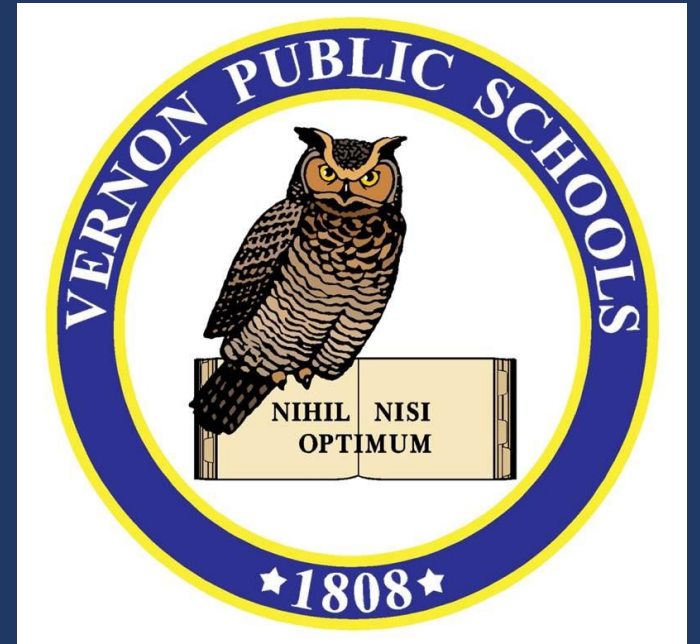


**Special Awards Ceremony (Virtual)**  
**May 17, 2021**



**VERNON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

# MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS

**The Mission of the Vernon Public Schools, in partnership with family and community, is committed to provide a quality education, with high expectations, in a safe environment where all students become independent learners and productive contributors to society.**

- 1. Build and improve relationships and partnerships with family and community.**
- 2. Increase the achievement of every student through high quality curriculum, instruction and assessment.**
- 3. Promote safe environments that are socially, emotionally, and physically conducive to learning.**

# AGENDA

1. **Welcome by Dr. Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools**
2. **Superintendent Awards**
3. **Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards**
4. **Connecticut Association of Schools/Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete Awards**
5. **NCCC All Conference and All State Athlete – Cross Country**
6. **NCCC All Conference Athletes**
7. **Fine Arts Student Recognitions**
8. **World Language Recognitions**
9. **Creative Writing Student Awards**
10. **Recognition of Rockville Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Seniors**
11. **Profiles in Professionalism**

# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS

Rockville High School - Meghan McAuliffe possesses great natural curiosity to learn and pursue her passion for teaching. From the outset of her high school career, Meghan has enrolled in the most demanding schedule possible. Along the way, Meghan would face an occasional challenge that would push her limits, but Meghan did not back down. Thanks to her rock-steady performance in the classroom, Meghan has earned a place in the top 10% of a very competitive senior class and has been selected to receive a number of awards. In addition, Meghan has enrolled in all of our Child Development classes, culminating with an education practicum and internship experience where she is creating and implementing lessons in our school's program for students with intellectual differences.

Meghan has also successfully balanced her academic demands with leadership in extracurricular involvement. Around our school, Meghan can be seen almost everywhere: engaging new students as a Link Crew Leader, cheering on our athletes, as a voice during the morning announcements, and as a Unified Sports Team Mentor. As a mentor for our Unified Sports program, Meghan's role has evolved over the years. As a sophomore, she created and maintained a team Instagram account, which has more than 100 followers. Most recently Meghan was featured in a CIAC COVID PSA last spring. Meghan's leadership and compassion were also on display when as a sophomore she co-lead the RHS nursery school graduation ceremony. On the cheerleading front, Meghan helped to lead a middle school clinic and tryouts.

# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS



Rockville High School - Alexander Dionne is a respectful, dedicated, intelligent, and compassionate young man. He is invested in learning, communicates his insights articulately, and maturely listens to the thoughts and opinions of others. Alex has always known he wanted to become a nurse and has excelled in our Allied Health program; engaging in job shadows and earning college credit. Alex has been on the high honor roll every quarter and a member of the National Honor Society. Alex is a caring young man with a strong compassion for his peers. Alex is a member of the Rockville High School Peer Advocates using his talent and outstanding communication skills with his peer group organizing events that celebrate drug free fun for students. He is a positive role model for younger students and someone that students feel comfortable approaching with his calm open personality. Alex is a diehard sports fanatic. His passion is baseball; participating both in and out of school, throughout his childhood, but his most meaningful activity is Unified Sports. Alex lights up when he talks about his experiences. He is humbled to work with students who desperately want to engage with non-disabled peers in fun activities. Alex is patient and caring and it is heartwarming to watch his interaction with the students.

# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS



**Vernon Center Middle School - Paul John Westerberg II** has achieved academic excellence throughout his years at Vernon Center Middle School. He consistently produces exceptional work in all classes. He has earned high honor roll on all VCMS report cards which shows his ongoing dedication to his schoolwork. In the classroom, his teachers describe him as motivated, eager, dedicated and enthusiastic. He brings a high level of energy and excitement to the classroom environment that helps set a positive tone for all students.

Paul participates in a variety of school activities. He is a member of both the Drama and French Clubs, and has been in Band and Chorus throughout his middle school career. He was one of the top scorers for the Math Team this school year. He also opted to help create and starred in the 5th Grade Orientation video. Outside of school he is an active member of Boy Scouts and of his church Youth Group, where he participates in community service events.

# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS

Vernon Center Middle School - Piper Jones is an exceptional person and student and takes pride in everything she does. She is a quiet leader, both academically and socially, who sets the tone of the classroom at a higher level. Simply put, she is a role model for her peers. She is always ready - with materials, with work, with her time, and mentally. Her approach to learning is confident and positive, but she is also humble and open to new ideas. One of her many strengths is that she communicates well with teachers and will reach out to them with any questions or feedback concerning her work.

Piper is a top student in French class and a member of the French Club. In addition, she is an athlete who has played Soccer and run Cross Country. She has also been in Band throughout her middle school career. Even throughout the virtual learning months, she has submitted her video band lessons on time and with a smile. She always has some fun tidbits to share in her videos. She is so diligent in practicing her instrument that she is playing at a high school level.

Piper is extremely kind and is always ready to help others. She encourages her peers in a gentle way. If someone in class isn't participating she will ask them what page they are on and move to where they are so they can participate. Her sunny nature brightens everyone around her. Staff members have said the following about Piper: "I wish we could clone her!", "She has an exceptional soul!", and "If every student was like Piper, middle school would be heaven."



# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS



Center Road School - Jacob Rothammer consistently reflects the values encompassed in this honor. Every day, Jacob strives to be the best version of himself, reflecting Center Road School's core values of being caring, responsible, and safe. Jacob is a kind, empathetic, and hard working member of our Center Road School community who puts forth his best effort in all areas of his school day. Jacob can be seen working diligently as a learner, actively taking on any challenge that comes his way. With each new He holds himself to the highest of standards, both in and out of school, quietly reflecting leadership within his school community. His smile, infectious laugh, kind heart, and helping spirit is recognized and appreciated by all those around him, motivating his peers to rise to a similar standard while softening the challenges experienced during this unique time in history.

Jacob enjoys spending time with his family and friends and can often be found riding dirt bikes, building RC cars, enjoying being outdoors, and supporting his community. His charismatic yet driven attitude towards life is contagious no matter the activity. Jacob encompasses the values embodied in this award, proudly representing Center Road School and Vernon Public Schools!



# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS



Center Road School - Emily Lagassie is a hardworking student and outstanding member of the Center Road School community. She consistently models our school expectations of being caring, responsible, and safe. Emily approaches learning with a growth mindset and a positive attitude. She actively participates across subjects, and asks questions to advance her understanding. She responds well to new challenges and opportunities, always keeping an open mind. She also works collaboratively with others, showing kindness and respect to everyone. It's typical for Emily to be the first one to offer others help and support without anyone even having to ask. Early this year, Emily's classmates had elected her as a member of Student Council, allowing her to demonstrate her leadership qualities and care for her school community. She also participated in the CRS Running Club, and has played soccer outside of school for several years. Overall, Emily is an exceptional student, leader, and friend.

# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS



Lake Street School - Allison Lang is an exemplary model of a high achieving, well rounded, compassionate student. Academically, she is conscientious and hardworking, consistently serving as a role model for her peers. Putting forth her best effort, Allison perseveres across all subject areas to ensure her work is always of high quality. Allison was elected to and embraced the leadership role of student council representative. She makes an ongoing practice of seeking opportunities to learn and grow creatively across all of the arts. Recently, Allison expressed her love for poetry by writing and submitting a poem titled, Elementary School Classroom. to the Connecticut Student Writers Project, where she secured her position as a published author and reading presenter. Allison has been a member of the Lake Street School Chorus and is a source of inspiration to others as she excels at creating art using a variety of skills and techniques. Additionally, Allison's quest for learning does not stop in the classroom. She has revealed her generous spirit and kind heart in the community, knitting baby hats for local hospitals. As if that was not enough, she has been instrumental in raising awareness and money for the Tourette Association of America. Allison's compassion has also been experienced first hand by her classmates. Her positive attitude is contagious and she naturally connects and emotionally supports her peers.

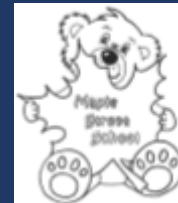
# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS



Lake Street School - Weston Sutherland is everyone's best friend. He is naturally kind, compassionate, mature, and has that "cool factor" his peers gravitate to. Across all subject areas, Wes demonstrates a strong work ethic. He perseveres, makes sure his work is consistently of high quality, and effectively collaborates with others as both the teacher and the learner. Wes is a model for self advocacy. He is never afraid to ask for help for himself or others when guidance is needed. Demonstrating strong character, Wes takes the initiative to always do the right thing, both with regards to academic responsibilities and social situations. Wes excels in co-curricular activities. His creativity and willingness to share ideas has earned him a spot as a go-to student in art. He brings his hard working attitude and attention to detail to his study of the trombone in music and he is a strong contributor and role model of teamwork in physical education. His influence also reaches outside of the classroom. Wes is constantly in motion, always engaged in sports, camps, and family activities. In every role, whether student, friend, brother, or son - he is kind, compassionate, and strives to do his very best.

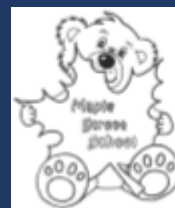
# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS

Maple Street School - Jillian Rataic is a Maple Street School student who embodies all of our core qualities. She is kind, follows directions the first time given, holds herself and others to high expectations and has a growth mindset. She is always respectful, responsible and demonstrates a caring heart. Her classmates look to her as a role model and as someone on which they can rely. Jillian strives to always do her best academically and is constantly challenging herself. She plays the trombone in our school band. Outside of school, Jillian is an avid dancer, hip-hop is her favorite genre. Jillian is without a doubt a worthy recipient of this honor.



# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS

Maple Street School - Lily Kansas is a hardworking, conscientious student who strives for excellence in everything she does. Lily begins each day with a smile ready to face any challenge put forth. Her kind and gentle nature has earned her the trust and respect of peers, teachers, and members of the school community. Lily is actively involved in the Maple Street community by participating in the school band playing a variety of percussion instruments. She is a member of the Gifted and Talented program challenging her beyond grade level expectations. Lily is an avid cat lover, exceptional artist, and lover of reading. Lily always has a book or two within reach at any time. Lily Kansas embodies all core values of Maple Street School making her an exceptional candidate for this award.



# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS

**Northeast School - Caleb Asideau** is an exceptional candidate for the Superintendent Award of Excellence. At 8:15 every morning, you can always find Caleb enthusiastically running to school. He loves to learn! He is a top notch student who gives 100 percent.

Caleb moved from Ghana, Africa in 2018. He quickly fit in at Northeast School and due to his great sense of humor, he is well liked by all. Everyone enjoys listening to all of the stories about his adventures in Africa. He has an amazing wealth of knowledge that he shares with peers, especially when talking about history and geography. Caleb's favorite subject is math. From the time he lived in Ghana, he has always looked for a challenging math problem to solve. He also loves to read. This year in 5th grade he surpassed the "40 Book Challenge" early on, and has already completed 80 books.

Caleb is a devoted athlete and spends most of his time shooting hoops, kicking a soccer ball or catching a football. He plays competitive soccer in Vernon and plays the position of a striker. If he's not on a playing field, Caleb loves spending time with his family, whether it be dining at Angelino's on a special occasion or watching (and sometimes pranking) his little, twin brothers.

Enough positive things cannot be said about Caleb. He is an unforgettable student. With his fantastic attitude and drive, we are sure he will make his dreams a reality!





# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS



Northeast School - Taylor Beaulieu is most deserving of the Superintendent's Award of Excellence. She is a friendly, outgoing girl who is a born leader. She knows when to take charge but also knows when to step back and encourage other kids to take the lead. She has the ability to bring out the best in everyone and is always there to cheer them on. Taylor puts a tremendous amount of effort into everything she does. When she's given a suggestion of how to improve, she runs with it. It's impressive to see how incredibly hard she works to achieve her goals. She puts her heart into everything she does.

If this were an ordinary school year, I have no doubt that Taylor would be involved in numerous activities. In fourth grade she was on the NES cheerleading squad. This year she plays the clarinet in the school band. Outside of school, Taylor has been involved in gymnastics for the past 3.5 years. Floor is her specialty. We have been treated to a few of her performances at recess. What talent!

At home, Taylor enjoys spending time with her mom, dad, sister Trinity, brother Thomas and of course her pets which include a dog, kitten, snake, and bearded dragon. Taylor is such a phenomenal caretaker and is very protective of our class pet. Her love for animals is making her lean towards a career as a veterinarian in a zoo.

I cannot say enough positive things about Taylor. She is a gracious young lady who prides herself in being a decent person. She is respected by students as well as adults. We, at Northeast School are extremely fortunate to have her as a member of our school.



# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS



Skinner Road School - Nylah Jones works hard to produce exceptional work in all academic areas. She continuously sets a remarkable example of leadership as a student, both independently and in groups. Nylah takes pride in her learning and always demonstrates her best work, no matter how big or small the task. She pushes herself to practice challenging skills and goes above and beyond in academic activities. Nylah has been involved in quite a few school activities. In addition to her regular classes, she participates in the enrichment program Endeavor. She is also a member of Student Senate where she helps plan, organize, and run the school store. In her elementary years, Nylah has enjoyed participating in the school chorus. Nylah is always responsible, respectful, and empathic toward staff and students. She is a great example of someone who positively contributes to the school community on a daily basis.

In Nylah's free time she enjoys swimming, playing video games such as Roblox and Minecraft, and going to the park with friends. She also enjoys attending her Taekwondo classes in Hartford, CT. Nylah is very interested in watching Anime and reading Manga, both being art forms that originated in Japan. She is excited to become a camper this Summer where she will learn to start fires.

Nylah works hard to achieve excellence; she is an outstanding student, friend, citizen, and role model at Skinner Road School. I highly recommend Nylah Jones for the Skinner Road School Superintendent's Award for 2020 - 2021!

# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS



Skinner Road School - Sara Huo goes above and beyond to produce exceptional work in all academic areas. Sara is known as a caring and thoughtful friend to all; always willing to be a helper. She continuously sets a remarkable example of leadership as a student. She takes academic risks, is humble, and takes pride in her learning and always puts forth maximum effort in what she does independently and in collaborative groups. Sara has been involved in many school activities and has been the recipient of many monthly STAR recognition awards. She participates in SRS band and participated in the enrichment group Endeavor. Sara has taken the time to share her Chinese culture with her school community whenever she has had the opportunity. She is respected by peers and teachers and sets an exceptional example demonstrating respect, responsibility, and maturity.

In Sara's free time she enjoys practicing violin, going to the pond to observe animals, having fun with friends, swimming, spending time with family, and pine needle sliding which is a fun activity she invented. Sara recently went viral with one of her artistic inventions. Sara continues to work on reading and writing in Chinese as well as learning more about her Chinese culture.

Sara works hard to achieve excellence; she is an outstanding student, friend, citizen, and role model at Skinner Road School. I highly recommend Sara for the Skinner Road School Superintendent's Award for 2020-2021.

