

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

BACK TO SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER 2017

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear School Community Member:

I hope this summer issue finds you in the best of health and spirit as we prepare for the 2017-18 school year.

Building Project Update

This past May, voters approved a \$15.9 million-dollar building project that will replace and/or repair various areas of our elementary and our junior-senior high schools.

What Will Be Included in the Project?

At the junior-senior high school and the elementary school there will be security upgrades which will include entrance vestibules so that parents and community members don't have to wait outside in inclement weather.

There will be bathroom renovations and exterior site improvements including the outdoor track and the practice fields. The HVAC upgrades will improve student comfort within our classrooms. The upgrades will also improve thermal efficiency by replacing boilers at the elementary school and converting the remaining portion of the junior-senior high school from steam to water based heating.

At the junior-senior high school the gymnasium floor, bleachers, and windows will be replaced. These improvements will provide our gym long overdue updates after decades of use. The new wood floor will eliminate dead spots that impact our competitions, provide the proper and safe resiliency for our students during play, and reduce the escalating cost of maintenance due to the age and obsolescence of the existing floor.

The new bleachers will provide accessible seating for our parents and community members. These bleachers will also highlight our school colors. The windows on the two gymnasium court ends will be replaced to eliminate the infiltration of water, in addition to providing better glare control during athletic events and increased thermal efficiency.

The Pool

The pool renovation will include a new tiled deck, a new pool liner and plumbing upgrades, which will keep the pool functioning highly for decades to come. The pool area will be equipped with lifts connected to the recently renovated pool locker rooms as well as a lift to take disabled swimmers in and out of the pool.

Cost of the Project

Our financial picture for this project includes the District receiving New York State building aid at a minimum of 73.9%. This means that we would get about 74 cents back on each dollar spent on the building project. The \$15.9 million-dollar project will ultimately cost taxpayers about \$8.5 million dollars (which is the *net local share of \$5.6 million plus* the total interest less total state aid over the life of the loan).

Current State of the Building Project

Over the summer our architects and our school district team have been working on developing contract documents for the building project. Paperwork that is submitted to the State Education Department, for project approvals, has a turn-around time of about 30

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weeks. This documentation will be submitted shortly. We plan to go out to bid next February with a bid award date of early March. This will allow construction to begin in late June of 2018. While some work can take place during the school year, the majority of project work will take place over the next two summers (2018 and 2019).

School Improvement Update

Since early spring, we have been planning school improvement strategies for 2017–18 that will improve teaching and learning. The base strategy is to share and implement our “*Key Features of Instruction and Learning*,” in every classroom. This strategy was developed based on our vision statement. The base strategy will detail what we expect to occur daily for every student.

More particular strategies for school improvement include the expectation that teachers design and implement high-quality plans for every lesson taught. We are also excited about two new, early literacy and language programs, at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School. *Words Their Way* is a phonics program designed for all students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. This will supplement our core literacy program (*Wonders*). We will also begin a dual language program in kindergarten and first grade. In this program, students will learn content and language in both English and Spanish.

As you can see we have quite an exciting year to look forward to. I hope everyone has a chance to enjoy the last few weeks of summer as we prepare to welcome a brand-new school year!

See you in September!

Educationally yours,

Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.

FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back!

Our staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our students and parents to the 2017 - 2018 school year! A special welcome also goes to the new families who are now members of our community.

We are proud to share that this year marks Benjamin Cosor Elementary School's 50 years in educating and nurturing the youth of our community! We will be celebrating this great accomplishment over the course of this school year, starting with a kick-off celebration with our students on September 22nd. Throughout the year, students will learn about, not only our school's history, but about community and world events that took place during each decade of the school's existence.

We are asking for all alumni, family, friends and community members to help us celebrate our 50 years by sharing with us any memorabilia you may have from 1967 - 2017 for BCES. We would like to create a collage of old photos in our

main hallway for all to enjoy and reminisce. If you have any old photos or memorabilia that you would like to share with us, please make a copy of it, or take a photo of it and send it to us. Some examples are: Field Days, plays, dances, assemblies, class pictures, autograph books, etc. Another great way to share your memories is on our Facebook page:

BCES Celebrating 50 Years of Memories.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning and growing! Your support and dedication to the children of this community is truly appreciated and does not go unnoticed!

Please join us on Thursday, September 28th from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM for our Open House event!

Here's to our next 50 years in education!

Mary Kate Stinehour

Mary Kate Stinehour and the Staff of BCES

From the Elementary Assistant Principal

Welcome back! As I sit and write this article, I find it difficult to believe that the end of summer vacation is right around the corner. We hope that everyone had a restful vacation, and is ready to take on the challenges of the new school year.

