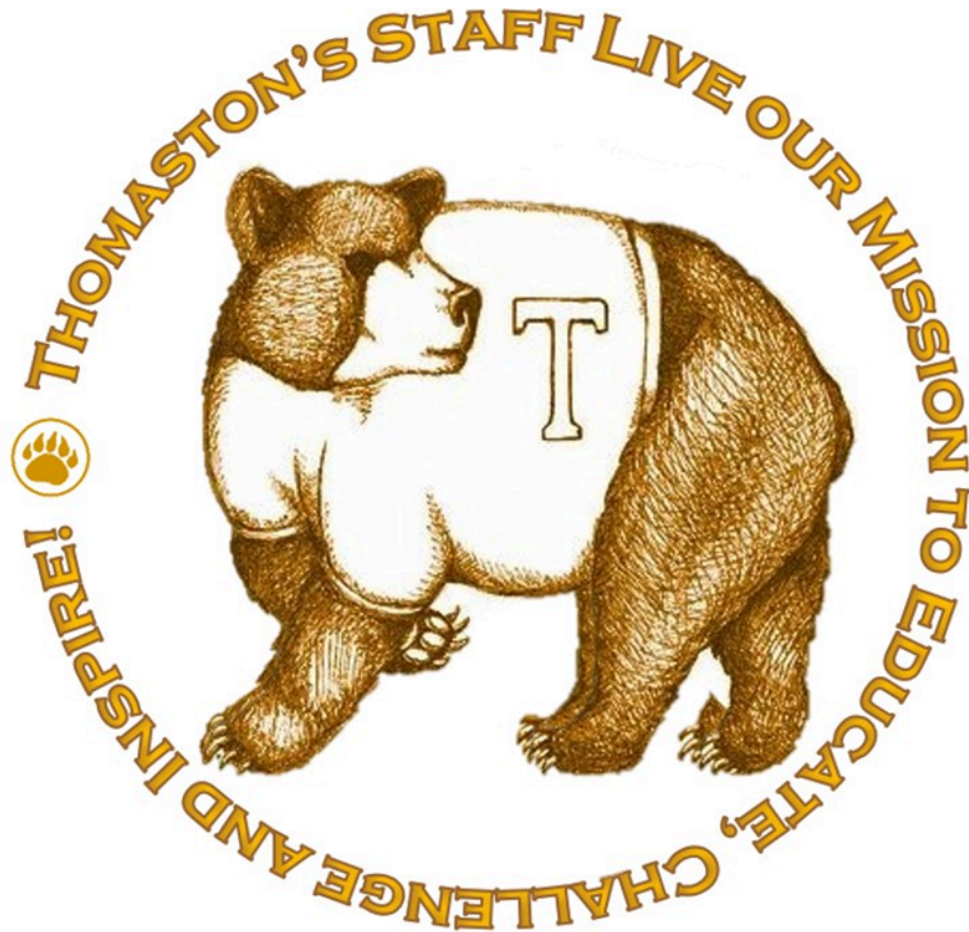


THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL

FACULTY/STAFF 2025-2026



We are very proud of the training and professional experience of our faculty and staff at Thomaston High School. Enclosed, you will find a brief biography for each of the adults working with students in our school. Please take some time to learn more about us. We are confident you will be impressed by the diverse backgrounds and experiences that our teachers and staff bring to our learning community.

Ms. Susan Abbott - Spanish

sabbott@thomastonschools.org (860) 283-3030 X 24121

Susan started her teaching career in Thomaston in 2007. She received a B.A. in Spanish with a certificate in Latin American Studies from Dickinson College and completed a semester abroad at the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellín, Colombia during that time. She received her Master's in Education from Post University in 2013.

Susan is involved with several clubs and organizations in the high school. She is the adviser for both the Sophomore class and the National Honor Society, and she is also the 10th Grade Team leader. Groups of students from the high school have accompanied Susan on trips to Mexico, Costa Rica, and Spain.

A life-long Thomaston resident, Susan and her family love any outdoor activity and biking.

Mr. Thomas Andronowitz - Library Media Specialist

tandronowitz@thomastonschools.org Extension 24103

Tom began his teaching career in Shelton in 2000 and has taught various grade levels throughout his career. Tom has been employed in Thomaston since 2012 and joined the staff at THS in August 2017.

Tom's education began at The University of Connecticut, where he earned a B.A. in communications. After graduating in 1994, he worked at ESPN and ABC Television networks. He began substitute teaching on his days off and was hooked. Tom went back to school and earned his M.A. in Elementary Education at Sacred Heart University and later earned a 6th year in Administration and Supervision from Southern Connecticut State University in 2007. Most recently Tom earned an additional certification to be a Library Media Specialist through the eARCLMS program at ACES in Hamden.

Tom currently lives in Plantsville (Southington) with his wife and two children. Outside of THS, Tom enjoys hunting, golfing, is a weekend warrior with various household construction projects, and likes to vacation in most any beach location.

