



CREC John J. Allison Jr.  
**POLARIS CENTER**  
 Guiding students to learn and grow

# JUNE 2024 NEWS & NOTES

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 POLARIS TEACHER & SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR!



### 2024 POLARIS SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR JENNIFER CASCIO

“Ms. Cascio is an outstanding teammate at Polaris! . . . she is a leader on the school wellness committee, she takes initiative in the classroom, and is always willing to assist in other classrooms when needed. She sets a positive example for the students and staff throughout the building. She is always open to feedback and seeks to improve her own practice each day.”  
 \* an excerpt from her nomination letter

### 2024 POLARIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR VALERIE BRUZZI

“Ms. Bruzzi engages students in art practices & also in thinking about social and historical aspects ...recognizing diversity and how to be a part of social justice in our schools and communities. She has demonstrated leadership by holding our Art program to a high level, with higher expectations and engaging art projects. She demonstrates initiative throughout the school by creating a climate and environment that is warm, colorful and features student creations throughout the school.”  
 \* an excerpt from her nomination letter

**2023-2024  
 POLARIS CENTER HOURS**  
**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**  
**June 11 - 12:30 Dismissal**

**EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY)**  
**JULY 1 - JULY 26**  
**8:00AM - 2:00PM**  
**NO SCHOOL JULY 4 & 5**

## A WORD OF THANKS

As we wrap up the year, I would like to express how grateful I am to work with such amazing families, teachers and community partners!

Reflecting on this school year, we’ve celebrated the many accomplishments and achievements of our students. Those accomplishments include: Student of the Month, intramural sports, our career & transition program & our wonderful Art Show “PEACE 24/7 365.” Our students’ artwork is currently on display at the East Hartford Town Hall.

On June 7 at 10:00am we will graduate our seniors and promote our eighth grade students. Seniors will be entering into a new chapter in their lives, taking the skills and strategies they have learned to navigate the world. Our eighth grade students will move to different high schools, prepared for new challenges. Best of luck to all of you!

As always, I’m beyond thankful for the support of our Polaris families. Wishing you a peaceful summer & we look forward to seeing you August 28th, 2024 for the first day of school.

Kenterra R. Carrion, LMSW  
 Clinical Coordinator



## CONGRATULATIONS!

### MAY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### **DAMYA & CHAKIRIS**

These students have excelled at upholding our three core values:

**BE SAFE | BE RESPECTFUL | BE RESPONSIBLE**

**KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!**

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

**Kelly S. Maio**  
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