

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

January 2021

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Dear School Community Member:

First of all, I would like to wish us, one and all, the very best of everything in 2021. 2020 was quite a challenging year and, while we still have remaining challenges in front of us, at various levels, my hope is that we will overcome them all as the weeks and months pass by. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on a few items.

Our Food Service Rocks!

On Wednesday, December 23, 2020, we sent out 5 days' worth of breakfasts and lunches in specially packaged meal kits and on Wednesday, December 30 we sent out 4 days' worth of breakfast and lunches. All said, we served approximately 13,000 meals.

The frozen meal boxes were located in a freezer trailer that was parked near the BCES cafeteria. Food Service workers worked hand in hand with Rolling V staff so that

the meals could be loaded and delivered to our Fallsburg families. As Superintendent of Schools, I could not be prouder of this team effort to support Fallsburg families.

I want to add my personal congratulations to senior, Cody Harvey on his wonderful achievement of being recognized as one of only 25 students in New York State to be nominated by the New York State Education Department for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. I know he will continue to be a source of pride to himself, his family, and the Fallsburg community.

Thank you.

Dr. Ivan J. Katz, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools

FCSD Provided 13,000 Meals to Students During Winter Break

Ever since the "normal" school day had to be altered because of the Covid-19 pandemic last March, Fallsburg Central School District has ensured that school children received breakfast and lunch every Monday through Friday when school was in session and over the past summer as well.

This great effort was only possible because the District's Food Services staff, with the help of custodial staff, worked early morning shifts and late in the day to prepare the meals and all the packaging. Rolling V Bus Company was the essential partner to make the deliveries.

With families still struggling in the throes of Covid-19 and its disruption in the community, Fallsburg CSD served 13,000 meals to students over the winter break. The District has rented a refrigerated truck to store the needed food. "We realize that the holiday season, amid a difficult and challenging pandemic, can and does cause strife for many families," said FCSD School Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz. "Our hope is that by providing meals to our students, families had one less thing to worry about and our kids got fed."



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Welcome Ms. Gregory – Again!

Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz officially announced to staff and on the District Facebook page, the appointment of Ms. Charlotte Gregory as interim Principal of Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School. She is a lifelong educator with several decades of experience, and she is very familiar to FCSD. In 2005, Ms. Gregory served as interim Superintendent of Schools, preparing the District for a transition to a new school superintendent who took over in 2006, Dr. Katz.

Ms. Gregory retired as a School Superintendent in the mid 1990's and is now serving in her 17th stint as an interim administrator. Fallsburg is proud to welcome her back in her interim role that supports the Junior-Senior High School to prepare for a transition to a new principal.

The process for a principal search has already begun. Principal applicants have been reviewed and screening interviews are taking place this week and next week. Following the screening interviews, qualified candidates will be invited back to be interviewed by stakeholder groups made up of board members, school staff at various levels, parents and students. Following these interviews, the top candidate will be recommended to the Board of Education for appointment. Superintendent Katz is hopeful that this entire process will conclude in the month of January.



MS. CHARLOTTE GREGORY

Beginning of the Hybrid Model of Teaching in FCSD

A beautiful feeling of excitement arose as parents and bus drivers returned to Benjamin Cosor Elementary School to drop off their children wearing masks and warm coats. This was the first day of in-school classes after almost nine months of closed school buildings, without children and



signs welcomed students back to the school building. Cold and rainy weather were no obstacles for all the warm hearts aglow on the road to and in the halls of Benjamin Cosor Elementary.

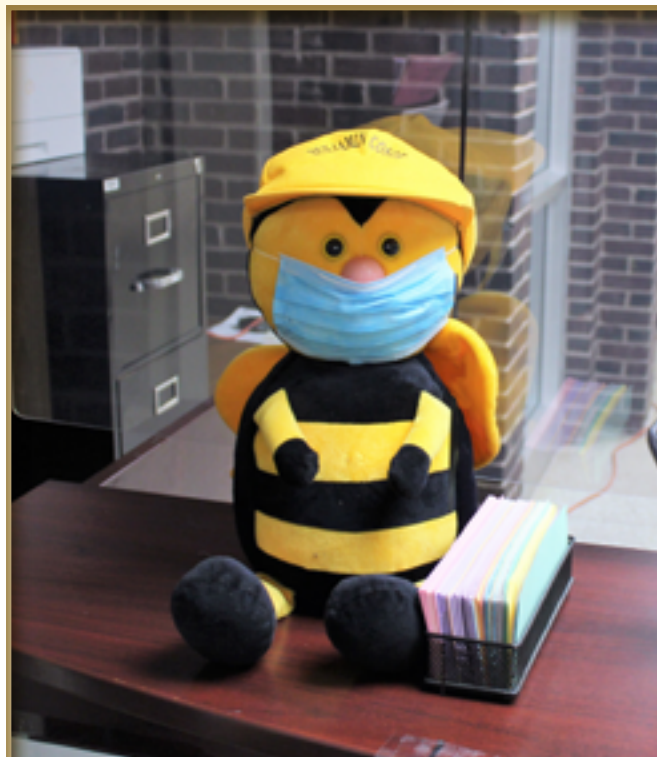
The system lasted for two weeks until a staff member tested positive for the Covid virus put the District into remote teaching only. Hybrid model classes will resume after the New Year's break. Everyone is hopeful that the new vaccines can bring the schools back to normal as early as possible in the coming year.