Heather Boulanger - Centralized Registration Secretary

Heather graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. After taking time off to raise her family, she started working at Black Rock School as a Paraprofessional and later was a NAEYC Paraprofessional in Preschool. She recently joined THS as the Centralized Registration Secretary.

Heather is a life-long resident of Thomaston, having graduated from Thomaston High School in 1995. She currently lives in Thomaston with her husband, three children(Alexis, Joshua & Kaylee), and dog Bailey. She loves sports and spending time with her family.

Name: Brianna Casey

Position: Math Teacher

Email: bcasey@thomastonschools.org

Phone/Extension: (860) 283-3030 ext. 24212

Bio:

Mrs. Casey earned her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of North Texas. Previously, Mrs. Casey has taught Algebra I, but is currently teaching Geometry and Statistics.

Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Casey loves going to farmer's markets with her husband. She also enjoys knitting and anything crafty.

Name: Mrs. Drew Conlon

Position: Physical Education/Health Teacher

Email: dconlon@thomastonschools.org

Phone/Extension: (860)283-3030 ext. 24101

Bio:

I have been a physical education teacher for the past 15 years, and in 2024 I was fortunate to join THS, allowing me to teach in the community that I love. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from ECSU and a Master's Degree in Special Education from CCSU.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Jon, our two children, Brody and Zoey, and our dog, Josie. In my free time, I love reading, golfing, and attending sporting events.

Ms. Michelle Dayton - Digital Media Specialist

Michelle received her undergraduate degree in Sociology at Central Connecticut State University and her graduate degree and Mr certification at Southern Connecticut State University. She is a certified Library Media Specialist with a concentration on instructional technology for her sixth year degree. She had been the Media Specialist for Thomaston High School for fourteen years and now teaches Desktop Publishing, Digital Arts, Digital Media and Digital Age Experience courses.

Michelle is currently the Career and Technical Education Coordinator, Senior Class Advisor, Co-Chairperson New England Association of Schools and Colleges committee, Culture Committee chairperson, and Communications Coordinator. Michelle is also the adviser for the student environmental organization, Student Alliance for a Greener Earth (S.A.G.E), Yearbook, and Film Club.

Michelle and her husband have two children and live in Thomaston. She loves to cook, decorate and renovate her home, gardening, movies, concerts and travel.

Mr. Geoffrey Dobos - I.T. Senior Support Technician

I graduated from Northwestern Connecticut Community College with an A.S. in Computer Systems Technology. I earned my B.S. in Business Administration from Post University in 2010. In 2012, I joined the Thomaston school district as the Information Technology Network Specialist. In 2016, I was appointed to the position of IT Senior Support Technician. Additionally, I was appointed as the district PowerSchool SIS manager in 2019

I am a life-long resident of Thomaston having graduated from Thomaston High School in 1998. I currently live here with my wife (Melanie), two sons (Everett and Simon), two dogs (Dolly and Gingersnap), and a small flock of chickens. I am an avid Boston Red Sox fan and I like to spend my free time at the gym, bass fishing, camping, and backyard homesteading.

Ms. Tammy Dumas - Special Education

Tammy completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Central Connecticut

State University. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education in 1995 and her Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership in 2000. Tammy began her teaching career at Walter G. Cady School, Long Lane, teaching adjudicated youths. In 1996 she joined the special education staff at Thomaston High School as a

resource room teacher. As a resource room teacher, Tammy provides individualized support to students in her classroom and co-teaches classes to support students in the mainstream. Tammy is currently the Special Education Coordinator at the high school. While working at Thomaston High she has held positions of PATHS coordinator, 9th Grade Team leader, and Special Education Program Specialist.

Tammy lives in Bristol with her husband (Mike), two teenage daughters (MacKenzie & Madison), and Bernese Mountain dog (Moose). Tammy's favorite thing to do is to cheer on her daughters who are competitive dancers. When she's not watching the stage, Tammy enjoys traveling, baking, of course shopping, and reading.

Ms. Janice Ellis - Mathematics

jeellis@thomastonschools.org

(860)283-3030 ext. 24222

Janice attended Bentley College and majored in accounting. She decided to change career paths and graduated Cum Laude from Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, Science, and Geography. Janice graduated Magna Cum Laude with her Masters of Science degree in Mathematics also from CCSU and has also completed another thirty credits of coursework beyond her Master's degree.

Janice accepted her first teaching position in Wolcott, where she taught Project Explore, the district's program for the talented and gifted. She was also the coordinator of a

remedial program that involved organizing students to tutor their peers. Following this position she taught seventh grade mathematics in Wolcott and was seventh grade team leader for several years. In 2005, she was Wolcott's Teacher of the Year and was recognized at the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Ceremony held at the Bushnell in Hartford.