Everyone here at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School is here to help your child achieve his/her academic goals. We understand that the education of our children is a “team effort.” Therefore, we promise to work with you to help our students become the best that they can be.

If you ever feel that your child(ren) need(s) help, for any reason, whether the concern is academic, behavior, or social, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dave Viglione

Sign Erected at BCES Trail

Through the generous donation of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), a beautiful sign has been placed at the trailhead for the BCES Hiking and Nature Trail behind the school building.

An official opening of the Trail was scheduled for the last week of school in June, but it had to be postponed because of heavy rains. Administrator of the grant to restore and reconstruct the new trail and BCES teacher Mrs. Leah Exner organized a brief ceremony to mark the “unofficial” opening on June 19th, 2017. On hand were students from kindergarten through



sixth grade chosen by teachers as among the most dedicated in the Extended Day Nature Class. Mrs. Exner referred to them as Guardians of the Trail, and they were decked out wearing protective equipment and safety gear.

The work that went into the design, building and placement of the sign was a small but vital part of the many busy hands of students, school staff, community volunteers, service agencies, Town of Fallsburg Parks Department, and local businesses that helped bring the BCES Trail from concept through to completion. Key to everything was the Sullivan Renaissance Healthy Community Grant that started the project in motion. Special thanks go out to all these people on behalf of the Fallsburg Central School District.

A week later, the Jr/Sr High School Leo Club placed decorated rocks from the Life Skills Class around the sign and other locations along the trail

Migrant Education Program Celebrates a Summer of Learning



The Migrant Education Program at FCSD provided a three week teaching program to support the learning of children. Thirty-three students came from Fallsburg and 11 from Liberty. Daily classes at BCES went from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM from Monday to Thursday, July 5th through July 27th, 2017.

The program's main purpose was to reinforce skills in common core subjects and review previously learned material from the school year. FCSD Teacher Ms. Veronica Serrano administered the program with the support of Migrant Education staff Ms. Malvina Saavedra and Ms. Greysy Iraheta. Three classrooms for grades K-2nd, 3rd-5th, and 6th-8th were run by Saira Aigala, Evan Jenkins and Melissa Antunes. District employee Ms. Isabel Mejia and Ms. Valerie Cascino were SUNY New Paltz student interns in each classroom.



On the evening of July 25th, Director of Mid-Hudson Migrant Education Maryellen Whittington-Couse welcomed families to celebrate the successes of the children.

The evening celebration featured singing, dancing and plays by the three student sections, much to the delight of the families.

Visits to each classroom revealed beautiful posters and collages showing the rich cultural heritages of the different Central and South American republics that are the native homes of these students. The evening ended with pizza in the school cafeteria. It was a sweet way to conclude an evening of family and cultural pride and an honoring of learning by some very happy children.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Summer is quickly coming to a close and the new school year is upon us. Everyone at Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School has been busy preparing for the arrival of your children. I am excited about meeting all of the students and having a very successful school year! The district will help you in any way possible to ensure your child's success. Do not hesitate to contact the school at 434-6800 with any questions or concerns.

Because of the delay in state reporting, a copy of your child's schedule was not enclosed with this mailing. The guidance department will send a copy of your child's schedule as soon as it is finalized. If you need to speak to a guidance counselor personally, please call the guidance office to schedule an appointment. If you are unable to schedule an appointment before school begins, please call to do so after the school year begins.

The first day of school is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 6, 2017**. This will be a full day of school. The school day begins at 8:05 am and ends at 2:52 pm. Your child should come to school on the first day with all of the tools needed for success, such as notebooks, pens/pencils, book bags (check with the Code of Conduct for the rules concerning acceptable book bags) and any other items they might need throughout the school day. **Also, please review the student dress code with your child(ren) before they head off to school.** I have enclosed a list of changes to procedures in the junior-senior high school which will affect all students, so be sure to read it over and make note of these changes. Also, please make note of the following important items:

1. Students attending BOCES vocational education programs **will** attend BOCES on the first day of school.

2. Athletes who are on the Debt List must clear up their obligations by the 13th of September (Wednesday) in order to continue to practice and play. Any questions concerning sports should be addressed to Ms. Sue Lendzian, Director of Physical Education and Athletics.
3. Both the Emergency Contact and the Transportation forms must be returned to the main office **no later than Wednesday, September 13, 2017!**
4. Seniors and juniors who would like to have the privilege of driving to school should come to the Main Office to obtain the necessary forms. Please refer to the Code of Conduct for the specific guidelines pertaining to permission to drive to and from school. No student may drive to school without having successfully completed the "Alive at 25" class and have a parking permit issued from the main office.

The beginning of every school year is hectic! We will make every effort to make the opening of school as smooth as possible, both for you and your child(ren).