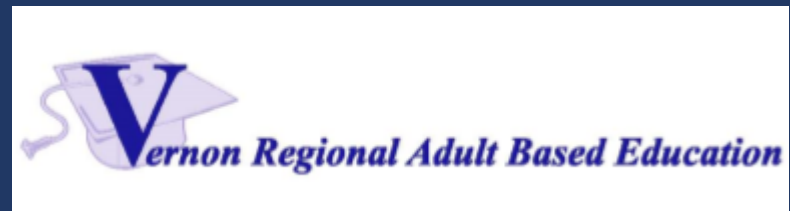
# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS

VRABE - Lindsey Azzara has been an outstanding student since we have known her at Vernon Regional Adult Based Education. Not only is she a dedicated learner, but she is a busy mother as well. Despite her myriad responsibilities, Lindsey always found the time to be in class and be fully engaged in her learning. The work that Lindsey produced was of the highest caliber, leading to her status as a straight A student in our program. She completed as of March 2021, and we are certain she will be successful in all of her future endeavors. We here at VRABE appreciate that Lindsey will be participating in our June graduation so we can celebrate her accomplishment together.



# SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS

**VRABE - Mariesha Gonzalez** has been an important part of the Vernon Regional Adult Based Education family since she began taking classes with us in the Fall of 2019. Her positive attitude and commitment to learning contributed to her success as a student. Mariesha was always willing to try, and was able to ask for help when needed. Her self-awareness, coupled with her kindness and acceptance of others, made her a positive role model in our community. Despite the pandemic, Mariesha was able to celebrate her accomplishment of completing her graduation requirements over Google Meet with her mother by her side, sharing in her joy along with VRABE staff. Mariesha will be a valued participant in the June graduation celebration.



# CABE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

**This award is presented each year by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education to one male and one female senior from each of the CABE member school districts. It is given based on leadership skills including the willingness to take on challenges, the capability to make difficult decisions, concern for others, the ability to work with others, willingness to commit to a project, diplomacy, the ability to understand issues clearly, and the ability to honor a commitment.**



# CABE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Rockville High School - Allison Blume is a most deserving recipient of the CABE Student Leadership Award. She is an intelligent, hardworking, and creative young woman. This has helped her to succeed in all facets of her education at Rockville High School. However, it is her personality and leadership qualities that set her apart from her peers. Allison is a down to earth, well rounded young woman with a positive attitude and a fabulous ability to get along with and work with all types of people. In the Rockville High School class of 2021, Allison is the most involved and most visible of the senior class. It's no wonder she was the first to come to mind when a student representative was needed to represent her classmates at school board meetings, to speak on behalf of the creative writing program at our open house events, and to represent her fellow student athletes as a student leader for the CIAC (athletics) Council. She has won countless awards for her creative writing endeavors, and is probably best known as the upbeat and cheerful voice of our daily morning announcements. She delivers that daily joke of the day with the timing of a professional comedian! Allison Blume seems to be everywhere and is always willing to throw her hat in the ring when a student is needed to represent the Rockville High School student body. Allison Blume sets an example for her classmates and a true gem at Rockville High School. She has only scratched the surface of what she is capable of.

# CABE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Rockville High School - Charles Bannon is a hardworking 12th grade student. He currently ranks 11 out of 185 students, and has a GPA of 99.67. Charles has earned numerous awards and academic acknowledgements due to his commitment and dedication to his academics. Charles is very personable and is admired amongst staff and peers. Some of his hobbies include spending time with family and friends, doing yard work, and playing video games. Charles is an avid sports fan and is a valued member of several of the Rockville High School sports teams. His leadership ability has afforded him the opportunity to serve on the Athletic Council. He was instrumental in organizing and leading the College Athlete Workshop held this past January. He is also an asset to his community having volunteered his time at numerous community service events.

Charles exhibits an enormous amount of grit and perseverance in anything he puts his mind to. Even in the midst of adversity, Charles rises to the occasion. Charles is a determined young man who aspires to enlist in the United State Air Force. Charles truly is the ideal student, he's bright, has impeccable perseverance and focus, and serves as a positive role model for others.



# CABE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Vernon Center Middle School - Scott Quick is an outstanding student who is motivated and curious. He is always asking questions, sharing his thoughts and pushing himself to take on new challenges. When there is a class discussion you can count on him to share thoughtful insights that demonstrate creative and critical thinking. His passion for the French language goes beyond the norm. He is an enthusiastic linguist who digs into the structure and study of the language. His concern for others is apparent in his collaborative group work. Frequently you will see him sharing his screen and leading the discussion. Scott has met the challenges of being a student during a pandemic, he consistently remains engaged at home as a virtual student three days per week and as an in-person student two days per week. Additionally, he is considerate of others thoughts and feelings.

Scott is very active and participates on the school's cross country team. As a Boy Scout, he is active in the community and has developed a variety of different life and leadership skills. He enjoys riding his bike and working out. He has great love for eating and cooking using earth-friendly foods. He has a fascination with alternate history and the strategies that lead to different scenarios.

In the future, Scott looks forward to becoming an astronaut. His vision is to see permanent colonies established on Mars. With his motivation and determination there is no doubt that he will play an active role in making this possibility a reality It has truly been a pleasure to get to know Scott.

# CABE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

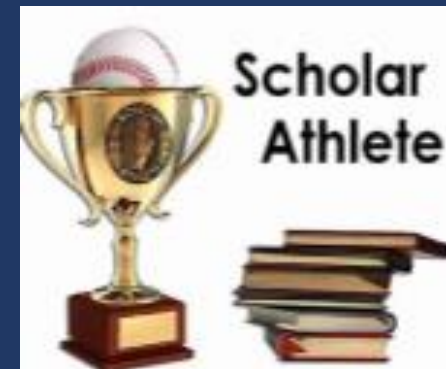
Vernon Center Middle School - Abby Ramirez is the 8th grade representative at Vernon Center Middle School. Abby came to VCMS in September of the school year. Transitioning not only to a new district but a new state in the middle of a pandemic after the school year has started is not an easy undertaking for a middle school student. Abby entered our classrooms and within a few days showed herself to be one of our team's most promising students. She is bright, kind, accepting and a pleasure to have in class. Abby has navigated a year of hybrid and virtual learning with focus and grace. She is always kind and encouraging to other students and can be counted on to offer constructive and insightful contributions to classroom discussions. She has had to work through and overcome hardships that no child of her age should have to, yet she consistently continues to excel across all subject areas. Our team could not be more assured in our nomination of Abby for this award for she embodies all of the qualities and attributes that are associated with this honor.

# CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS/ CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS

This award recognizes one male and one female scholar-athlete from each high school in Connecticut. The Scholar-Athlete must possess a cumulative grade point average of no less than 3.5 and each Scholar-Athlete must have participated in a CIAC-sponsored varsity sport in Connecticut for a minimum of two years. Each Scholar-Athlete must also have exhibited outstanding school and community service as well as possess high levels of integrity, self-discipline, and courage with personal standards which serve as a model to others.

Rockville High School Grade 12 - Charles Bannon

Rockville High School Grade 12 - Caitlyn Simler



# NCCC All Conference and All State Athlete – Cross Country

The NCCC All Conference Athlete Award is presented to the top performers, selected by the coaches of that sport, across the 14 schools that make up the North Central Connecticut Conference.

Rockville High School - **John Paul Glidden, Grade 9**



# NCCC All Conference Athletes

The All State Athlete Award is presented to the top performers of each sport from all high schools across the state of Connecticut.



# NCCC All Conference Athletes

**Weston LeBrecque – Boys Basketball**

**Chad Moreau – Boys Basketball**

**Simon Percy – Boys Basketball**

**Isabel Cintron – Cross Country**

**Weston LaBrecque – Cross Country**

**Abigail Bajorek – Girls Soccer**

**Rebecca Opdenbrouw – Girls Soccer**

**Morgan Bogli – Volleyball**

**Zachary Clapp – Boys Soccer**

# FINE ARTS STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

## Rockville High School:

Lia Means – Performing Arts

Kelly Smith – Visual Arts

**FINE ARTS AWARDS**



# FINE ARTS STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

## Center Road School:

**Aria Bochiechio** – Visual Arts

**Charles Guida** – Performing Arts

## Lake Street School:

**Jillian Arey** – Visual Arts

**Jeremy Himmelberger** – Performing Arts

## Maple Street School:

**Rayna Croke** – Visual Arts

**Jillian Rataic** – Performing Arts

## Northeast School:

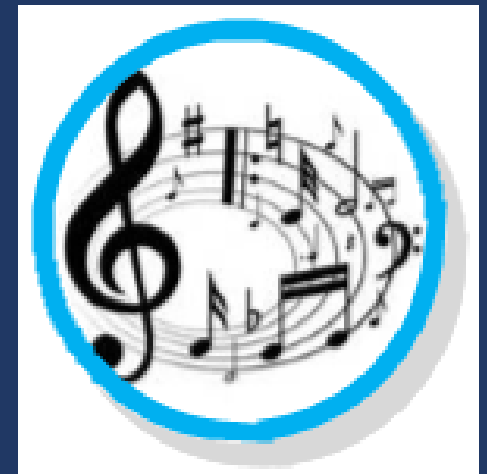
**Maddison Faircloth** – Visual Arts

**Taylor Beaulieu** – Performing Arts

## Skinner Road School:

**Natalie Christopher** – Visual Arts

**Sara Huo** – Performing Arts



# WORLD LANGUAGE RECOGNITIONS

## The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers – CT COLT Student Award for Excellence



### Rockville High School:

Nicolas Angeli – Grade 10

Thanh Bao-Grade 9

Jordan Barry-Grade 9

Abigail Brouillard-Grade 9

Antonia Burns-Grade 10

Kaitlin Carangelo-Grade 11

Imaan Chaudhry-Grade 9

Olivia Clemons-Grade 9

Olivia Crowley-Grade 11

Grace Dehnel-Grade 9

Troy Enamait-Grade 9

Aaveya Fair-Grade 9

WORLD LANGUAGE RECOGNITIONS  
The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers –  
CT COLT Student Award for Excellence

Emily Fredrickson-Grade 10

Clarissa Halpryn-Grade 10

Coi James-Grade 10

Katherine Larson-Grade 9

Kaylin Maher-Grade 11

Marcelo Rosa-Grade 9

Joshua Miles-Grade 10

Christian Mitterholzer-Grade 9

Rebecca Opdenbrouw-Grade 11

Katherine Ross-Grade 9

Julia Szuminski-Grade 10

Natalie Tolman-Grade 11

Breanna Upton-Grade 9

WORLD LANGUAGE RECOGNITIONS  
The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers –  
CT COLT Student Award for Excellence

**Vernon Center Middle School:**

Luke Anderson, Grade 7, Spanish

Carla Beattie, Grade 6, French

Cullen Bickford, Grade 6, Spanish

Deanna Brown, Grade 8, Spanish

Caroline Burg, Grade 7, Spanish

Andrew Carangelo, Grade 8, Spanish

Charlee Carr, Grade 8, French

Devin Collier, Grade 7, Spanish

Scott Cowell, Grade 6, French

Caroline Dionne, Grade 7, Spanish

Nathan Duarte, Grade 8, Spanish

WORLD LANGUAGE RECOGNITIONS  
The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers –  
CT COLT Student Award for Excellence