In 2006, she accepted a position to teach seventh grade mathematics in Thomaston. She also holds the position of seventh grade Team Leader.

Ms. Ellis has two daughters and loves to travel.

Ms. Ellis loves to travel with her two daughters.

Ms. Jennifer Ewart - Physical

Education/Health

jewart@thomastonschools.org (860)283-3030

ext. 24106

Jennifer went to Central CT State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education with a cross-endorsement in Health Education in 2006 and a Master of Science in Physical Education and Human Performances in 2011. Jennifer earned a scholarship to play Division I soccer and was inducted into the CCSU Hall of Fame along with her teammates in 2016.

She has been teaching Physical Education and Health Education at Thomaston High School since the 2006-2007 school year. In addition to teaching, Jennifer is the head coach of varsity girls soccer and coordinator of the Hiking Club. She is a member of the Advisory and Culture Committee and serves as the Assistant Advisory Coordinator and Grade 9 Team Leader. Jennifer lives in Southington, CT with her husband and two children.

Ms. Erin Fainer - Mathematics
efainer@thomastonschools.org
(860)283-3030 ext. 24213

Erin graduated Summa Cum Laude from Eastern Connecticut State University where she earned her bachelors in mathematics with a concentration in secondary education. While at school she played for the Division III field hockey team, earning her school their first ever conference championship and NCAA tournament bid. She was also one of six students inducted into the National Mathematics Honors Society and served as president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. At THS, Erin currently teaches algebra and statistics & probability. She also serves as the grade nine advisor and assistant coach of the high school field hockey team.

Outside of school, Erin's favorite hobbies include working out any way possible, whether that's lifting weights, field hockey, dance, taking walks, or anything else. She enjoys reading, painting, doing puzzles, and trivia games to keep her brain sharp. Erin is also a huge fan of cheesy/silly/lighthearted jokes or puns, so feel free to reach out with any suggestions for her daily joke board.

Mr. Timothy Ferris - Custodian

Tim was born and raised in Newtown, CT and attended Newtown schools. Tim has a wife, son, and stepdaughter. Tim worked for an electronics manufacturer/distributor from 1985 to 2014. For the past nineteen years, Tim has lived in Thomaston. In 2015 Tim started working at Thomaston High School as a Custodian, and he loves what he does!

Ms. Erica Flanagan - Language Arts

Erica graduated from Central CT State University with a Bachelor of Arts in English. During her time at Central, Ms. Flanagan studied abroad at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, England. After she received her Bachelor's Degree, Ms. Flanagan attended the University of Bridgeport for her Master of Science in Education. Her teaching experience includes three years in North Carolina, one year in a CT middle school, and the remainder of her tenure at Thomaston High School. Ms. Flanagan has been teaching grade 9 English and grade 12 English for the last 13 years here at Thomaston High School. She is also the proud mother of three boys who keep her busy and always on her toes.

Ms. Terri Franzi - Social Studies

tfranzi@thomastonschools.org

X24107

Terri began teaching at Thomaston High School in 2014, after having served as a long-term substitute. Prior to teaching in Thomaston, Terri taught for eight years at Torrington High School and for seven years in the credit diploma program in Bristol. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in political science/public administration from Central Connecticut State University. She worked at the Connecticut state capitol as a legislative aide for four years and as the legislative liaison for the CT Secretary of the State for another four years before making a career shift to teaching.

Terri earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix. She currently teaches Global Studies, AP Psychology, and Civics. She currently advises the THS Student Council and the THS Mock Trial team. She is a resident of Harwinton and lives with her husband, son, daughter and two dogs.

Chris Golino**School Social Worker**

cgolino@thomastonschools.org

860-283-3030 ext 14316

Chris graduated from CCSU in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work. She has a Masters in Social Work from Springfield College and has been a certified School Social Worker in Connecticut for 17 years. Chris has worked with children and adolescents in a variety of settings, such as IICAPS, Waterbury Hospital's Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) and The Arch Bridge School at Wellspring. She most recently was a school social worker for New Britain Public Schools for 15 years. Chris is part of our building and district attendance committees, our Crisis Team, and our School Climate committee. Chris grew up in Watertown and graduated from Watertown High School in 1988. Although she lived in Thomaston for 12 years, she currently lives in Watertown with her husband (Joe), her two children (Jake & Nick) and her fur baby Bailey. For fun, Chris loves to cruise and travel to beautiful beaches. She

loves attending New York Yankees baseball games with her boys, reading and shopping. Chris is grateful for the opportunity to work with our middle and high school students in Thomaston and to be a part of an amazing team! This will be her 2nd year at THS. Chris is looking forward to an exciting school year! She is dedicated to supporting students as they grow in their social skills and learn healthy ways to regulate their emotions.

