

PRESS RELEASE



FARMINGTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Empowering Global Citizens

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FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES 2021 TEACHER OF THE YEAR



The Farmington Board of Education and Kathleen C. Greider, Superintendent of Schools, are proud to announce the 2021 Teacher of the Year for the Farmington Public Schools. Chris Loomis, School Counselor and the Student Activities Director at Farmington High School (FHS), has been named Farmington's Teacher of the Year for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Loomis has been a faculty member in Farmington since 2010. He is a student-centered educator who connects with his students in meaningful ways to ensure all students feel a strong belonging to the academic community at FHS. Mr. Loomis has guided countless students and families through the process of college admissions through individualized meetings, family informational sessions and multiple and varied support structures that place our students in the very best position to seek out their passions and interests beyond their K-12 education. He approaches all interactions with students and families with a focus on relationships to ensure students know that they are deeply cared for and valued as unique and talented individuals. Throughout his time as a school counselor in Farmington, he has established a strong partnership with all students, families, faculty and staff. These partnerships connect our students and graduates to FHS well

beyond their K-12 education. Most importantly, Mr. Loomis is a deeply caring individual who models the importance of being there for one another at all times. He embodies the FHS motto, *One School, One Community, One Us*.

As Farmington High School's Student Activity Director, Mr. Loomis works closely with all FHS students to provide robust offerings and a multi-faceted approach to extracurricular opportunities. These opportunities further connect our students to the FHS school community through student initiated clubs, enrichment opportunities and service to others. He is commended for his collaborative work in the area of equity and social justice at FHS. Throughout the school year and during social justice week, students lead efforts in the areas of anti-racism, social justice and equity. Student voice and leadership are placed at the center of our work and Mr. Loomis supports all students to not only find their voice, but empower students to make a positive impact by contributing to a greater good. This is an essential and critical component of a K-12 education in Farmington and Mr. Loomis has led these efforts in collaboration with students, faculty, staff, administration and our community

Superintendent Greider states, "I am extremely pleased that Chris Loomis will represent Farmington in the state-level Teacher of the Year process. In all aspects of his collaborative work with students, faculty, staff and administration, Mr. Loomis is a positive force in the areas of equity, belonging, student voice and service. These focus areas are articulated within Farmington's new Vision of the Global Citizen and core belief, Equity Matters. Mr. Loomis understands the importance of preparing all students for the world that awaits them beyond their K-12 education as a highly expert and caring school counselor. He is constantly seeking out opportunities for our students to enrich the lives of others through service projects, student leadership opportunities and connections to area businesses and organizations. He has an ability to make strong and lasting connections that benefit the entire school community. The foundation of an education in Farmington is the relationships we establish and cultivate with our students, families and one another. Mr. Loomis prioritizes relationships, partnerships and connections first and foremost. As a school district community, we join together to celebrate and honor Mr. Chris Loomis and we extend our gratitude to his family who inspires and supports him each day."

Board of Education Chair, Ellen Siuta, commented, "I was beyond thrilled that Chris was selected as Farmington's Teacher of the Year. Chris is a treasured School Counselor and Student Activities Director. He is committed to addressing the individual needs of our students, he is devoted to making their introduction to FHS a warm and inclusive process and he genuinely cares about his students' academic, social and emotional success."

Farmington High School Principal Dr. Scott Hurwitz shared, "The faculty and staff of Farmington High School celebrate the tremendous contributions of Mr. Chris Loomis. As a school counselor and the Director of Student Activities at FHS, Mr. Loomis approaches his work with an unmatched work ethic, innovative problem solving, and an intense focus on advocating for students and families in Farmington. Mr. Loomis is a champion for social justice, equity, and wholeheartedly advocates for all students to reach their full potential. Since its inception, Chris has been a key organizer of Farmington High School's social justice week. In addition, he has helped develop and sustain a variety of safe spaces at FHS for students to learn about themselves and one another as they engage in critical dialogue. His daily actions exude an attention to equity and its importance. He partners with students, families, community members,

faculty and staff to ensure student success at Farmington High School. Farmington High School and Farmington Public Schools are truly fortunate to have such an outstanding professional like Mr. Chris Loomis.”

On being recognized as Farmington’s Teacher of the Year, Mr. Loomis said, “I am honored and humbled to be selected as the Farmington’s Teacher of the Year. At FHS I work with so many outstanding teachers, special education teachers, school counselors, social workers, school psychologists, paraprofessionals, and administrators that have all been instrumental in any success I’ve experienced as an educator. This recognition is not mine alone, but I view it as one that is for everyone that I have worked with at FHS over the years. I am inspired by everyone I’m around each day at FHS and amazed at what we accomplish together. The impact students have had on my career has profoundly shaped my life on both professional and personal levels. Our students are the reason I am excited to walk into FHS each day and am hopeful for the future of our country. Lastly, the unwavering support I receive from my wife to pursue all of my passions as an educator is the reason for any success I’ve had in my life and my career.”

Brief Bio:

Mr. Loomis received his Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Sacred Heart University. He immediately went on to earn his M.S. and Sixth year Degree in Counseling from Southern Connecticut State University. Mr. Loomis worked early in his educational career with incarcerated teenagers at the Manson Youth Institution where he supported teenage inmates trying to transition back home upon being released from prison. He also worked at Bacon Academy as a School Counselor for two years, until he was hired at FHS in 2009. Mr. Loomis has been a School Counselor for the past 11 years at FHS and in the 2019-20 school year shifted to a combined role as School Counselor and Student Activities Director at FHS. He has coached Tennis, Basketball, and Track & Field at various points in his FHS career, along with advising various clubs such as Student Council, Student Ambassadors, and Social Justice Club. For the past 5 years Mr. Loomis has worked with many FHS students and teachers to build the capacity and sustainability of the Social Justice Clubs at FHS, as well as Social Justice Week at FHS. In his spare time, he loves spending time with his wife Heather and two sons Mason and Max, as well as coaching his sons’ activities and sports teams.

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