

# News

WE PROVIDE EXEMPLARY EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS WHILE DEVELOPING THE WHOLE LEARNER IN A SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT. OUR STUDENTS WILL THRIVE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING, INTERCONNECTED AND COMPETITIVE WORLD, SUPPORTED BY COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAFF, FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY.

Waterford School District, 501 N. Cass Lake Road, Waterford, 248.682.7800

[www.waterford.k12.mi.us](http://www.waterford.k12.mi.us)

Summer 2011

## Waterford Foundation Selects Teacher of the Year Adams Elementary Teacher Aaron Phillips Receives Award

Adams Elementary School Teacher Aaron Phillips was selected as the

Waterford Foundation Teacher of the Year. Waterford Teacher of the Year is sponsored by the Waterford Foundation for Public Education and Suburban Ford. As Waterford Foundation Teacher of the Year, Phillips received free use of a vehicle of his choice

from Suburban Ford for one year and was honored, along with other nominees, at the Excellence in Education Reception in June.

Phillips began his teaching career at Adams Elementary School in 2001. During his tenure, he has received numerous accolades including the Presidential Award for Math and Science Teaching, Chrysler Bridging the Gap in

Technology Award, State of Michigan Special Tribute Award, and was recognized by the Oakland Press with the Oakland County Mover and Shaker Award.

Also a humanitarian, Phillips and his students have made blankets for the Pregnancy Help Center, provided food for the local animal shelter, conducted a letter writing campaign to those serving in the military, and held a school bazaar to raise money for

presents for community families.

The Waterford Foundation for Public Education Teacher of the Year Award is a way of affirming the value the Waterford community places on educational excellence and the critical role the classroom teacher plays in providing it.



(l to r) Superintendent John Silveri, Adams Elementary Teacher Aaron Phillips, Foundation Directors Lori Stepanski and Mary Lou Simmons, and Suburban Ford General Manager Robert MacKenzie.

## District Partners with ARD to Increase Revenue

The Waterford School District has entered into a partnership with Alternative Revenue Development (ARD) to increase revenue for the District. By now, you may have noticed a change to the District's website, which is a result of the partnership with ARD. The majority of the sponsorship dollars received from these corporate partners are going back to the District.

As a consumer, you have many choices from price and quality to product

and service, but please review our website and consider supporting one of the sponsors that is supporting the District.

If you want to participate on behalf of your company, feel free to contact ARD to find out more at 248.688.9488 or [dgreenwalt@altrevenues.net](mailto:dgreenwalt@altrevenues.net).



alternative revenue development



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## Become a Mentor

A small amount of your time can make an impact!

The Waterford School District is recruiting volunteers ages 21 and older to mentor teens. Volunteers meet with students in the community for at least 2 hours/week and make a year long commitment to the student.



Youth who are mentored are:  
46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs  
27% less likely to begin using alcohol  
52% less likely to skip school  
37% less likely to skip a class

Contact Teresa Bruno  
248.421.6497

[Brunt01@wsdmi.org](mailto:Brunt01@wsdmi.org)

[www.waterford.k12.mi.us/safeschools/mentor](http://www.waterford.k12.mi.us/safeschools/mentor)



# Superintendent's Message . . .

As we reach the end of this school year, I'd like to take this opportunity to briefly provide one last update on our budget situation. As you know, at one time we were facing the daunting task of eliminating a projected \$12 million deficit for the 2011-12 school year. Now, thanks to the contributions of so many, the Board of Education took action on June 16 to approve a balanced budget for the upcoming year. How did we eliminate such an enormous deficit? Basically, it took a three-pronged approach:



1. A commitment by the Board of Education to spend our fund balance down (by over \$3 million), leaving five percent of District expenditures in reserve.
2. Contractual agreements with our employee groups that included significant concessions (over \$5 million in savings).
3. Budget reductions/enhancements (approx. \$1.5 million in staff reductions to align with projected enrollment, over \$2.5 million in additional reductions).

Due to the commitment of the Board to apply a significant portion of our fund balance to reduce the projected deficit, and the willingness of staff members to recognize the scope of the problem and make sacrifices in the best interests of our students, our District, and one another, the budget reductions we are implementing are not nearly as severe as we feared they would need to be. This does not mean that they were painless, and we regret that there are seven employees who are facing layoff notification and others who have been displaced and/or reassigned. However, we are fortunate that it was not far worse, and grateful that we were able to hold students as harmless as possible, knowing that we did not eliminate any programs or services that directly benefit kids.