**Vernon Center Middle School:**

Hannah Dunton, Grade 7, French

Abigail Fisher, Grade 8, Spanish

Chloe Hazel, Grade 7, Spanish

Iris Hida, Grade 7, Spanish

Rowan Hodgkins, Grade 6, French

Lorelei Hutchings, Grade 8, Spanish

Ryana Kingue, Grade 7, Spanish

Liam Krupienski, Grade 6, Spanish

Thomas Lucerini III, Grade 7, Spanish

Hailey Miller, Grade 8, Spanish

WORLD LANGUAGE RECOGNITIONS  
The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers –  
CT COLT Student Award for Excellence

**Vernon Center Middle School:**

Lucy Powers, Grade 6, Spanish

Scott Quick, Grade 8, French

Dominik Rose, Grade 6, French

Sinai Salmon, Grade 8, Spanish

Abigail Smith, Grade 6, Spanish

Sienna Spicer, Grade 6, French

Kayla Weimann, Grade 6, Spanish

Paul John Westerberg II, Grade 8, French

Nathan Wine, Grade 7, French





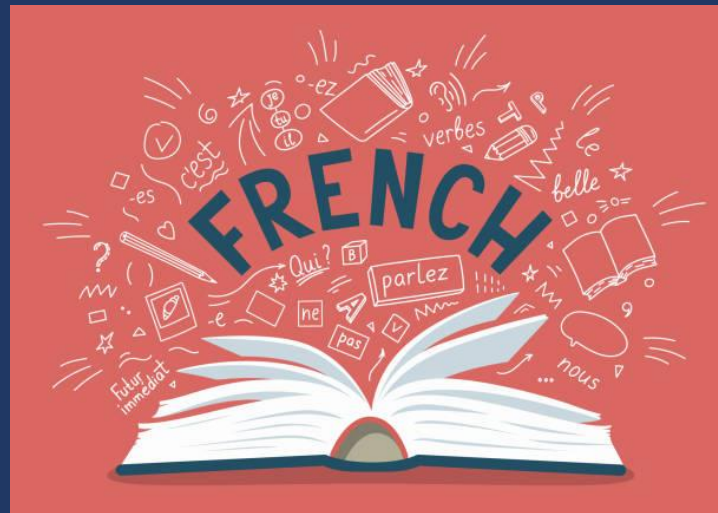
# WORLD LANGUAGE RECOGNITIONS EXCELLENCE IN FRENCH

## Excellence in French Awards:

**Cooper Govoni-Raich**, Grade 9, Excellence in French 1

**Jason Acheampong**, Grade 9, Excellence in French 2

**Caitlin Chatterton**, Grade 10, Excellence in French 3



**WORLD LANGUAGE RECOGNITIONS**  
**Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages**  
**Award of Excellence**

**Vernon Center Middle School:**

**Piper Jones, Grade 8, French**

**Rijja Rohaan, Grade 8, Spanish**



# CREATIVE WRITING

## Caroline Bartolotta, Grade 11

Scholastic Art & Writing - Silver Key (Poetry)

Connecticut Student Writer - Two Silver Keys (Poetry & Art)

Sunken Garden Fresh Voices Poetry State Finalist

Writing Apprentice at the Mark Twain House

## Emma Blanchet, Grade 12

Lynn DeCaro 3rd Place Poetry Winner

Scholastic Art & Writing - Two Honorable Mentions

(Poetry & Personal Memoir)

Connecticut Student Writer - Published Platinum Award (Personal Memoir), Silver Award (Short Story), Honorable Mention (Poetry)

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Allison Blume, Grade 12

Scholastic Art & Writing - Three Silver Keys (Poetry)

Connecticut Student Writer - Gold Award (Poetry)

Junior Poet Laureate of Vernon

## Eve Brouillard, Grade 12

Scholastic Art & Writing - Gold Key (Poetry), Honorable Mention  
(Poetry Portfolio)

Sunken Garden Fresh Voices Poetry State Finalist

Featured poet at Arts Center East

Writing Apprentice at the Mark Twain House

# CREATIVE WRITING

**Kai Carrozza-Lutz, Grade 11**

Connecticut Student Writer - Silver Award (Fiction)

**Caitlin Chatterton, Grade 10**

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (One Act Play)

**McKena Clemons, Grade 9**

State semi-finalist in the 2021 Letters About Literature contest

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Shawna (Jack) Cote, Grade 12

Connecticut Student Writer - Silver Award (Personal Memoir) Honorable  
Mention (Short Story),  
Scholastic Art and Writing - Honorable Mention (Personal Memoir)  
Youth Play Institution Intern  
Young Playwrights Festival Semi-Finalist

## Sara Cove, Grade 12

Connecticut Student Writer - Silver Award (Short Story)  
Sunken Garden Fresh Voices State Finalist  
Eugene O'Neill Guest Playwright  
Writing Apprentice at the Mark Twain House

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Olivia Crowley, Grade 11

Connecticut Student Writer - Gold Award (Poetry)  
Scholastic Art & Writing Awards - Silver Key (Poetry)

## Jerelis Deleon Vargas, Grade 10

Connecticut Student Writer - Platinum Award (Short Story)  
Connecticut Student Writer Alternate Reader

## Natalie Durrant, Grade 10

Connecticut Student Writer - Platinum Award (Short Story)

# CREATIVE WRITING

**Isabelle (I) Fauteux, Grade 12**

Scholastic Art & Writing - Silver Key (Poetry)

**Mary-Grace Glinski, Grade 11**

Scholastic Art & Writing - Silver Key (Poetry)

**Kimberly Gonzalez, Grade 12**

Scholastic Art & Writing - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Short Story)



# CREATIVE WRITING

## Cooper Govoni-Raich, Grade 9

State semi-finalist in the 2021 Letters About Literature contest

## Clarissa Halpryn, Grade 10

Connecticut Student Writer - Platinum Award (Fiction)

