

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2018

EDITOR - SHELLEY MARCUS • ASSOCIATE EDITOR - SARAH UNGERLEIDER • CONTRIBUTING EDITOR - LARRY SCHAFMAN

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear School Community Member:

Happy late summer! I realize that we are still enjoying the summer as I welcome you to a brand new school year that will be starting soon. I hope that the summer months have refreshed and recharged you. Below are updates on our building project and our school improvement efforts that are currently underway.

Building Project Update

As you may know, building project work began this summer at the Jr/Sr high school and at BCES. This project will continue over the next two summers with the final phase of the project getting completed by September 2020. The project was originally scheduled to take place over two summers (summer 2018 and summer 2019) but the security upgrades to both buildings required longer than expected State Education Department approval processes which are extending project work out to summer 2020. There are now three phases to this building project:

Phase 1- Building Improvement Scope Summer of 2018

At the Jr/Sr high school, the gym floor, bleachers and windows will be replaced. A roll-down divider will also be put in place to divide the gym on an as needed basis. There is also some masonry restoration taking place and the stairs at the rear of the gym (facing the tennis courts) are being replaced. The gym renovations are expected to be completed by late October/early November. We have made arrangements for our physical education classes and our fall sports to practice in

other areas since the gym renovation will not be completed by the opening of school.

At BCES there is some mild masonry re-pointing and reconstruction taking place. Additionally, emergency/exit lighting is being repaired and/or replaced.

Phase 2 A – Building Improvement Scope Summer of 2019

At the Jr/Sr high school there will be a long-awaited pool renovation, baseball field upgrades, an All Weather Track installation, steam to hot water conversion, boiler replacement and some bathroom and gym office renovations.

At BCES there will be some bathroom renovations as well as HVAC work in the kitchen, gym and cafeteria.

Phase 2B - Building Improvement Scope Summer of 2020

The third and final phase of this project (Phase 2 B) will take place in the summer of 2020. This is our school security phase. There will be security improvements in both buildings. Security vestibules will be installed at the entrances of both buildings. Security doors will be added in both buildings to improve security in our hallways. There will also be a number of door and window replacements throughout the district.

Unfortunately, building projects can cause some inconveniences and I would like to apologize about that. The multi-month process for New York State Education Department project approvals and the extended periods of time necessary to order, receive and install materials makes the entire process challenging, especially to those of us who

would like to see things move more quickly. However, all of that said, when the project is complete we will have facilities that will be a local showcase we can all be proud of.

School Improvement Update

This year marks the return of district-wide professional learning teams (PLT) as forums to discuss and enhance professional practice. As we seek to update various curricula - in response to the adoption of new state standards, or as a way to fulfill our vision for student learning - these teams will bring teachers and administrators together to improve the art of teaching.

We are planning for the full implementation of writer's workshop, and a core writing program at BCES. The recently-published district Writing Guidance document highlights the anticipated improvements in writing instruction.

We will also continue reviews of our grading practices. While we may be implementing some modest changes at the start of the year, more in-depth discussions on grading will be held throughout the year. As a district, we are seeking to enhance consistency in grading and ensure that a student's grade is truly reflective of his/her academic performance compared to achieving learning standards.

I wish us all a wonderful rest of the summer as we prepare to meet and greet a brand new school year with brand new possibilities! See you in September!

Educationally yours,

Ivan J. Katz, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

IN THIS ISSUE...

BCES NEWS.....	PAGE	2, 3
HIGH SCHOOL NEWS.....	PAGES	4 - 6
GRADUATION 2018.....	PAGES	7 - 9
DISTRICT NEWS	PAGE	10
2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR	PAGE	11
SCHOOL CONTACTS	PAGE	12
KEEPING YOU INFORMED.....	PAGE	12

FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

From the entire staff at BCES, we would like to welcome you! Whether you are just joining our community of learners or have grown with us over the years, we welcome you to the 2018 - 2019 school year!

Our teachers, support staff, secretaries and custodians have been working hard all summer long to plan for a great school year!