This does not take into account the most recent news from the state in regard to our funding. First and foremost, it's important to understand that our funding has, in fact, been reduced by \$470/student, as Governor Snyder initially proposed. With that as our baseline, we are expecting to receive \$110/student on a one-time basis to offset the increase in our contribution to the retirement system (up from 20.66% to 24.46%, resulting in the loss of approx. \$228/student). In addition, we believe we will be able to show that we are compliant with four of the five "best financial practices" being required to receive an additional \$100/student on a one-time basis. If we do, in fact, receive this funding, we are committed to directly applying the entire amount of the increased revenue to help offset the budget deficit that we will be facing for the 2012-13 school year, which we can already project to be staggering once again.

I am more grateful than words can express to anyone and everyone who contributed to the constructive resolution of our extreme budget challenge. First and foremost, I want to thank the teachers, administrators, custodians, secretaries, bus drivers, food service employees, instructional aides, etc., who were willing to make meaningful personal sacrifices for the good of us all. I also want to thank the Board of Education, administrative staff, and all others who contributed to the considerable time and attention that went into the very thorough budget process we undertook. This includes everyone who contributed to the hundreds of budget suggestions we received via the e-mail address we provided. I'm certain that without all of these contributions the final solution would not have been nearly as positive.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed in any way, shape, or form over the course of this year to student learning and to the successful operation of our District. As Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." I appreciate all of those who came together, kept together, and worked together in the best interests of our students, and I'm grateful for all that each of you do to help make us who we are.

Finally, I want to thank you for welcoming me to the Waterford School District and helping me to so quickly feel at home here in my first year on the job. I was confident coming in that my decision to apply to be superintendent in Waterford Schools was a good one, but now I am absolutely certain that it was. I'm grateful to the Board of Education for giving me this opportunity, feel very fortunate to be here, and I'm looking forward to working with all members of the Waterford Schools community in the months and years ahead to ensure high levels of learning for each and every one of our students.

Here's hoping that everyone has a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Silveri". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Silveri  
Superintendent of Schools

## District Receives \$5,000 Lowes Grant for Community Garden

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 Toolbox for Education grant to the Waterford School District for the Waterford Community Garden/Outdoor Classroom located at the Waterford Alternative High School, Crary Campus. The Waterford School District is one of more than 480 schools or parent organizations to be awarded a Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant for school improvement projects benefiting K-12 public education across the United States during the 2010-2011 school year.

The Waterford Community Garden/Outdoor Classroom will allow Waterford Alternative High School students to work with a landscape architect, master gardener, community members, and local growers to plant, maintain, and harvest a garden that will become a centerpiece of the Waterford community. The garden will not only include vegetable beds, which will be donated to Open Door Outreach and Forgotten Harvest, but will eventually include Michigan native plants, herbs, and flowering perennials. The Waterford Community Garden/Outdoor Classroom will enable teachers to tie together and extend what students are learning in the classroom. Students will also receive lessons that deepen their understanding of nature and natural systems

Lowe's supports the communities it serves through programs that focus on K-12 public education and community improvement projects. The company's signature education grant program, Lowe's Toolbox for Education, has brought more than \$5 million in grants to K-12 public schools every year since its inception in 2005.

In addition, in-kind contributions have been made by many community businesses and supporters including Murphy & Associates, Landscape Design; Dawn Trainor, Master Gardener; Marc Dutton Irrigation, Inc; BestSource Credit Union; Metro North Credit Union; Creative Designs & Signs; L & S Landscaping; and Glen-Gary Brick Centers.



## Top 2011 Kettering and Mott Graduates!

Amanda Schoonover/Mott/4.17  
University of Michigan/Medical

Jennifer Piatkowski/Mott/4.15  
Michigan State University/Marketing/  
Advertising

Brittany Zwierzchowski/Kettering/4.12  
Michigan State University/Political Science

