

# FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

WINTER 2020-2021

EDITOR - SHELLEY MARCUS ☆ ASSOCIATE EDITOR - SARAH SATZ ☆ CONTRIBUTING EDITOR - LARRY SCHAFMAN

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear School Community Member:

I hope this update finds you in the very best of health and spirit. As I write this update, it is Election Day 2020. It is getting very cold outside and the national pandemic has not yet subsided.

Recently, my health took an unexpected turn and I am now at home recovering so that I may soon return to my work full time. I must apologize for being unable to work in person in the district.

I realize that the district has been on a rollercoaster ride since the COVID-19 Pandemic touched down last March. We have made re-opening plans that have had to be redone and re-adjusted to address various circumstances beyond our control. This has not been easy for anyone and I would like to take this moment to thank you for hanging in there with us.

I would like to start by thanking our families for everything you are going through to make remote learning work. When the hybrid model begins shortly, I hope it will be met with the kind of success I believe that our Fallsburg Comets are capable of. I would like to thank our forward thinking Board of Education for continuing to make the necessary

tough decisions that allows FCSD to be on the right track all year long.

And then there is our staff, those responsible for everything that happens at the ground level. Administrators, teachers, support staff, cleaners, custodians, cafeteria workers and everyone involved in the educational process. Not everyone realized what these dedicated professionals do on a daily basis, but I do and appreciate them more than I can say.

As Superintendent of Schools. I am blessed to work with these great people. While I am temporarily out of commission, I find solace knowing that FCSD is in great, caring and loving hands. I look forward to healing as quickly as possible and look forward to seeing everyone soon. Happy holidays one and all, may this holiday season bring you the best of everything.

Thank you.

*Dr. Ivan J. Katz,* Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools

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## FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Since last March, when our lives and our schools changed drastically, we have learned much about this pandemic. As we get ready to welcome students back into our buildings, I was thinking about the last 8 months and what we have learned.

- We have learned that Covid outbreaks can happen anywhere and it is airborne.
- We have learned that people can be infectious and never show symptoms or become sick.
- We have also learned that the warm weather will not stop the virus and that masks do work.
- We have learned that some of us are facing social emotional issues and are struggling.

In addition to all the things we have learned about the virus, more importantly, we have learned about ourselves, our families and surviving in a pandemic. Just think about all the things that our schools and stakeholders have done and are doing.

Our schools and community have stepped up to the plate to support each other like never before. Our teachers and administrators are working tirelessly to provide learning opportunities to an isolated student population. Staff members are providing extra support for students reaching out via email, phone calls and through Google classrooms.

The cafeteria staff and bus drivers are making sure to prepare and deliver food to support our children almost every day. School staff are making home visits to deliver messages, provide connections, encourage engagement, and provide needed technology and tech solutions so students stay engaged.

Starting last September, additional meal deliveries were made by a group of volunteers in their own vehicles. The local Rotary and Lions Clubs hired the restaurant, A Single Bite, to prepare meals which volunteers delivered for many months.

Recently, Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, along with our own family liaison, Dr. Aleta Lymon, delivered 50 coats to Fallsburg students in our district to prepare for the upcoming winter. Our local Elks Organization and the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center are also donating winter clothing items. Our 'anonymous community member' has once again offered support this year.

These selfless, dedicated people and organizations are working with our staff to support those who need help. If you think about it, we are truly here for each other in so many ways whether it is visible or behind the scenes. It is a comforting thought in such trying times.

I hope you are inspired by the efforts of the people who are supporting this community. We can all support and lift each other up, whether it is a phone call, a video chat, a letter, a small gift or gesture, or maybe sending a snack or meal. Every little bit helps. We will get through this, and we will be stronger as a community because of it.

Be well,

*Sally M. Sharkey, Ed.D.*





## From the Interim High School Principal

### Hybrid News

On November 30, 2020, we will return to school under a hybrid model. Students in the Jr./Sr. High School will physically be present in the building for two days and will learn remotely the other three days. There will be two cohorts. The A cohort will attend in person on Monday and Tuesday, while the B will attend in person on Thursday and Friday. The school day will change from the 9:30-2:30 schedule to the pre-Covid "normal" schedule of 7:51-2:38. **THIS SCHEDULE WILL GO INTO EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 23.** We will use the new schedule remotely for the two days before Thanksgiving to help everyone acclimate to the transition.