This year, we are excited to announce that we will embark on a writing journey! During our August Superintendent Conference Days our teachers were trained using the Lucy Calkins Units of Study for writing. The writing units of study help teachers provide our students with instruction, opportunities for practice, and concrete achievable goals to help them meet or exceed the standards.

According to Lucy Calkins, there are seven essentials to writing instruction:

Writing needs to be taught like any other basic skill, with explicit instruction and ample opportunities for practice.

Students deserve to write for real, to write the kinds of text they see in the world and to write for an audience of readers.

Writers write to put meaning onto the page. Young people will especially invest themselves in writing if they write about subjects that are important to them. Providing choice in writing topics supports this.

Children deserve to be explicitly taught how to write. Instruction matters, and this includes instruction in spelling and conventions, as well as in the quality and strategies of good writing.

Students deserve the opportunity and instruction necessary for them to cycle through the writing process as they write; rehearsing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing their writing.

Writers read. For children to write well, they need opportunities to read and hear

texts read, and to read as an insider, studying what other authors have done that they, too, could try.

Students deserve clear goals and frequent feedback. They need to hear ways their writing is getting better and to know what their next steps might be.

This year, students in Kindergarten through grade six will receive explicit writing instruction using Lucy Calkins Units of Study. Our teachers are being trained in this writer's workshop model. We are looking forward to an exciting year of reading, writing, learning and growing both academically and socially!

Please join us at our Open House for grades PreK-6 on Thursday, September 20th from 6:00 until 7:30 PM! Together we can make a difference!

Mary Kate Stinehour
and the BCES staff

From the Elementary Assistant Principal

Welcome back! It seems every year the summer vacation goes by faster and faster! It is difficult to believe that, as I sit and write this article, that September is almost here. We hope that everyone had a restful and relaxing vacation and is ready to tackle the challenges of the new school year.

At the end of the 2017-2018 academic year, we conducted our yearly K -12 Insight Surveys. As I was perusing the survey results, I noticed that 75 percent of the teachers, 54 percent of the students and 29 percent of the parents feel that the school is not clean.

There are enrolled at BCES more than 750 students. When a building has that many students, the amount of paper refuse that is generated can be staggering. While our custodial staff works very hard to keep up, at times it can get overwhelming. That is why I am asking that everyone in the building, students, faculty, and visitors, be mindful of this concern, and do his/her part to ensure that the excess papers, wrappers, etc., are placed in the proper receptacles. Working together, we can all do our part for a cleaner Cosor!

Finally, as always, everyone at BCES is here to help your child achieve his/her academic goals. We promise to work with you to help our students achieve success. If you ever feel that your child(ren) need(s) help, for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dave Vigliano

From the School Resource Office

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our students in grades 7-12. The new school year has arrived and with it comes new challenges and things we all need to be aware of. As a School Resource Officer (SRO) my focus is on school safety. With regard to school safety, I would like to take a moment to remind all students to secure their property when using hallway and gym lockers. This means making sure your lockers are locked before you walk away. I would also like to remind students to never open exterior doors or to let anyone in who is trying to gain access to the campus. If a student sees someone trying to get into the building he or she should report it to an administrator or other school employee immediately. In the Fallsburg Central School District, safety is our number one priority. If you see something, please say something.

I would also like to take a moment to remind parents about the importance of having ongoing discussions with children about the dangers of drug and alcohol use and bad decision-making in general. Below are three websites that can provide information on these topics. If you have any questions regarding school safety and the role of the School Resource Officer, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you and have a successful and safe school year!

www.dare-america.com

www.drugabuse.gov

www.netsmartz.org

Jason Edwards, School Resource Officer

FROM THE INTERIM HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Dear Fallsburg School Community:

I am very excited to join the Fallsburg community as the interim principal of the Junior-Senior High School. I look forward to meeting you all and working towards a successful school year. This will be my twenty-seventh year in the service of children. I have had the pleasure of working as a teacher of health and special education for many years. I have also been a coach, dean, and assistant principal. My experiences include middle school and high school, having worked fourteen years for the N.Y.C. Dept. of Education and twelve years for the Monroe-Woodbury C.S.D. I believe that a good education has the power to positively transform a person's life and send ripples of success to their families, future generations and the community.