Connecticut Student Writer Selected Reader

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards - Silver Key (Poetry), Honorable Mention  
(Flash Fiction & Science Fiction)

# CREATIVE WRITING

**Ryan Harvey, Grade 11**

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

**Dennis Henderson, Grade 10**

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

**William Johns, Grade 11**

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

**Jordyn Karpoff, Grade 9**

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Fiction)

# CREATIVE WRITING

**Colton LaBrecque, Grade 12**

Scholastic Art & Writing - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

**Katherine Larson, Grade 9**

State semi-finalist in the 2021 Letters About Literature contest

**Mikayla Leskey, Grade 10**

Scholastic Art & Writing - Gold Key (Poetry), Silver Key (Short Story)

# CREATIVE WRITING

Kaylin Maher, Grade 11

2nd Place Lynn DeCaro Poetry Contest

Nancy Thorpe Poetry Prize - Honorable Mention

Connecticut Student Writer - Platinum Award & Selected Reader

Connecticut Student Writer - Silver Award (Fiction),  
Honorable Mention (Nonfiction)

Scholastic Art & Writing - Two Gold Keys (Poetry),  
Honorable Mention (Fiction)

RHS Representative for the NCTE Achievement Award in Writing

# CREATIVE WRITING

## John Maughan, Grade 10

Scholastic Art & Writing - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

Connecticut Student Writer - Silver Award (Poetry)

## Ashley McCauley, Grade 12

Connecticut Student Writer - Silver Award (Non Fiction), Honorable  
Mention (Poetry)

## Robyn McNeilly, Grade 10

Connecticut Student Writer - Silver Award (Short Story)

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Samara Mercado, Grade 11

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

## Victoria Mitchell, Grade 10

Connecticut Student Writer - Platinum Award (Poetry)

## Cali Miville, Grade 11

Connecticut Student Writer - Silver Award (Poetry)

Nancy Thorpe Poetry Prize - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

Sunken Garden Fresh Voices Poetry State Finalist

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Dyamanee Monge, Grade 12

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

Featured Poet at Arts Center East

Read Poetry for Black History Month

## Alina Naheed, Grade 9

State semi-finalist in the 2021 Letters About Literature contest

## Elisa Ortolani, Grade 9

State semi-finalist in the 2021 Letters About Literature contest

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Destiny Ouellette, Grade 11

Scholastic Art & Writing - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

## Elisabeth Oslovich, Grade 10

Scholastic Art & Writing - Silver Key (Poetry)

Connecticut Student Writer - Silver Award (Poetry)

## Kyle Schambach, Grade 10

Scholastic Art & Writing - Honorable Mention (Poetry)



# CREATIVE WRITING

**Brenna Schnitzke, Grade 10**

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Fiction)

**Carley Simler, Grade 12**

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

Scholastic Art & Writing - Gold Key (Poetry), Honorable Mention (Poetry)

**Gavin Sirois, Grade 9**

State semi-finalist in the 2021 Letters About Literature contest

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Emily Sunderland, Grade 12

Scholastic Art & Writing - Honorable Mention (Poetry)  
Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

## Eleanor Titus, Grade 9

State semi-finalist in the 2021 Letters About Literature contest

## Natalie Tolman, Grade 11

Connecticut Student Writer - Two Honorable Mentions  
(Poetry & One Act Play)

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Emily Sunderland, Grade 12

Scholastic Art & Writing - Honorable Mention (Poetry)  
Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

## Eleanor Titus, Grade 9

State semi-finalist in the 2021 Letters About Literature contest

## Natalie Tolman, Grade 11

Connecticut Student Writer - Two Honorable Mentions  
(Poetry & One Act Play)

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Anaya Tolton, Grade 10

Connecticut Student Writer - Two Honorable Mentions (One Act Play & Short Story)

## Abigail Ursin, Grade 11

Connecticut Student Writer - Honorable Mention (Poetry)

## Abigail Vartanian, Grade 12

Scholastic Art & Writing - Two Honorable Mentions (Poetry)

Connecticut Student Writer- Platinum Award (Poetry)

# CREATIVE WRITING

Sophie Wemmell, Grade 11

Connecticut Student Writer - Silver Award (Fiction)

Lillian Westerberg, Grade 10

Scholastic Art & Writing - Two Honorable Mentions  
(Fiction & Dramatic Story)



# AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (ASTE) GRADUATES

**Ashley Arn-Hettrich**

**Kristyne Bussiere**

**Melanie Carlson**

**Zachary Clapp**

**Leidi Clark**

**Haley Cochran**

**Bryanna Engelhardt**

**Victoria Fiengo**

**Lana Harris**

# AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (ASTE) GRADUATES

Emma Hill

Autumn Janowski

Matthew Lindahl

Cody Linnell

Naomi Lueckel

Ashley Mumley

Katelyn Ortolani

Jennifer Simmons

Lee Sullivan

Jonathan Venable

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Ryan Blanck, Office Clerk, CO

Ryan deserves this recognition for his positive attitude and friendly nature, his willingness to help, and to do the job well. He's always focused, giving the task at hand his full attention. He shows us what it means to have a good work ethic and to do your best. Ryan is a true team player!



# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Kenny Blinn, Paraeducator, NES

Kenny has so many amazing qualities. He is extremely knowledgeable and creative. Of these qualities, the most prominent is his ability to build strong relationships with all students. He always offers technical support, an ear to listen, advice and shares his valuable experience. He is very well liked and respected by the whole Northeast School community.