I urge you, throughout the school year, to access our website and Facebook pages for information pertaining to school policies, delayed openings and early closings and other important information you may need.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school at 434-6800. I thank you for your attention to these important issues and for your continued support of the Fallsburg School District.

Remember...

Effort Equals Excellence!!

Mike Williams

Fallsburg Holds a Cheerleading Camp



The Fallsburg Athletic program hosted a three-day camp for the existing and prospective cheerleaders at Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School on August 9-11 this summer. Coach Kiffanie Rodgers-Sanchez and Assistant Coach Frances Garcia supervised eleven students from 8th through 12th grades as they learned techniques from Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) Trainer Ms. Olivia Derbabian at the high school gymnasium.

Ms. Derbabian's high energy was apparent as soon as she entered the space. The theme of the camp was "*So Much to Love.*" The veteran and novice cheerleaders came away each day with a sense of the joy of cheerleading and a love for the hard work of being a team.

Led by returning seniors on the Fallsburg squad Jennifer Davila and Diamond Fannings were tenth graders Jazmine Williams, Mailee Martinez and Rebecca DaCosta-Patterson; ninth graders Dolce McPherson and Selena Dickerson; and eighth graders Angela Dickerson, Bianca Cruceta, Angelina Colletti and Emily Collura.

Coach Rodgers-Sanchez was happy with the turnout of the younger girls because many senior team members graduated last June. Angelina Colletti won honors as JV All-American and has an opportunity to perform in Philadelphia and Orlando. Varsity All-Americans Jazmine Williams, Jennifer Davila, Diamond Fannings, Dolce McPherson and Mailee Martinez can represent the country in London, England. The team will be fundraising to make these trips possible.



Fallsburg Alumni Celebrate Scholarship and Community Service

The thirteenth annual Fallsburg Alumni Association (FAA) at Woodridge Municipal Hall on July 29th, 2017 was well attended with retired teachers and staff, alumni and graduating seniors receiving scholarships through the FAA. Eight members of the Class of 1961 were on hand for an informal 56th reunion.



Four outstanding graduating seniors received scholarships from the FAA: David Fuller, Roberto Matamoros Mejia, Alexandria Porter and Pu "Sam" Zheng. Ms. Porter also received the Robynne Anderman-Pacheco Scholarship from Robynne's mother Mrs. Arlene Hussey.

The Sheryl Kalter Memorial Scholarship was awarded to two outstanding, talented Fallsburg Central School 2017 graduates. Mekayla Perneszi aspires to a Broadway career. Grace Strauss' plans are to become an oncology nurse.



The awards were presented by Social Studies teacher Mrs. Elissa. Baum (Sheryl Kalter's best friend) on behalf of Ivan and Eileen Kalter.



FAA Recording Secretary Ms. Mona Bogan presented the Retired Staff Honoree to Ms. Nancy Catalano. Treasurer Ms. Eileen Kalter presented Mr. Harold Gold with the Alumnus Award. With the proceeds from the luncheon and the generous donations of raffle prizes from the Sullivan County business community, several hundred more dollars were raised to provide for scholarships next year.

FCSD Announces Special Coaching Award

FCSD has a long history of athletic achievement due in large part to the many excellent coaches that have mentored student athletes. In 2016 the Board of Education created a Wall of Coaching Distinction Plaque policy to honor those coaches who have made extraordinary contributions or experienced superb accomplishments as members of the Fallsburg school community. To that end, the District has established a Wall of Coaching Distinction Plaque as a place of honor.

In those instances where an individual's contribution or accomplishments stands out as unique, enduring, and impactful, the Board will consider adding the names of deserving individuals to the Wall of Coaching Distinction Plaque.

In this first year of recognition, the District invites nominations from the school community. Please take a moment and



think about a Fallsburg coach you believe deserves this new recognition. The Board is in the process of creating the plaque that will, ultimately, be placed by the gymnasium for all to see

upon entering. More detailed Information about the Wall of Coaching Distinction Plaque is on the District website www.fallsburgcsd.net under the District Menu item. A short one page nomination form is included. The only other material required are three letters of recommendation and 5-7 pieces of support information on the candidate.

If you have any questions, please contact Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz who can guide you through this process. He can be reached at 845-434-6800, ext. 1215 or ikatz@fallsburgcsd.net.

