



## THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### THOMASTON CENTER SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATES IN “ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK” INITIATIVE

Reading is the “Center” of Our Community

**Thomaston, CT, September 8, 2017**– The entire community of Thomaston Center School will be sharing a common experience by reading a set of novels together. Students, staff, families, as well as the larger Thomaston Center School community, such as the Thomaston Board of Education, will be reading three novels through a One School, One Book initiative during the 2017-18 academic year. The event was launched during an all-school assembly on Friday, September 8, 2017 in the Thomaston Center School auditorium whereby students were provided with their first novel, *Wonder*, by RJ Polacio.

The One School, One Book program provides students with greater opportunities to share literacy experiences with families and the community around a common theme. Principal Kristin Bernier stated, “This program affords families the opportunities to foster and encourage a love of reading. Many events focusing on the selected titles will be held both during the school day and in the evenings for students, families, and community members alike and we are excited to have our families share in this experience.”

The One School, One Book idea is the product of several meetings of the language arts department at Center School. Identifying the need to promote literacy and build community, the staff wanted to implement a fun and innovative program to meet the needs of our students. Under the direction of Ms. Susan Larson, Reading Interventionist, Thomaston Center School applied for, and received a generous grant through the Connecticut Community Foundation of Waterbury, CT. Ms. Larson adds, “The One School, One Book activity is a great way for families to connect over a shared

reading experience with their children. The book should be enjoyed as a read-aloud at home and will be supported through literacy activities in school. By including all of our Center School students and staff, as well as local community members, we are creating a truly unified community of readers!”

*Wonder*, by RJ Polaco, is the first of three novels planned this this year. *Wonder* tells the fictional story of ten-year old August “Augie” Pullman’s journey as he enters school for the first time.

### **Thomaston Board of Education Mission Statement:**

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to educate, challenge and inspire each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

*-TBOE Policy 0100*

### **Goals and Objectives of the Thomaston Board of Education:**

The Thomaston Board of Education believes that all students have a right to an education which is based on standards of excellence, which stresses rigorous demands and which serves to expand students' personal horizons. The Board believes that the education of each student is the shared responsibility of students, parents, faculty, and administrators. The Board also recognizes that students differ in their interests and abilities and therefore the district offers a comprehensive program consisting of a variety of learning experiences. The Board believes that an important function of the school is to prepare students for participation in our American democratic society. The Board seeks to improve the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical capacities of all students. The Board encourages the development of thinking and communication skills, the tolerance of and responsibility for others, and the understanding of varied cultures and life styles. In order to implement this philosophy, recognizing that elementary, middle and high school education are important steps in a lifelong process, the Board of Education establishes the following objectives:

- A. To teach the essential skills traditionally associated with the various disciplines.
- B. To develop the four communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- C. To extend and refine the students' ability to comprehend, interpret, and evaluate printed, visual, and aural material.
- D. To develop critical thinking.
- E. To further the students' development of self-awareness, self-discipline, and self-esteem.
- F. To promote the physical well-being of all students.
- G. To promote creativity and appreciation of the arts, humanities, and sciences.
- H. To encourage students to consider both the alternatives to and the consequences of their actions in the decision making process.
- I. To present career options and to assist students in setting tentative goals.

J. To help the student appreciate that learning is integrated and continuous.

*-TBOE Policy 5010*

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Kristin Reichelt Bernier at 860-283-3036 or email at [kbernier@thomastonschools.org](mailto:kbernier@thomastonschools.org).