

# 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

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Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent of Schools



**Dr. Maureen Brummett**

Plainville Community Schools prides itself on ensuring our vision for our schools and our students is put into action. During our last strategic planning process that was conducted in 2016, we set the following goal: *Plainville Community Schools maintain and broaden mutually beneficial relationships, (specifically with residents, businesses, non-profits & other organizations) to expand opportunities for the district, schools and students.* As you will read in this edition, we have made tremendous strides in establishing and expanding our collaboration with many local businesses including Dunkin' Donuts, Fluid Control Solutions and DATTCO, to name a few. Through these partnerships our students have been afforded numerous opportunities such as job shadows, training, employment, and at Linden Street School, a new greenhouse. Our Director of Community Relations, Lynn Davis, together with our Career Center Coordinator, Sue Bradley, have worked tirelessly to seek out and establish linkages to businesses in our community. Recently, Ms. Davis and I visited local manufacturer Trumpf, a company that has presented at numerous career day events and hosted several student visits and job shadows. During our visit we toured this impressive organization and learned about the importance of the computer programming, engineering and robotics skills our students are learning. We also discovered that entry level positions are available to students immediately following high school as long as they have computer programming skills and a willingness to learn. I hope you enjoy learning more about this exciting endeavor and the many benefits to our students and schools. We also value your feedback. This fall we will be surveying all of our stakeholders regarding our progress on our strategic plan. More information about this *ThoughtExchange* survey process will be forthcoming. If your company is interested in learning more about partnership opportunities, please contact Lynn Davis at (860) 793-3220 x6111.

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PHS students have the unique opportunity to explore a variety of careers and vocational opportunities through the school's job shadow program now in its sixth year. The "Shadowing for Success" program, organized by Career Center Coordinator, Sue Bradley, provides vocational exploration in a variety of local workplace settings. According to Bradley, the primary focus of the job shadow program is to partner with local businesses and organizations that are able to host a high school student(s) for the purpose of learning about and experiencing potential career fields. Shadowing for Success community partners are asked to host students for a one day job shadow experience during the school year that typically averages 2-4 hours. Shadows are scheduled at the convenience of the host organization, and may occur during the day, evenings or on weekends.



Plainville High School student Alaina Hussey enjoys a job shadow experience in Allison Pascucci's first grade class at Louis Toffolon Elementary School working with students Noah Olson and Connor Colitti.

Prior to each job shadow placement, students learn and practice "soft skills" such as proper dress, workplace etiquette, communication, team work, and more.

**For information about becoming a job shadow partner, please contact Sue Bradley at (860) 793-3210 x6110 or email [bradleys@plainvilleschools.org](mailto:bradleys@plainvilleschools.org)**

**Plainville High School Class of 2018**

- 160 students**
- 78% pursuing higher education
- 13% entering the workforce
- 4% vocational / trade school
- 2.5% undecided
- 1% entering the military
- .5% participating in a Gap Year program
- .5% special programs
- .5% retained

- 124 students pursuing higher education:**
- 60.5% four year college
- 39.5% two year college
- 77% in-state schools
- 23% out of state schools
- 72% accepted to 1st choice college or trade school

- 1,004 college credits**
- earned through UCONN Early College Experience

- 5,330 community service**
- hours completed

As part of the school district's strategic plan update in 2016, an expanded focus on maintaining and broadening mutually beneficial partnerships with stakeholders was identified as a district goal. As a result, over the 2017-18 school year, the School/Business/Community (S/B/C) partnership model was developed to build capacity with current district partnerships and provide a framework and roadmap for additional partnership opportunities. Through the S/B/C model planning process, individual school and district level "needs" were identified, and an initial set of short term and long term goals and projects to meet those needs was established. Through the needs assessment process, four primary partner resource (need) areas were established:

1) funding 2) supplies 3) manpower/volunteers and 4) vocational/employment opportunities and support for students.

During the 2017-18 school year, several projects and initiatives came to fruition through the support of district partners and their shared resources. In the area of "vocational" support, Career Center Coordinator, Sue Bradley together with Director of Community Relations, Lynn Davis expanded all levels of vocational and employment opportunities for Plainville High School students. Examples of new vocational partners include Great American Donut, Inc., (Dunkin' Donuts franchise group with 54 stores) lead by Vice President of Operations, Marc Koss, the Chic Filet restaurant in Southing-

ton, DATTCO in New Britain, and more. This year as part of the S/B/C partnership expansion, Plainville Community Schools will add an additional partnership opportunity with the launch of an education foundation to establish a funding source for innovative projects and initiatives within the school district. The S/B/C partnership model strives to offer a "menu of options" for local residents, businesses and organizations to connect with Plainville schools.