Ms. Shannon Haluchak - Effective School Solutions Senior Coordinator

Shannon Haluchak graduated from Emmanuel College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Studio Art, with a concentration in Art Therapy and a Minor in Psychology. She also completed her Master's Degree in Art Therapy from Albertus Magnus College. Mrs. Haluchak has been a Licensed Professional Counselor through the State of Connecticut since 2012 and has been at Thomaston High School since 2015.

Ms. Doreen Jaskielewicz - Science (Grades 7 and 8)

Doreen is a native of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and a 1998 graduate of Elizabethtown College, which is located in Elizabethtown, PA. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Resource Management. After moving to Connecticut in 1998, she began working at Northwest Environmental Water Labs in Oakville, CT. While there, she became a lab director and tested drinking water for various contaminants. In 2001, she began her studies at the University of Bridgeport and graduated with honors, earning her Master's Degree in secondary science education.

Doreen has been teaching at Thomaston High School since 2002, where she taught Biology and General Science at the high school, before moving to eighth grade science the following year. During her time at THS, she has spent two years as the Eighth Grade Class Advisor, a few years as Eighth Grade Team Leader, and one year as the Seventh Grade Team Leader. She is the current Eighth Grade Team Leader, and a TEAM mentor.. She lives in Torrington with her husband and two sons, Scott and Jake.

Mrs. Laura Johnston - Art

Mrs. Johnston is the art teacher at Thomaston High School. You may remember her as the art teacher from BRS and TCS...not so long ago! Mrs. Johnston has been teaching art in

Thomaston for over 20 years and has no plans to stop soon. She attended Southern Connecticut State University earning her BS in Art Education with an endorsement covering Pre K-12th grade. She graduated in 1991. Mrs. Johnston returned to SCSU for their Masters in Art Education Program and has been teaching art ever since. She lives in New Hartford with her husband, two children, two dogs and one cat. She enjoys painting, walking her dogs, reading good books, and seeing her friends.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78V79-hfqN0&t=1s>

Mrs. Karen Keith - Lead Secretary, ext. 14305

kkeith@thomastonschools.org

Karen graduated from Naugatuck Valley Community Technical College with an associate's degree in Executive Secretarial. Before coming to Thomaston, Karen worked for a condominium management company in Southbury for ten years, where she was the office manager. In August 2005, Karen joined the THS family as the Lead Secretary and was named Employee of the Month in December 2005 and received the TPS Spot Light Recognition in September 2021. Karen grew up in Naugatuck, but now lives in Wolcott with her husband Rob, son Logan and two puppies Copper and Chloe. She is an avid 49ers fan; however, her husband is a Cowboys fan, so Football season is their favorite time of year. Luckily, they are both Yankee fans. Karen is very competitive, and she loves to cook, spend time with family and friends, and have a family game night. She especially loves to watch her son compete in Track & Field throwing the javelin, discus & shot put. Her son is a 2nd Degree Black Belt. Karen is thrilled to announce in December 2024 they welcomed their first grandson, Alton.

Mrs. Cristina Kingsbury- Principal, THS

Mrs. Kingsbury graduated from Southern CT State University in 2009 with her Bachelors in English. She then continued onto her Masters Program for Secondary Education at the University of Bridgeport. During her time as a student, she began an internship at West Side Middle School in Waterbury, CT. This is where she immediately knew she wanted to continue pursuing secondary education during her studies. Most of her teaching career was spent as an English teacher to students at Derby High School and Waterbury Career Academy. She enjoyed having classroom discussions surrounding relevant novels and topics that inspire student discourse. After 10 years of teaching high school English to students of all backgrounds and abilities, she began to consider enrolling in school to study educational leadership. A semester before COVID hit, she became a student once again but this time was unique. During her time teaching online because of the pandemic, she also attended classes online at night. After her coursework, she was advised to consider school leadership with the intention to lead a high school. With encouragement from a previous school principal, she then became an instructional coach. In this role, she was able to assist and coach teachers through instruction and build confidence in her colleagues. Helping teachers and students made coaching the most rewarding experience in her career.

Outside of teaching, Mrs. Kingsbury always worked in the restaurant industry meeting all different kinds of people. Even throughout her teaching career, she continued to work in the restaurant industry for 15 years! After the pandemic, she decided to leave the restaurant business for good and focus on her family and career in 2020.

In her spare time, Mrs. Kingsbury enjoys spending time traveling with family and friends. She loves to dine out, especially to Italian and Spanish restaurants. She currently lives in Waterbury, where she was born and raised. Mrs. Kingsbury lives with her husband, Mathew Kingsbury, social worker for Connecticut Junior Republic and their two children, Veda, 9 and Julian, 11. Veda attends Rotella Magnet School and Julian attends Waterbury Arts Magnet School located in Waterbury, CT.

Ms. Heidi Laus - Social Studies

Before entering into her teaching career, Heidi was employed at the Hartford Insurance Company. She returned back to CCSU to pursue her undergraduate

degree. She graduated from Central CT State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a concentration in History. Currently, she is in her 23rd year of teaching, spending twenty-two of those years at Thomaston High School. During this time she completed her graduate studies in education at the University of Bridgeport. In December of 2022, she earned a second Master's degree in American History from Pace University.

