



New Canaan Public Schools
39 Locust Avenue
New Canaan, CT 06840

For Immediate Release:

New Canaan High School Partners with Waveny Care Center In Delivery of Nitrile Gloves and Protective Eye Goggles



Much needed nitrile gloves and eye goggles have been delivered from New Canaan High School to Waveny Care Center.

New Canaan, CT (April 7, 2020). The special protective gear that New Canaan High School students, faculty and staff wear in their Science classes and labs is now being put to good use in helping fight the pandemic.

Last month, shortly after the district implemented its Distance Learning program, New Canaan High School faculty member Alison Minor was messaging a friend, who is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Her friend indicated that much needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) of all kinds were in short supply. Ms. Minor, the high school's Life Science Instructional Aide and Lab Technician, knew there were several boxes of nitrile gloves used in classes and labs stored in the building's Science Department classrooms. So, she contacted the high school's Principal's Office about the glove inventory, to see if they could somehow be utilized during the outbreak.

"Administration was quick to react," said Ms. Minor, "and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Luizzi reached out to me to coordinate collecting the boxes. I don't have an exact number, but I suspect there were about 30 boxes of nitrile gloves from Science. Dr. Luizzi mentioned that they were collecting gloves from other departments in the high school as well, so I'm sure the total number was much higher."

At about the same time, New Canaan High School Biology teacher Jessica Zych also reached out to Ms. Minor. "Ali had already been in touch with the NCHS administration regarding the gloves, but they had not discussed the goggles," said Ms. Zych, who teaches Honors, AP Biology, and Science.

The eye protective goggles, which are similar to ski goggles, only with more shielding, are used in biology and chemistry classes and labs. Nitrile gloves are the same kind of disposable gloves used in doctors' offices and hospitals and protect students and faculty from bacteria, chemicals, dyes and stains used in various experiments. Nitrile gloves are used instead of latex gloves because of allergies.

"I sent an email to Principal Bill Egan and Dr. Luizzi indicating there were safety goggles and safety glasses in the science labs," said Ms. Zych. "I offered to send out a shared Google Spreadsheet to Science Department members so they could list their room number, number of goggles/glasses and location within their room."

Ms. Zych soon followed up with the completed spreadsheet, and school administrators quickly arranged for the valuable gloves and eye goggles to be packed up and delivered to the Waveny Care Center. Most of the 300 pairs of eye protective goggles from the Science Department were delivered, as were all of the approximately 3000 pairs of nitrile gloves.

Ms. Zych is pleased with the results. "Knowing that materials which would otherwise be sitting on a shelf are going to help those in need is gratifying," she said. "Ali and I just connected the dots. The people actually using this equipment deserve all of the credit."

Ms. Minor echoes the sentiment. "Honestly, I feel I played a small role in just identifying that we had these gloves," she said. "I'm very thankful that administration was able to work quickly to get the gloves to where they are most needed right now, to protect our community's most vulnerable citizens. There are so many ways we can all help the medical professionals, first responders, and even the grocery store employees and other community members, who are out there keeping us safe and fed. We are all in this together."

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