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Jessica Bradway, Classroom Teacher, MSS

She is the epitome of a hard-working, competent, and positive professional. Jess cares deeply for her students, treats them with kindness, and holds them to high expectations both academically and behaviorally. She pivoted from in-person to virtual kindergarten teaching, this year. Jess is also our resident gardener and makes sure that it is healthy and well-tended. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her passion for teaching is commendable. We are lucky to have her!

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Risa Filkoff, College Transition Counselor/ESL Outreach Coordinator, VRABE

Risa is a visionary leader who performs at an exemplary level. Through the volunteer work she has done, she has forged valuable ties to organizations and people throughout VRABE's 14-town region and throughout the state. Her cheerful attitude is contagious and she can motivate staff to collaborate on new initiatives. She is a wonderful, hard-working woman who is always there to lend a hand with a smile on her face.

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Elizabeth Fisher, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, CO

She is a huge asset to our schools. Since the Covid-19 Pandemic, she has worked hard to make sure students were receiving the proper meals, arranged meal pick-ups, stepped in when necessary to assist our cafeteria workers, and faced the Covid-19 challenges head on...and all while keeping a smile on her face. She is respected by all and is a model of professionalism. Her work is exemplary.

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Tammy Gessay, Secretary, LSS

Tammy exemplifies our unofficial motto: We do what's best for kids by working together. She daily supports students in all different capacities. The students in our community look to Tammy as a steadfast person in their world. Tammy always goes above and beyond. Her professionalism and dedication to our school is inspiring.

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Kara Gumke, Library/Media Specialist, RHS

Kara has been a ROCK STAR during the pandemic. She has juggled innumerable tasks as well as provided support for teachers and students. Kara does it all with high energy and a smile on her face. She is approachable, knowledgeable, and innovative. There is not a single thing that Kara is not open to supporting in order to help our students and staff. Her passion for the students and staff of RHS is evident.

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Scott Higgins, Maintainer, District-wide

Scott is our “go-to” person. He has a very positive attitude, is quick to respond, and always willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. Scott takes great pride in his work and goes above and beyond to help, and does so with a smile on his face. He daily demonstrated the character traits of a professional. Vernon is lucky to have him!

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Ryan Johnson, IT Department

Ryan is visible, prompt, professional, and friendly no matter what he is working on. He always goes above and beyond no matter how big or small the task. He is extremely knowledgeable and always has quick resolution to computer, phone, and network issues. His communication is always timely, friendly, and patient. He is a tremendous asset to this district.



# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Maria Kenzior, Cafeteria Manager, VCMS

Maria manages a team of 6 that prepare breakfast and lunch for students every day. During the pandemic, she too has managed a curbside meal program that has distributed over 46,000 meals since November, while also feeding students in school on the hybrid plan. Maria has gone above and beyond her regular job duties. Maria, with her team at the peak of operation, was preparing over 2,000 breakfasts and over 3,000 lunches for curbside distribution each week. She also worked with the students to prepare a survey when they wanted to change up lunches. She was open, welcoming, and made students feel very comfortable and then added the newly requested meals to the menu at VCMS. Maria always puts her best foot forward and shows up for the kids. She is a true asset to Vernon and will be missed dearly.

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Michael Konicki, Custodian, RHS

Through the pandemic, Mike has reported to work every single day with a positive attitude. He is a dedicated hard-worker. He is a clear communicator and can answer all your questions about any particular work project. He is organized and instrumental to preparing the school for each new day and the upcoming school year. Mike is very conscientious and works tirelessly to ensure that the job gets done. We are so fortunate to have someone like him in our school and district.

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Nancy Krupienski, Administrative Assistant, RHS

Nancy is an innovative and exceptional staff member. She is always looking for ways to help and motivate the staff and students of RHS. There is not a day that goes by that she is not thinking of ways to improve the school and the school experience for our students. Nancy has the ability to multitask and to make snap decisions. Her work ethic is second to none and her desire to do what is best for students is evident every single day.

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Zainelleys (Nelley) Nieves, Paraprofessional, CRS

Nelley never fails to have a smile on her face. Her flexibility is more than appreciated as her duties have changed multiple times over the past school year. She never complains and is willing to work with her time in whatever capacity is needed. Our students and staff love her!

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Cindy Paluska, Cafeteria Manager, RHS

Cindy manages a team of 5 individuals that prepare breakfast and lunch for students every day. During the pandemic, she has managed a curbside meal program that has distributed over 25,000 meals since November while also feeding students in school on the hybrid plan. She is known for her flexibility, hard work, and dedication to the Vernon students. Cindy recognizes the importance of a good meal so that the students can learn, and she will do everything she can to make all students happy.

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Amy Schlett, Spanish Teacher, RHS

Amy motivates not only students, but also staff to continually improve every step of the way. She is a cheerleader for her students. She has the ability to connect with all of her students, and that makes her a stellar example for all. She is a great advocate for her students. Amy is not just a great teacher, but she is a true leader.

# PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

## Richard Welk, Technology Director, VRABE

Richard has provided outstanding technical support during VRABE's transition from in-person to remote learning. He is instrumental in the development of our remote learning capabilities, professional development, and "how to" seminars. He has made himself available at all ours. We could not have been successful this year without his efforts.

**The Vernon Board of Education wishes to  
congratulate all of the Award recipients tonight on  
your many accomplishments.**

**We are proud of all of your  
achievements and successes.**

**Best wishes for your continued success in all of your  
future school years and future endeavors!**





## The Vernon Board of Education

**Mrs. Anne Fischer, Chairperson**

**Mr. Mark Kalina, Vice Chairperson**

**Dr. Patricia Buxton, Treasurer**

**Mr. Stephen Linton, Secretary**

**Mr. Kevin Brown**

**Mrs. Jennifer Buckler**

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