As we look forward to a new school year, I hope your summer has been filled with joyful and peaceful moments. As an educator, mother, and grandmother, I understand the importance of open communication, listening, and working together. I am passionate about working with others to ensure that students get the best educational and extra-curricular opportunities available to them. Together, we can create positive experiences, success stories, and celebrate each other's uniqueness, efforts and accomplishments. As we support each other with responsibility, respect, being there and being ready, we form ties that define us as family. As part of the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School family, we will prepare today to succeed tomorrow. Through a thumbs up, high five, comet recognition, kind word, smile or a big shout out, we can support each other on a daily basis. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with me. My door is always open, so please stop by and say hello. I am looking forward to a great school year!

Dalila Serrano, Interim Principal

From the High School Assistant Principal

As the summer heat begins to melt away and the cool breezes and bright colors of autumn return, it signals one thing, the beginnings of the new school year! Whether it makes you happy (parents) or sad (students) the 2018-19 school year has arrived. So, welcome back! The 2018-19 school year will be a special one for the Fallsburg Central School District. This year will be the 60th year of the Jr. Sr. High School. During the year, several events will be planned to commemorate this occasion.

As a new year arrives, there are always changes that occur. Here are some of the important ones for students and parents to be aware of as September 5th, the first day of school, approaches.

Change at the top

As many of you are aware, Mr. Williams, Fallsburg's Jr. Sr. High School principal for the last decade, is now the Superintendent of Schools for the Tri-Valley school district. We wish Mr. Williams well in his new role as the leader of our neighbors to the north! We would also like to welcome Ms. Dalila Serrano, our new interim principal. Ms. Serrano has extensive administrative experience. Please take a moment to read her biography in this issue of the newsletter.

School Starts Earlier

The school day will now begin 14 minutes earlier. The first bell will now ring at 7:51 AM. Homeroom bell will ring at 7:56 AM and first period (A) will begin at 8:00 AM. The school day will then end earlier as well. Dismissal will be at 2:38 P.M. instead of 2:52 PM. This change will limit the number of H period interruptions. For a complete bell schedule check the website. The new start time will not affect morning pick-up times. We started the daily schedule earlier because all students were already in the building by about 7:45 AM with the regular morning bus run. So, to eliminate "dead time," we decided to start the day earlier since kids were already present.

Huge New Class

This year's incoming 7th grade is the largest that Fallsburg has seen in a very long time. There presently are 140 students in the class. Because of this, a fourth lunch period has been added. This year the 7th grade will eat in the first lunch period, the juniors and the seniors will have the second, the freshman and sophomores the third and the eighth grade the fourth. For the complete daily schedule, check the website.

New Staff

Please welcome to the Jr/Sr. High School Mr. Brandon Lungren - 7th grade Social Studies; Ms. Alicia Motter - Physics and Middle School Science.

Marathon Begins

I always like to use the analogy of the school year being a marathon and not a sprint. During the year, there will be highs and lows. Try to limit the lows and get off to a good start. Remember your effort will determine your level of success. Have a great year!

Frank Godlweski

Sports Update

Varsity sports started on August 13, 2018 but there is still time to join. Please see Athletic Director Lenzian or the head coach for more information. Please do not forget the medical paperwork from Ms. Lindsey.

Modified sports will start the first day of school, September 5th. All students interested should go to the cafeteria after school to meet their coach and get the necessary paperwork.

Once again, this year we will be utilizing the NYSPHSAA Hazing prevention course with all athletics teams for identification, presentation and discussion on the topic. Each coach will review the presentation with all athletes prior to the first game. More information can be found here:

<http://www.nysphsaa.org/Educational-Programs/Hazing-Prevention>

First home games of the year:

- Football** Varsity, September 7, 6:30pm at Morningside Park
Modified, September 29, 10:00am at Morningside Park
- Boys Soccer** Varsity, September 7, 4:30pm at the JSHS soccer field.
Modified, September 14 at 4:15pm at BCES soccer field.
- Girls Soccer** Varsity, August 30, 4:15pm at the JSHS soccer field.
Modified, September 28, 4:30pm at the JSHS soccer field.
- Volleyball** All games played at away sites due to construction project.
- Cross Country** Varsity, September 11, 4:00pm, at the Cross Country trail.
Modified, September 25, 4:15pm, at the Cross Country trail.