their teachers enjoying each other's company.

Everyone had been experiencing a sense of loss, loss of structure, loss of companionship, loss of the close connection that a normal school day creates. The so-called "new normal" was challenging and uprooting in so many ways. On November 30, one could see the smiles on the teacher's faces, on the welcoming faces of custodians, cafeteria workers and administrative staff. They were so glad to be where they longed to be. Virtual classes are just not the same as being in a live

classroom. Even with masks on, you could see the smiling faces of the young children, their parents and school personnel.

Welcome to the Hybrid Model at FCSD. Ribbons, balloons, and bright



From the Jr/Sr High School Assistant Principal

Hello and Happy 2021 to everyone!

I am happy to share that our January 5, 2021 re-opening for hybrid instruction went very smoothly. It has been wonderful to welcome students back into our building physically and be able to provide key educational services while in person. Information has been shared about providing families with the opportunity to begin hybrid instruction by contacting their counselors by January 12, 2021 for the upcoming third marking period.

I would like to remind everyone of the importance of maintaining appropriate social distancing and hygiene protocols as we continue to operate within the hybrid model. Student desks are spaced 6 feet apart and cafeteria tables have been replaced with individual student desks that are spaced appropriately as well. There are floor markers in the halls to denote six feet of space as students move between periods. There are hand sanitizer stations in each classroom and multiple sinks throughout the hallways. I would like to thank our custodial team for ensuring that our student desks and spaces are cleaned throughout the day and that everyone works hard to do their part to ensure the health and safety of our school community.

SGA and PBIS will also be bringing back selected celebrations such as "Honor Roll" and "On a Roll" ceremonies, to celebrate students who have earned such accolades and I look forward to attending these events, along with additional opportunities to work alongside our school community members.

I wish you all a wonderful start to 2021 and am looking forward to a #FallsburgStrong second term!

Sincerely,

Shana Bruestle

Fallsburg Senior Recognized



Senior Cody Harvey is top of his class and will be the Comets' valedictorian this June. While that's impressive in its own right, so is the fact that he is one of only 25 students nominated by the New York State Education Department for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The U. S. Presidential Scholars Program is among the nation's highest honors for high school students.

"His peers and teachers would agree that he is one of the most humble and determined individuals in the student body," said NYS Senator Jen Metzger who initially nominated Cody for the program. Beyond the classroom, Cody is an accomplished student athlete on the Fallsburg Track Team, a member of the National Honor Society, and serves

in many school clubs, including the Environmental Club and Senior Math Team. Cody put it best when asked about his goals for the future, saying "I want to be able to help people, those directly around me as well as people I may never meet." Ms. Metzger added a thank you to Interim Commissioner of Education Dr. Betty Rosa for recognizing this promising, community-minded young man

who has distinguished himself academically among his peers.

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects honors scholars annually based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals. Application is by invitation only.

The U.S. Department of Education will issue invitations in January from among those students nominated by Chief State School Officers and from a pool based on scores on the SAT or ACT. Semifinalists will be notified in mid-April and Scholars will be notified in May. Students chosen as U.S. Presidential Scholars

receive a U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion. "The news really surprised me," Harvey said. "I didn't expect it at all. It's really an honor."

Cody is currently undecided as to which college he will attend, but plans to study computer science, which he says, "is going to be really big in the world going forward." In his down time, Cody enjoys playing games on his PC, talking with friends and playing the piano. On his experiences at Fallsburg, Cody said, "I like how it has broadened my horizon more than I've expected. I met a lot of people and did a lot of things that I didn't expect to." Fallsburg Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ivan Katz has high praises for Cody. "Cody Harvey is a scholar, an athlete and someone who cares about his school community," said Dr. Katz. "As Superintendent of Schools I am exceptionally proud of Cody, not just because of what he has done in the classroom and on the athletic fields, but because of the great things he will do when he passes through the schoolhouse gate and enters a brand-new world where he will make his own mark and make the Fallsburg Central School district proud."

FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

From the Elementary Principal

Dear parents, students and community members,

On behalf of the BCES staff, I would like to wish each and every one of you a safe, healthy and happy New Year! 2020 wasn't always kind to us. We had many challenges to face and difficult decisions to make. Many of us, our friends, or family members, experienced illness and loss. But through it all, we had each other. In times of despair, we need to look for those rays of hope.

2020 did provide hope. It did make us more resilient. It did bring us closer together as a family and as a community. 2020 made us realize the importance of not taking people or things for granted. It made us cherish our time spent together. We have grown to appreciate one another; be thankful for the support we have received; and know that, no matter what, we all did the best we could.

We are grateful for the support and words of encouragement we received so often from our parents and community members and are looking forward to supporting and encouraging one another in 2021.

Be safe. Be well. Be strong.

Mary Kate Stinehour
BCES Principal
mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net

From the Elementary Assistant Principal

Once Again, Hello Everyone!

As I write this article, it is December 22nd, and everyone is excited about the Holiday Break. I sincerely hope that everyone gets to experience some "downtime," and, in



anticipation of our January 5th return to the hybrid learning model, "recharges his/her batteries."

Mrs. Stinehour and I are looking forward to seeing everyone again. While Benjamin Cosor Elementary School is a very nice building,

it, without the students, lacks that "certain something" that makes it a special place.

We all look forward to getting back to the business of preparing the next generation of leaders.

Dave Viglione

Assistant Principal
dviglione@fallsburgcsd.net

From the Office of Pupil Personnel Services

District Programs & Services - Students with Disabilities

The Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) department is responsible for the evaluation, placement, and service provision of and for students with disabilities as defined by the Part 200 of the Commissioner's Regulations and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). This act mandates a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Special Education means specially designed individualized or group instruction or special services or programs provided at no cost to the parent, to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. Special education programs and services are designed to assure that children with disabilities receive appropriate and equal opportunities for educational growth.

Programs & Services Offered Within The District

Related Services

Related services can be provided either individually or in a group of no more than five students with similar needs. Services can be provided as a pull-out (non-integrated) or a push-in (integrated) service.

Integrated Co-Teaching Services

Commonly referred to as Inclusion Classes, students receive their instruction alongside their grade appropriate peers. They are participating in the general education curriculum in a co-teaching setting. They are provided with the modifications, accommodations and supports necessary to enable them to successfully learn the curriculum and meet the state standards. Secondary Students are recommended into inclu-

sion classes based on their level of need in each subject area.

Special Classes

12:1:1 special classes consist of students with disabilities who have been grouped together because of similar individual needs for the purpose of being provided specially designed instruction on a daily basis. Students are integrated for lunch, specials, and recess.

Sincerely,

Leighanne Russell,

Director of Pupil Personnel Services

2020-21 SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
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31																											

MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
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30	31																										

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

SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER	7, 28
OCTOBER	12
NOVEMBER	11, 25 - 27
DECEMBER	23-31
JANUARY	1, 4, 18
FEBRUARY	12, 15
MARCH	12, 26, 29-31
APRIL	1, 2, 5
MAY	21, 28, 31

MAKE-UP DAYS

Day 1	5/21
Day 2	5/28

SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER	15	+ 1 CONFERENCE
OCTOBER	20	+ 1 CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER	17	+ 1 CONFERENCE
DECEMBER	17	
JANUARY	19	
FEBRUARY	19	
MARCH	20	
APRIL	20	
MAY	19	+ 1 CONFERENCE
JUNE	19	
TOTAL	185	+ 4 CONF = 189

Amended: 1/11/21

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 ★ Ms. Renee Kates ★ Ms. Fiorella Muscia ★
★ Ms. Katherine Rappaport ★ Ms. Jennifer Reinhardt ★ Dr. 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. Sally M. Sharkey Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1204
Mr. Daniel Grecco Jr.	Business Manager	434-6800 Ext. 1219
Ms. Jane Tingley	Director of Staff Evaluation & Student Data	434-6800 Ext. 1257
Ms. Leighanne Russell	Pupil Personnel Director	434-6800 Ext. 1273
Ms. Michele McCoy	Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services	434-6800 Ext. 1276
Ms. Charlotte Gregory	Interim High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
Mrs. Shana Bruestle	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
Dr. Aleta Lymon	Family & Community Liaison	434-6800 Ext. 1223
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.

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

Jan. 20, 2021

Feb. 3, 2021

Feb. 17, 2021

Mar. 3, 2021

Mar. 17, 2021

Apr. 7, 2021

Apr. 20, 2021

May 5, 2021

May 18, 2021

June 2, 2021

June 16, 2021

Here is the link to join a Board of Education meeting: meet.google.com/ams-jbov-grd

Phone number to call in: 1-575-459-0023 (PIN: 343634508)