**For more information about becoming a Plainville Community Schools partner, contact either:**

**Lynn Davis, (860) 793-3220 x6111**  
[davisl@plainvilleschools.org](mailto:davisl@plainvilleschools.org)

*or*

**Sue Bradley, (860) 793-3220 x6110**  
[bradleys@plainvilleschools.org](mailto:bradleys@plainvilleschools.org)



*PHS students visit DATTCO to learn about career paths and vocational opportunities*

## Plainville Transition Program



*Students Michael Celentano and Pawel Przglowski in the PHS Transition Program working at the Plainville Housing Authority.*

The Plainville Transition Program is a transition community-based program registered with the State Department of Education. The goal of the program is to deliver vocational/transition services and experiences to special education students aged 18-21. The program is individually designed based on the specific needs of each student, and includes studies that focus on areas of career interest, employment preparation, and volunteer and job placements. The program provides school and community based volunteer and work experience placements relative to vocational training. Students are supported by a job coach who accompanies them to vocational volunteer sites, and works with the students on employability skills. As part of the district's expanded focus on School/Business/Community partnerships, students have participated in several external vocational placements thanks to tremendous support from the Plainville community. This past school year, students in the program enjoyed a variety of volunteer work experiences, including those at the Plainville Senior Center, the Plainville Housing Authority, Gnazzo's Food Center, the Municipal Center, Plainville Public Library, Walgreens, and Sax Restaurant.

**If you are interested in providing a work experience opportunity for students in the Transition Program, please contact: Supervisor of Special Services, Leanne Gmeindl (860) 793-3214 or email [gmeindll@plainvilleschools.org](mailto:gmeindll@plainvilleschools.org)**

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# THE EVOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIPS

While in theory, the establishment of a partnership happens with a specific plan, project, or goal in mind, others come together a little more unexpectedly. One example is the new partnership with Gary Fett, owner of Fluid Control Solutions LLC, a world class contract manufacturing company based in Farmington and Plainville. While initially visiting Fett and Fluid Control Solutions to investigate potential vocational opportunities for high school students, conversation ensued about Plainville Community Schools and the goals, needs and “wish lists” at each school. One in particular, the eco-friendly focus at Linden Street School and the goal of building a greenhouse and garden area in the school’s courtyard, caught the attention of Fett. After a second meeting that included Linden’s Principal Paula Eshoo, Fett and several colleagues volunteered to design and build an eco-friendly greenhouse for the school’s courtyard, which will be officially unveiled this fall. Fett also served as a guest reader during Linden’s iHeart Reading event this past spring. “Building relationships with our local business community, nonprofit organizations and residents is critical. This is a prime example of reaching out to a prospective new partner to discuss one potential partnership track, but in the process, sharing information about the district as a whole and learning about what Gary’s company and employees are interested in and passionate about,” explained Davis. “It’s about making the connections, building the relationships and collaborating in new, exciting, mutually beneficial and creative ways.”

These partnerships truly allow members of the external community to become involved in the school district community, and as a result, often broaden their involvement as the partnership grows. Great American Donut, LLC lead by Vice President of Operations, Marc Koss exemplifies the growth of a partnership over time. Initially contacted to support the expansion of vocational opportunities for students locally, Koss jumped on board and has continued to employ PHS

students at various local Dunkin’ Donuts locations. That successful collaboration led to him serving as a Career Day speaker at the high school, where he and Great American Donut sponsored breakfast for the event, as well as several others throughout the year. Koss even donated several hundred pounds of coffee to support a Wheeler Elementary School initiative for a Wheeler parent and his battalion deployed overseas!



*Vice President of Operations, Great American Donut LLC Marc Koss, presented to PHS students during the 2017 Career Day event. (above)*

*Fluid Control Solutions LLC owner, Gary Fett served as a guest reader in Christine Mazzarella’s first grade class at Linden Street School. (below)*



Pilot

A pilot program will launch this fall--Adult High School Credit Diploma Program students will be matched with “Professional eMentors” from the local community, based on common career-based fields of interest. Professional eMentors are invited to communicate via email correspondence, on a bi-weekly basis with motivational pieces, business articles of interest, or with career field-news updates. A supportive eMentoring system, providing professional relationships based on mutual respect, will strengthen college and career readiness soft skills via a digital platform.

Are you interested in learning more? Please contact Sue Bradley: [bradleys@plainvilleschools.org](mailto:bradleys@plainvilleschools.org)