

Poland Community School

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RSU 16

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Dear Residents of Poland,

In the fall of 2021 we were able to welcome back students and staff to full in person learning for the first time since March of 2020. Families attended an in person open house and parent teacher conferences, classrooms are at full capacity, and students are able to move about the building to attend specialized classes. Students, staff, and families have continued to support adaptations to the educational landscape as we look forward to rebuilding our school community and prioritizing learning.

Poland Community School currently has 438 students enrolled in grades Pre-K through sixth grade. An additional 7 students participate in the seventh and eighth grade Functional Life Skills program at PCS. Our teaching teams consist of three or four teachers depending on the population of students at each grade level. This year we have twenty-one classroom teachers, two Title I teachers, one interventionist teacher, three special education teachers, two Functional Life Skills teachers, two school counselors, and one part time social worker. Our social worker is shared with Poland Regional High School.

Through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund Poland Community School was able to support two additional positions for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. We welcomed Danielle Higginbotham, an additional school counselor to address the social and emotional wellbeing of students and staff in grades Pre-K through two. She collaborates with Abby Rines who supports students and staff in grades three through sixth. Together they continue to implement the Second Step Social-Emotional Learning program and work with community partners to create a supportive and positive learning environment for our elementary students.

Additionally, Sasha Rancourt-Thomas joined our staff as the new Pre-K through sixth Teacher Interventionist. This position was developed to provide additional academic support in the areas of math and literacy as well as executive functioning for the return to five day instruction. With the impact of COVID-19 on learning, our students have benefited from Mrs. Rancourt-Thomas's ability to ensure that students are being taught at their optimal instructional level. In collaboration with a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) students at PCS receive student-focused academic and behavioral support.

Our school community is appreciative of the dedication and involvement from the citizens of RSU 16. These ongoing relationships are imperative to the success of PCS. We are fortunate to have new playground equipment provided by the PTA, weekly food donations from the Vineyard Church, regular donations from Hannaford Helps, and holiday assistance from Poland multiple community organizations.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. We strive to grow this partnership and provide an outstanding learning experience for our children.

Sincerely,



Lisa Burns

Principal