While at THS, she has spent eight years as the CMT Coordinator for grades seven and eight. She has also led two trips to Spain in 2005 and 2007, a trip to Ireland/England in 2015, and a trip to Italy in 2018. Most recently, she led a trip to England and France during the summer of 2023. She has spent many years as the eighth grade class advisor, initiating a four day trip to Gettysburg and Washington D.C., which has become an annual tradition here at THS. Ms. Laus is also the advisor to B.I.O., Beauty Inside and Out, a group led by and created by female students.

In addition, she has been a co-chair of the NEASC Steering Committee. As co-chair, Heidi led the faculty through the self-study process and visitation, for the recent accreditation process in 2008, and October of 2018. While teaching middle school Heidi spent three years as the Team Leader representative for "Project Poetry Live!," a program designed with the sole purpose of creating tolerance and diversity in Litchfield County.

Heidi is a life-long resident of Torrington. She was elected to the Torrington Board of Education in Torrington for a four-year term beginning in 2005. In the summer, she enjoys spending time with her family in North Carolina. She is also a Justice of the Peace.

Mrs. Lisa Lavoie - Board-Certified Behavior Analyst

Mrs. Lavoie grew up in Meriden, CT and currently resides in Naugatuck, CT with her husband, Matthew, and their two sons, Matthew Jr (12) and Samuel (6).

Mrs. Lavoie received her undergraduate degree at Central Connecticut State University and her Masters Degree at Sage Colleges. Mrs. Lavoie began working in Thomaston in May 2017 and works at all three schools. Mrs. Lavoie has a passion for seeing students grow and develop into the best version of themselves! She especially loves to come up with creative ways to help students learn academics, social skills, and emotional regulation tools and strategies.

Outside of school, Mrs. Lavoie is an active member of her church and serves as a worship leader. You can almost always find her whistling, humming, or singing a tune. She also enjoys camping and traveling with her family. Her goal is to visit all 50 states! You can almost always find me whistling, humming, or singing a tune. I also enjoy camping and playing card games with my husband and two sons.

Mr. D. John Long, Jr. - English / Language

Arts jlong@thomastonschools.org

860-283-3030, extension 24221

After graduating from The Taft School in 1988, John earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language from Lafayette College in Easton, PA in 1992. While at Lafayette, he was inducted into Sigma Delta Pi (National Spanish Honor Society) for excellence in the study of foreign language and the study of literature. John also holds an advanced degree in Humanities from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.8.

John has taught since 2002 in Thomaston Public Schools, teaching primarily eighth grade. Over his many years in the district, John has acted as the Team Leader of the Seventh and Eighth Grade Teams as well as the English Department Coordinator. In 2011, John was named "Teacher of the Year" for the Thomaston Public School District. Also during 2011, while extending his teaching certificate to encompass high school English, John received recognition for scoring in the top fifteen percent nationally on the Praxis II exam for English content. He is currently teaching grade eight English / Language Arts.

In addition to teaching, John is the founder and former director of Litchfield Hills Girls Lacrosse and coaches the THS Varsity Field Hockey Team. Over the past few years, he has encouraged several girls from Thomaston to pick up the games of lacrosse

and field hockey. He is an avid lacrosse and ice hockey player, a musician and songwriter, and a die-hard Bruins and Red Sox fan. John currently lives in Thomaston with his wife Lauren and has two daughters, Lexi and Cameron.

Ms. Carol Lewia

I am the Family Consumer Science teacher at Thomaston HS
My school email is clewia@thomastonschools.org

My husband and I have 3 daughters, and a pet dog named Marty.
I am currently practicing golf as a hobby.

Mr. Spencer Luthy - Head Custodian

Spencer graduated from Thomaston High School in 2007. His career in the maintenance field started in 2005, when he was working seasonally for the Department of Environmental Protection. In January of 2008 he started his career with Thomaston Public Schools working at Black Rock Elementary School as a night custodian. In July of 2009 he transferred to Thomaston High School to continue his work as a night custodian. In October of 2015 he then took on the role of Head Custodian. He enjoys what he does for our school!

Spencer resides in Harwinton, Connecticut with his wife Kristen and his three sons Hunter, Nicholas and Benjamin. They own a small farm on which they grow vegetables and raise chickens and goats. He also enjoys his favorite hobby on the farm, making maple syrup! He is a very active volunteer working at the Harwinton Agricultural Society. Spencer is also a very big Patriots and RedSox fan and enjoys watching the games with his sons.

Mr. Brandon Lynn- Industrial Arts Teacher

blynn@thomastonschools.org Phone Extension 24161

Brandon graduated from Central Connecticut State University in 2021 and landed his first teaching job here at THS as the industrial arts teacher. He runs the fishing club, and is a co-advisor for the catering club here at the high school. He offers courses such as industrial arts, small engine repair, CAD, construction, manufacturing, and more!

