study they should follow both in high school and in post-secondary education planning. On the flip side, businesses and organizations who host job shadows have the opportunity to connect with students who could become potential employees. Each year, Plainville High School also hosts a Career Day event, where a group of representatives from a variety of career sectors visit Plainville High School and share information about their respec-

tive fields with students. This event often prompts students to inquire about the job shadow program, in an effort to get additional exposure to the careers highlighted during the Career Day event. Prior to each job shadow placement, students are "prepped" for the experience by Bradley. The students learn "soft skills" such as proper dress, workplace etiquette, communication, team work, flexibility and more. They also review program expectations, and are required to research the career field and company prior to the job shadow event. To date, the Shadowing for Success program partners have provided approximately 100 shadow opportunities for Plainville High School

students. Companies and organizations that have hosted students include the Plainville Police Department, Loureiro Engineering, Barker Specialty, State Representative William Petit Jr., the Plainville Board of Education, the Hartford Healthcare Medical Group and more. PHS alumnus Jill (Arcari) Couture an APRN, and Maureen Morris, PA, both with The Hartford Healthcare Medical Group, have hosted approximately 15 job shadows in the medical field for Plainville students, most of whom have

since pursued a career in the field of medicine. "We are very grateful for the many job shadow partners like Jill Couture, and the others who have supported the program to date. We are continually seeking new business / organizational partners to host additional job shadow opportunities for our students in Plainville and welcome the opportunity to collaborate," added Bradley.

**For information about becoming a Job Shadow partner, please contact Sue Bradley: (860) 793-3210 ext. 212 [bradleys@plainvilleschools.org](mailto:bradleys@plainvilleschools.org)**



*From Left: Hartford Healthcare employees Mary Ann Albano, Maureen Morris, Jill Couture, and Plainville Community Schools College and Career Readiness Coordinator Sue Bradley*

## Cost Free Training

A Customer Service and Sales Certification Training Program will be held this fall with **15 (needs-based) scholarships for Plainville residents**. The program prepares students to take the National Retail Federation Basic and Advanced Customer Service and Sales Certification exams, focusing on the economics of retail, assessing and meeting customer needs, closing sales, and more. Plainville Adult and Continuing Education received a grant award distribution of \$1,525 from the Plainville Community Fund II at the Main Street Community Foundation, to support this program. To request a scholarship application, please call Jill O'Brien of Plainville Adult and Continuing Education: (860) 793-3209 [www.plainvilleschools.org/family/adulted](http://www.plainvilleschools.org/family/adulted)

## Did You Know?

The school district's energy conservation program marked its 5th anniversary during the 2016-17 school year. Since 2012, Plainville Community Schools has saved more than **\$1.6 million** in utility costs through district-wide conservation efforts. Consumption of electricity has decreased by over **30%** and gas consumption has been reduced by **24%**.



## FOCUS ON: MANUFACTURING



A group of Plainville High School students recently spent a day learning about 21st century careers in manufacturing at “Manufacturing Awareness Day” held at Middlesex Community College. The program highlighted the growth of manufacturing in Connecticut, the opportunities available for career paths into manufacturing, and the chance for students to meet with and discuss the latest technology, equipment and jobs available throughout the manufacturing sector. Representatives from companies including Pratt and Whitney, Forrest Machine, Precision Grinding, Wepco Plastics, Ripley Tool, and more, attended the event and spoke to students

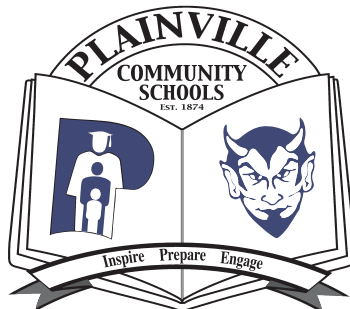
about their products, companies and employment possibilities. The field trip was part of a comprehensive, ongoing focus at Plainville High School on sharing information and resources relative to opportunities in the manufacturing industry, and getting students interested in pursuing career paths in manufacturing. Another example of this focus is the recent formation of a partnership between Middlesex Community College and Plainville High School. Students are able to earn college credits through their coursework at Plainville High School beginning with the CAD and Design course. Through this coursework, Plainville High School is able to provide students with the opportunity to use current software, technology and equipment that is common in industry today. These practical, real world experiences help to prepare and introduce students to the many manufacturing opportunities in high demand careers available in today’s job market.

## STEAM @ MSP

Thanks to generous funding from the Florence Fitzgibbon endowment, the Middle School of Plainville will begin the 2017-18 school year with a new Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics (STEAM) Lab. This endowment has also funded several scholarships and the exterior electronic signage at Plainville High School. Funding for the MSP STEAM Lab has allowed the Music, Technology and Engineering departments to repurpose and revise both space and curriculum by supporting infrastructure renovation. These include room changes, updated wiring, flooring, switches, access points to support new computer technology in multiple spaces, and more. This upgrade will create opportunities for middle school students who will be able to explore via hands on learning, preparing them for 21st century career opportunities. This includes access to an advanced communications lab that will function as a multi use space for classroom instruction and school wide morning video broadcasts. The space includes a full room length green screen wall and upgraded technology to facilitate both live broadcast video production and recorded video design and production. To support the STEAM curriculum, equipment was secured to expand 3D Design, Video Production, Music Technology, Technical Theater, Aerodynamics, and Computer Science units. New student experiences will include Communications, Production, Design, Robotics, CNC, and Physical Computing.



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