Physical Education/Health

The Physical Education team has been working hard to create a district wide plan. The final step is to review the grading policy K-12 to provide transparency and consistency in grading practices. In all health classes will we be expanding our mental health unit to encompass the state mandates.

Wellness

Wellness Meetings for 2018-2019 will begin at 2pm in the MS BOE Room.

- September 12
- November 28
- January 9
- March 27
- May 15

Meetings held at Cosor Café:

- October 10
- December 12
- February 13
- April 29
- June 12

Suzanne Lenzian

Alumni Association

On July 14th, the Fallsburg Alumni Association recognized retired BCES Reading Specialist Robin Pantel for her dedication and commitment to our community and to the Born to Read program through Delta Kappa Gamma.

Other recipients of awards included Alumnus Honoree, Charles Davis; FAA Award Recipients: Anastasia Baer, Iris Mancina, Sadie Caballero, Justin Mednick and Rashaad Nurse. The Sheryl Kalter Memorial Award went to Ayanna Princivil and the Robynne Anderman Award recipient was Justin Mednick. The Class of '68 50th Reunion Awards went to Sierra Barbiani, Elixabeth Lake, Rachel Collura, and Kaitlyn Simms. The FCSD Hall of Fame Inductees were Jack Ingber and Spencer Tunick.



Board of Education Member Shawn Wiles receives a plaque of appreciation for six terms of service from Board President Debra Barbiani on June 20th, 2018 at his last Board meeting.

2018-2019 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	10, 19
OCTOBER	8
NOVEMBER	2, 21-23
DECEMBER	24-31
JANUARY	1, 21
FEBRUARY	18
MARCH	0
APRIL	14-18
MAY	27

SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER	16	+ 1 CONFERENCE
OCTOBER	22	
NOVEMBER	17	+ 1 CONFERENCE
DECEMBER	14	+ 1 CONFERENCE
JANUARY	21	
FEBRUARY	19	
MARCH	20	+ 1 CONFERENCE
APRIL	17	
MAY	22	
JUNE	18	

TOTAL 186 + 4 CONF = 190

MAKE-UP DAYS

Day 1	2/18
Day 2	4/15
Day 3	4/16
Day	4/17

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

GIVE BACK DAYS

If 1 snow day remains:	5/24
If 2 remain:	5/24, 5/28
If 3 remain:	5/24, 5/28, 4/22
If 4 remain:	5/24, 5/28, 4/22, 4/23
If 5 remain:	5/24, 5/28, 4/22, 4/23, 4/24
If 6 remain:	5/24, 5/28, 4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/25
If 7 remain:	5/24, 5/28, 4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/25, 4/12
If 8 remain:	5/24, 5/28, 4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/25, 4/12, 3/8
If 9 remain:	5/24, 5/28, 4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/25, 4/12, 3/8, 2/15
If 10 remain:	5/24, 5/28, 4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/25, 4/12, 3/8, 2/15, 2/19

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 • Ms. Renee Kates • Dr. Stephanie Phillips •
- Ms. Katherine Rappaport • Ms. Jennifer Reinhardt • Mr. Sean Wall-Carty • Mr. Michael Weiner •

“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
Ms. Leighanne Russell	Pupil Personnel Director	434-6800 Ext. 1273
Ms. Dalila Serrano	Interim High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
Mr. Frank Godlewski	High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2207
Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour	Elementary Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3206
Mr. David Viglione	Elementary Assistant 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	DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
9/3	School Closed			9/19	School Closed		
9/4	Superintendent's Conference Day			10/3	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7pm	MS Bd. Rm
9/5	SCHOOL BEGINS Board of Ed. Mtg.	7pm	MS Bd. Rm.	10/8	School Closed		
9/10	School Closed			10/17	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7pm	MS Bd. Rm.
9/18	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7pm	MS Bd. Rm.	11/11	Superintendent's Conference Day		
				11/12	School Closed		