Before teaching Brandon was a chef in a restaurant for 8 years and also works in construction and landscaping during the summers. Brandon and his girlfriend Cheyanne have a baby boy named Carter who was born in January. They currently

reside in Watertown and are looking to become members of the Thomaston community.

Outside of school Brandon is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys building and working with his hands. He often is working on the family farm or spending time with his new family.

Mr. Stephen Malo - School Counselor (A-K)

Steve attended and graduated from Johnson State College, part of the Vermont State College system. There, he earned his Bachelor of Arts in English with Teaching Licensure in 1994. He completed his student teaching at Spaulding Middle School in Barre, Vermont.

Steve continued his educational pursuits by enrolling at Western Connecticut State University. While earning his Master of Science in Counselor Education, he completed a six-hundred hour internship at Touchstone School in Litchfield, CT. Upon completion of his Master's Degree, Steve then completed coursework at the University of New England. These behavior modification classes were taken in pursuit of his Sixth-Year Professional Certificate.

Steve began his professional career at Education Connection in Litchfield, CT. There, he worked with children with autism. He was trained in the Rutgers University Discrete Trial Therapy Program that aimed to improve communication for non-verbal students.

Steve began his tenure at Thomaston High School in 1999 as an English teacher. He has taught seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth grade during this time. He also has held positions including Student Council Advisor, Junior Class Advisor, Eighth Grade Class Advisor, and both Seventh and Eighth Grade Team Leader. In 2015, Steve wrapped up his teaching career and moved to the School Counseling Office, where he serves as the School Counselor for students A-K alphabetically. Steve also serves on the building and district-level attendance committees, the NEASC committee, District Safety Committee, and the Crisis Team. He also holds the positions of AP/ECE Coordinator and Social Media Coordinator. He was also honored with the 2019 THS yearbook dedication.

Outside of THS, Steve resides in Litchfield with his wife Maura, two children, Molly and Colleen and three dogs, Roscoe, Annie, and Dunkin. He is an avid Boston Red Sox, Boston Bruins, and AC/DC fan. He serves on the Vermont State University-Johnson Alumni Council and as Secretary for the Litchfield Board of Education. He also enjoys playing guitar, reading, and administering multiple Facebook groups.

Name: Owen McGowan

Position: Music Teacher

Email: omcgowan@thomastonschools.org

Phone: (860) 283-3030 ext. 24111

Owen graduated Summa Cum Laude from Gettysburg College, receiving his Bachelors in Music Education. While at Gettysburg, he performed in concert, marching and jazz bands, choirs, and orchestral ensembles, as well as a tuba-euphonium ensemble and a Balinese gamelan ensemble. He began his role of Music Teacher at Thomaston High School in the fall of 2023, teaching Band, Choir, and Piano. Owen is also the Music Director of the Drama Club and Assistant Advisory Coordinator. Outside of school, Owen enjoys spending time with his family, exercising, playing disc golf, and continuing to practice various instruments.

Mr. Seth Murphy - History

Seth earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2006 and a Master of Arts degree in 2008 in history from Western Connecticut State University. During his undergraduate work he concentrated on German history, specifically the rise of the Nazi Party and the beginnings of World War II. During his graduate work he shifted his focus toward American Constitutional history, discovering how the Constitution works and how it was founded. He spends most of his free time reading books on early American history and how the Supreme Court interprets the Constitution. It is his hope to go back to school one day and earn a PhD in history.

Mr. James Newton - Physics

jnewton@thomastonschools.org (860) 283-3030 x 24206

James began teaching in 2006 and joined Thomaston High School in 2021. He currently teaches Physics, Astronomy, and a Scientific Research course.

James graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2002 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, completed the CT ARC program in 2006, and completed a M.S. program in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maine in 2016.

James is passionate about advances in alternative energy, innovations in home design/construction, and humans' interaction with their environment. When not at THS James can be found building or fixing something and enjoying time with his wife and three young boys.

Mr. David E. Oravetz - Chemistry

School year 2023-2024 is David's first year teaching at Thomaston HS. He comes to THS with 25 years of teaching experience at several other public and private schools here in Connecticut. He has both a Bachelor's (Chemistry & General Science) and Master's degree (Science Education) from Central Connecticut State University.

Jose L Ortiz - IT End User Technician

Jose graduated high school in Guilford, CT in 1984. He attended Middlesex Community College from 1986 to 1988, studying telecommunications, and Porter and Chester in Watertown, CT, earning A+ Microsoft Certification in computer repair. In 1989, Jose began working at A&T Communications, LLC as a computer technician and manager. He started working as a custodian in Thomaston Public Schools in January 2000, until 2014 when he joined the IT Department for Thomaston. Jose states that this is the best job that he has ever had and enjoys the great staff.