Zachary Morgan/Kettering/4.11  
Washington University/Radiology

Alexander Grix/Kettering/4.11  
Oakland University/Business

Devon Ancell/Mott/4.09  
Oakland University/Medical

Amanda Nickolai/Mott/4.08  
Michigan State University/English

Matthew Arvin/Mott/4.08  
Michigan State University/Journalism

Jillian Comps/Mott/4.07  
Grand Valley University/Engineering

Kristen Thompson/Mott/4.06  
Wayne State University/Biology/Chemistry

Lauren Fry/Mott/4.05  
University of Michigan/Engineering

Anna Brady/Mott/4.05  
Oakland University/Psychology

Man Kuan Lei/Mott/4.05  
University of Michigan/Medical

Emily Anderson/Kettering/4.05  
Ferris State University/Pharmaceutical

Shelly Brown/Mott/4.03  
Oakland Community College/Accounting

Kirk Schaeffer/Mott/4.02  
Oakland University/Marketing/Advertising

Taylor Horton/Kettering/4.02  
Michigan State University/Nursing

Jamie Monville/Kettering/3.99  
University of Michigan/English

Kelsey Duggan/Kettering/3.99  
University of Michigan/Medical

Hannah Brokaw/Kettering/3.99  
Eastern Michigan University/Education

Alayna Checkley/Mott/3.99  
Wayne State University/Chemistry

William Nimitz/Kettering/3.98  
Michigan State University/Physics

Erica Dutkiewicz/Mott/3.98  
University of Michigan Flint/Undecided

Kaitlyn Golfis/Mott/3.97  
Grand Valley University/Pharmaceutical

Taylor Gilliland/Kettering/3.97  
Michigan State University/Medical

Jessica Arnold/Mott/3.97  
Michigan State University/International  
Relations

Kevin Weishuhn/Kettering/3.96  
University of Michigan/Engineering

Brandon Dionne/Kettering/3.95  
Central Michigan University/Medical

Chandler Reiche/Mott/3.94  
Michigan State University  
Undecided

Megan Stamper/Mott/3.94  
Central Michigan University/Education

Alexa George/Mott/3.94  
Michigan State University/Medical

Brandon Toncray/Mott/3.94  
Oakland University/Engineering

Arianna Sassani/Mott/3.94  
*Information unavailable at time of printing*

Sarah Rubin/Kettering/3.94  
Spring Arbor University/Accounting/Finance

Anthony Kowalski/Mott/3.92  
University of Michigan/Environmental  
Science

Neha Bhatia/Kettering/3.92  
University of Michigan/Chemistry/Spanish



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## POSTAL CUSTOMER



## 2011-2012 Calendar

**September 6, 2011**

Students Report

**September 21, 2011**

Professional Development Day  
(half day for students)\*

**November 8, 2011**

Professional Development Day  
(no students)

**November 23, 24, & 25, 2011**

Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 7, 2011**

Professional Development Day  
(half day for students)\*

**December 19, 2011 - January 2, 2012**

Winter Holiday

**January 16, 2012**

Professional Development Day  
(half day for students)\*

**January 17, 2012**

Martin Luther King (no students)

**January 27, 2012**

End of Semester (half-day students)

**February 1, 2012**

Professional Development Day  
(half day for students)\*

**February 23 & 24, 2012**

Mid-winter Break

**March 7, 2012**

Professional Development Day  
(half day for students)\*

**April 2 - 9, 2012**

Spring Break

**May 2, 2012**

Professional Development Day  
(half day for students)\*

**May 25 & 28, 2012**

Memorial Holiday (no students)

**June 15, 2012**

Last Day for Students (half day)

\*Subject to change

*Waterford School District...*  
**what students deserve**

[www.waterford.k12.mi.us](http://www.waterford.k12.mi.us)

## Waterford School District 10-11 Accolades & Awards

**Beaumont Elementary School** was the first Michigan school to become a **Covey Lighthouse School**. In order to achieve this prestigious honor, Beaumont Elementary School has not only participated in the process of implementing The Leader in Me, but has achieved extraordinary results and is a model of excellence for other schools.

Sue Body, Secretary at Riverside Elementary School, received the **2011 Waterford School District Betty Champion Award**. The Betty Champion Distinguished Support Service Award recognizes the many contributions support personnel make to the learning community.

Nadine M. Milostan, Executive Director of the Waterford School District Student Support Services Department, was awarded the **2010 Gregory Gwisdalla Special Education Administrator of the Year Award** for Oakland County by Special Education Administrators of Oakland County (SEAOC).

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) announced that the Waterford Police Department and Waterford School District are the recipients of a \$176,693 grant via the **COPS Secure Our Schools Program**. This award will provide funds to improve security throughout the Waterford School District.

The Arc of Oakland County awarded Les Hunt, Instructional Tech from Kingsley Montgomery School, the **2011 Distinguished Service Award** and Christine Wall, Special Education Classroom Assistant

at Donelson Hills Elementary, the **2011 Support Professional Award**. The Arc of Oakland County recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions and improvements to the quality of life for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Office Manager Sue Bartle was named the **Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals 2011 Secretary of the Year**, which recognizes exemplary administrative professionals who have worked in school buildings serving grades 6-12 for at least five years and have demonstrated the highest level of commitment and professionalism.

The United States Department of Justice has awarded the Waterford School District the **"Mentoring for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative"** grant for \$299,255 to implement a community-based mentoring program for Waterford youth.

The Waterford School District received the following **HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) Awards** for the following schools: Sandburg (Gold), Donelson Hills (Silver) and Burt, Haviland, Riverside, Stepanski and Waterford Village. The District also met the **Michigan Department of Education Breakfast Challenge**, was listed on the Michigan Department of Education Honor Roll, and awarded a United States Department of Agriculture Food & Nutrition Certificate of Appreciation,