2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

 SCHOOL CLOSED
 CONFERENCE DAY
 REGENTS EXAMS
 TESTING DAYS
 GO HOME EARLY DRILL

SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER	21
OCTOBER	6 - 1/2 Day Conference, 9
NOVEMBER	1 - Full Day Conference, 10, 22 - 24
DECEMBER	8 - Full Day Conference, 15 1/2 Day Conference, 25 - 29
JANUARY	1, 15
FEBRUARY	16 - Full Day Conference, 19
MARCH	19 - 1/2 Day Conference, 26 - 30
APRIL	20 - 1/2 Day Conference
MAY	28

SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER	17	+ 1 CONFERENCE
OCTOBER	21	
NOVEMBER	17	+ 1 CONFERENCE
DECEMBER	15	+ 1 CONFERENCE
JANUARY	21	
FEBRUARY	18	+ 1 CONFERENCE
MARCH	17	
APRIL	21	
MAY	22	
JUNE	16	

TOTAL **185 + 4 CONF = 189**

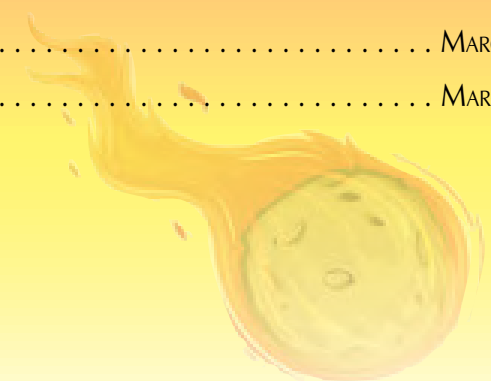
MAKE-UP DAYS

DAY 1	MARCH 26
DAY 2	MARCH 27
DAY 3	MARCH 28
DAY 4	MARCH 29

* if all snow days are used this day will become a student day and not a conference day

GIVE BACK DAYS

1 st day	MAY 25
2 nd day	MARCH 23
3 rd day	MARCH 22
4 th day	MARCH 21



FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

115 Brickman Road • PO Box 124 • Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Ms. Debra Barbiani • Mr. Joseph Collura • Ms. Arlene Hussey • Renee Kates • Dr. Stephanie Phillips •
- Ms. Katherine Rappaport • Ms. Jennifer Reinhardt • Mr. Michael Weiner • Mr. Shawn Wiles •

“Fallsburg Central School District is a safe, nurturing environment, where excellence is expected, diversity and individuality are celebrated, and learning prepares students to face the challenges of an ever-changing global society.”

CONTACTS

PHONE NUMBERS...

Dr. Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.	Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1215
Dr. Matthew T. Evans	Assistant Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1204
Mr. Daniel Grecco Jr.	Business Manager	434-6800 Ext. 1219
Mr. Keith Edwards	Director of Technology	434-6800 Ext. 1258
Ms. Jane Tingley	Director of Staff Evaluation & Student Data	434-6800 Ext. 1257
Mr. George Newman	Interim Pupil Personnel Director	434-6800 Ext. 1273
Mr. Michael Williams	High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2203
Mr. Frank Godlewski	High School Asst. Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2207
Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour	Elementary Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3206
Mr. David Viglione	Elementary Asst. Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3204
Ms. Suzanne Lenzian	Director of Physical Education & Athletics.	434-6800 Ext. 2212
Central Registration	434-6800 ext. 1222	
Tax Collection	434-6800 Ext. 1219	

FAX NUMBERS...

Superintendent	434-8346
Business Office	434-0418
High School	434-0168
Jr./Sr. HS Nurse	434-3821

SCHOOL ADDRESSES...

Fallsburg Central School District Office & Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School
 115 Brickman Road • PO Box 124 • Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School
 15 Old Falls Road • PO Box 123 • Fallsburg, NY 12733-0123

WEBSITE: www.fallsburgcsd.net

If you want to notify the tax collector with a change of address, you can now e-mail that information to: tax@fallsburgcsd.net.

KEEPING YOU POSTED

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
9/6/17	School opens		
9/14/17	Yearbook pictures		
9/19/17	Board of Ed. Mtg.	MS Bd. Rm.	7:15pm
9/21/17	School Closed		
9/22/17	50 th Anniversary Kick-Off	BCES	9:30am
9/26-27	Sr. Portrait make-up dates		
9/28/17	BCES Open House	BCES	6-7:30pm
9/29/17	9 th Gr. Dance	HS Cafet.	7:00pm
10/4/17	Board of Ed. Mtg.	MS Bd. Rm.	7:15pm
10/6/17	Half Day/Conf. Day	Early Dismissal	
10/9/17	School Closed		

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
10/14/17	Color Our Community w/ Kindness		
10/18/17	Board of Ed. Mtg.	MS Bd. Rm.	7:15pm
11/1/17	School Closed/Conf. Day		
	Board of Ed. Mtg.	MS Bd. Rm.	7:15pm
11/2/17	Yearbook pictures		
11/10/17	School Closed		
11/15/17	Board of Ed. Mtg.	MS Bd. Rm.	7:15pm
11/22-24	School Closed		
12/6/17	Board of Ed. Mtg.	MS Bd. Rm.	7:15pm
12/20/17	Board of Ed. Mtg.	MS Bd. Rm.	7:15pm