Ms. Breanna Riollano - School Counselor (L-Z)

Breanna began her career in the THS counseling office in 2018. She conferred her undergraduate degree in 2014 at the University of Connecticut with a double major in Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies. She then graduated from Saint Joseph University in 2018 with a Master of Arts degree in School Counseling. Breanna completed her internship at Wolcott High School, where she was awarded Connecticut School Counseling Intern of the Year for 2018. Recently, Breanna became a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and is now Nationally Board Certified.

Breanna is currently the Drama Director and Advisor of the High School's Drama Club.

She is also part of our building and district attendance committees, our Crisis Team, Culture Committee, Link Crew Advisor, our School-to-Career coordinator, and Naviance Coordinator.

Breanna could not be more thrilled to be a part of such an amazing team and community! She is very much looking forward to the upcoming year!

Ms. Susan Santovasi - Language Arts

Susan Santovasi graduated with the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Recreation and

Leisure Studies from Southern Connecticut State University, Master of Arts in English Literature from Southern Connecticut State University, and Juris Doctor from Quinnipiac

University School of Law. She completed teachers' fellowships in literature with Yale University and Harriet Beecher Stowe Center through the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has published various articles on literature, social justice, and law.

Ms. Santovasi taught for three years at Cooperative Arts and Humanities Magnet High School in New Haven before teaching at Thomaston High School, where she has taught English since 2003. She teaches SCSU Introduction to Literature, UConn Literature and Composition, UConn Rhetoric and Legal Issues, English 11 American Literature, and

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles. She currently teaches courses for Post University's Paralegal and Pre-Law programs as well. She has served as the advisor to the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) and the Moot Court Competition Team. She also serves on the Grading Policy and NEASC Steering committees at THS. In 2014 Ms. Santovasi was named Thomaston Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Jenn Sirois - Special Education

Jenn Sirois graduated from Central Connecticut State University in 2017 with her Bachelor degree in Social Work. She worked as a rape crisis advocate for the State of Connecticut until she earned her Master degree in Special Education. She began working at Thomaston High School December of 2021. The best way of reaching out to me is email. My email address is jsirois@thomastonschools.org.

Name: Rachael Soss

Position: English Teacher

Email: rsoss@thomastonschools.org

Phone/Extension: (860) 283-3030 ext. 24122

Educational and Professional Background:

- 13th year teaching English – Have taught students in AP, ECE, Honors, CP, Co-Taught, ESL, Credit Recovery, Homebound, SAT prep, etc.
- Held English 7-12 certification in CT, MA, and FL
- MEd. Instructional Design and Technology
- B.S. Pre-Secondary Education English

Bio: English teacher, mom of two littles -- Maeve (4) and Arthur (3), outdoors and plant enthusiast, and emotional regulation and self-growth journaling advocate that is beyond ecstatic to be woven into the fabric of Thomaston Public Schools! In entering my thirteenth year in the field, I look forward to supporting the students and families in this tight-knit town while continuing to delve into professional learning opportunities this district has to offer. In partnership with Thomaston Public Schools I aspire to build strong connections and support community outreach. I have been known to get highly involved --- whether it be throwing school dances, hosting fundraising events, putting on pep rallies or leading technology initiatives and scaffolding student learning experiences to align with Portrait of a Graduate, I live for it all! Looking forward to seeing what my journey with Thomaston has in store!

Ms. Nancy Stancavage - Registered Nurse

Nancy has served as School Nurse since 2018. Nancy attended Post University on a full scholarship as a pitcher for fast-pitch softball and field hockey, and Mattatuck Community College. She has been a registered nurse for 33 years and has held a multitude of positions ranging from pediatrics to geriatrics and psychiatrics. She holds certifications in infection control, safety, and wound care. She is a veteran of the United States Air Force where she spent a year in California and three years in England. Before nursing she dreamed of being either a singer in a band or a comedian. After a stint with the Navy Seals, she realized that was not challenging enough and thought school nursing would be much more challenging (kidding). She is married to Matt and has two boys; Mac is working towards a Master's Degree at UCONN and Dan is a senior at Wamogo. She loves to workout and stay active, and she spends her free time on their boat, at their cottage in Maine or at their home at the Connecticut shore.

Mrs. Eileen Stowe - Science

estowe@thomastonschools.org

Eileen attended and graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in Cytotechnology. As a cytotechnologist, she continued her education and earned her first master's degree in 1999 from Rensselaer in health care management. She began her clinical career at Newport Hospital in Newport, RI. From there she returned to Connecticut and has worked at St. Francis Hospital, Bristol hospital and most recently the UConn Health Center in Farmington. As a cytotechnologist in a clinical lab, her duties included preparing and reviewing cell and tissue specimens for pre-cancerous and malignant lesions. In addition, she was a clinical instructor for upcoming UConn cytotechnology students.

In 2014, Eileen returned to school and completed a master's program in secondary education with a specialty in biology from the University of Bridgeport. She completed her student teaching at Woodbury Middle School in the spring of 2015. After which time she was hired by the Waterbury school district. During her time in Waterbury, she led a garden club, assisted with the Science National Honor society, was member of the NEASC steering committee, the Crosby Safety team, the facilitator of the implementation of an SRBI team, became an MFA (Math for America) fellow and completed her 6th year/092 certification. Eileen was hired in Thomaston in the fall of 2022. She currently teaches UConn Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, UAlbany Cohort, Forensics and a STEM class.

Eileen lives in Litchfield with her husband, Richard, and their two children. She enjoys reading, swimming, hiking, and traveling with her family.

Ms. Wendy Thomas - Main Office Secretary

Wendy attended Gateway Community College in New Haven, CT, where she earned her license in Phlebotomy. Wendy was a stay at home mom before she started working with Thomaston Public Schools in 2003. Wendy has worked at all three schools, with the majority of years spent at Thomaston High School where she remains. Wendy worked as a Special Educational Paraprofessional in the classroom setting prior to taking on the role of supervising In School Suspension (ISS) and coordinating Guided Study. In 2021 Wendy again transferred roles and is now a secretary in the Main Office.

Wendy resides in Thomaston with her husband Mark, her son Zack, and her dogs Boomer and Zoey. Wendy is an avid dog lover and Los Angeles Rams fan. In her free time, Wendy loves to spend time with her family and friends.

Mrs. Theresa Tortorici- Special Education
Teacher ttortorici@thomastonschools.org
(860)-283-3030 ext.24226

Theresa attended Naugatuck Valley Community College and received her associate's in Human Service/Social Work with a concentration in children and families. From there she received her bachelors in Environmental Science and continued her education at the University of Saint Joseph for her masters in Special Education.

Theresa grew up in Watertown, CT, and moved to Thomaston, CT two years ago. She lives with her husband (Michael), two daughters (Jocelyn & Gracelyn), and a black lab/beagle (Benji). As a family, they enjoy going on vacation, camping, and going fishing.

Ms. Jessyca Tucker - Language Arts

Jessyca joined Thomaston High School English Department in October 2019. She currently teaches English 10, UCONN 1007 Studio and Seminar, and Southern Connecticut Public Speaking. Jessyca earned her Bachelor of Arts in English with a Secondary English certification at Saint Thomas Aquinas College and her Master of Science in Secondary English Education at Fordham University. Her past teaching experience ranges from preschool to high school, and she also worked as a behavioral therapist with special needs children. When not in her classroom, Jessyca loves playing board games with her family, hanging out with her chickens, tending to her vegetable garden, visiting museums, attending theatre performances, and taking long walks with no particular destination.

Mr. David Vecca - Assistant Principal

Dave has been in education for the past 18 years. Dave earned his bachelor's degree in History at UCONN, a Master's in Education from the University of Bridgeport, and a 6th Year / 092 in Educational Leadership from Southern Connecticut State University. He started out as a History Teacher in Waterbury, Connecticut and taught in Waterbury for 11 years. In his 12th year, he was hired as a History Teacher / Department Chair for Oxford Public School. He later became Oxford Public Schools Coordinator of Student Conduct.

Outside education, Dave's passion revolves around spending time with his family, music, and sports. He has played guitar since he was a kid and loves attending concerts. He is a huge Boston Red Sox and New York Giants fan. Mr. Vecca resides in Woodbury, CT with his wife Pamela, his daughter Madison (9), and their dog Teddy.

Dr. Michael Watson – Math

Michael earned his bachelors in Biomedical Engineering from Boston University, a masters in Biology from CCSU and a masters and doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Bridgeport. After working as a Biomedical Engineer for four years, Michael realized that his desire to teach and coach children was his calling. Michael has been an educator for 22 years working previously in Watertown and Bridgeport school districts. During his educational career, Michael has used his engineering background to infuse real life applications and projects into the math and science courses he has taught and developed. Michael joined the Thomaston High School faculty last year teaching 8th grade math and Pre-Calculus. Michael enjoys playing and coaching sports, reading and music outside teaching at Thomaston High School.

T: (860) 283-3030 x 24211.

mwatson@thomastonschools.org

Mrs. Elizabeth West - Special Education Teacher PATHS program

Mrs. West (Beth) has been teaching in therapeutic programs for the past sixteen years. She attended Marist College earning her Bachelors in Psychology and Special Education and went on to Sacred Heart University earning her Masters in Elementary Education. She has taught from 1st-12th grade both public and privately, always working with students with behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. She lives in Bristol with her husband Frank and daughter Hazel who is now almost 3. In her “free time”, she enjoys yoga, gardening, reading, cooking, thrifting and traveling.

ewest@thomastonschools.org 860-283-3030
ext 24170