### New Faces

Effective November 23, 2020, the Jr./Sr. High School will have new leadership. Ms. Charlotte Gregory will be taking over as the new interim principal until a permanent replacement can be found. Ms. Gregory has been an administrator in several Sullivan County schools including Fallsburg where she served as the interim superintendent before Dr. Katz.

Approximately fifty children and adults in the South Fallsburg area were gifted with new winter coats, hats, gloves, and boots donated to Fallsburg Central School District by Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther. Ironically, Kristen Meyer, guidance secretary, and Dr. Aleta Lymon, Family and Community Liaison had already compiled a list of families that were in need. These large families were selected for the coats based on requests from parents for food, clothing and other items that were also donated by Fallsburg staff. Assistant Principal, Shana Bruestle; Director of Athletics, Suzanne Lenzian; and Dr. Lymon organized the coats by sizes. The coats were delivered to the families the same day. According to Dr. Lymon, the need is still great. The loss of jobs earlier in the year due to the pandemic has caused a lot of hardship for families who were already living from paycheck-to-paycheck. Everyone's situation is different. The families were incredibly grateful for the assistance. If anyone is still in need, please contact the high school office.

*Frank Godlewski*

# FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## From the Elementary Principal

As we prepare for our start in a hybrid (a mixture of in-person and remote learning) model, we would like to remind our families of the importance of maintaining and supporting a healthy approach to stopping the spread of contagions.

### Temperature checks:

Each morning, prior to your child heading off to school, we strongly encourage parents/guardians to take your child's temperature. If your child has an elevated temperature (close to 100°), you must keep him/her at home.

When your child arrives at school, we will be taking his/her temperature. If your child has an elevated temperature (close to 100°) he/she will NOT be allowed to enter the main building. Your child will be escorted to a designated area and you will be called to immediately pick your child up.

### Hand washing:

If you haven't already done so, please model and practice with your child appropriate hand washing. Your child should be washing his/her hands before going to school and immediately upon returning home from school.

Children should be encouraged to keep their hands/fingers away from their face, especially their eyes, nose, and mouth.

We can all agree that the health and well-being of your child and all the children in our community are our number one priority. We must be sure that children who are showing signs of illness, including those who have a temperature remain home so we can minimize the risk of spreading any infectious disease.

We are looking forward to seeing our children soon! We wish you and your family the best of health!

*Mary Kate Stinehour*  
BCES Principal  
[mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net)

## From the Elementary Assistant Principal

Hello everyone!

As I write this article, it is with the understanding that, beginning on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, the students will be back at school! Mrs. Stinehour and I are very excited and are looking forward to welcoming everyone back!

However, I have to remind everyone that, while we are eager to see everyone, we must remember that we have to maintain our COVID-19 Social Distancing Protocols.

### We must remember to:

- Maintain a six-foot distance from each other.  
We have set up the classrooms to ensure that everyone stays a safe distance from each other. The desks are six (6) feet apart, and, in most classrooms, there is a two (2)-foot wide walking/passing aisle between the students' desk areas.
- Wash our hands frequently.  
Teachers will remind the students that they (the students) need to wash their hands many times a day. It is especially important for the students to wash before and after they eat their breakfast and lunch.
- Refrain from sharing our food and drinks.
- We all like to share. It's fun to trade lunches. However, in this time, during which we are battling the spread of an infectious disease, it is so very important to keep instances of close interactions to a minimum. Therefore, we need to eat our own food.

Working together, we can make the transition back to our in-school/hybrid model as safe and as smooth as we can.

*Dave Vigilione*

Assistant Principal  
[dviglione@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:dviglione@fallsburgcsd.net)

The 2020-21 school year is off to a successful start. Through the Covid-19 pandemic, the Fallsburg community has come together to support our students in amazing ways. School staff have found new ways to make connections to our students, parents, and families through the use of technology. Students, parents, and families have risen to the occasion to meet the challenges remote learning presents.

Students have been participating in their live Google Meets with school staff with increased success as they become more accustomed to remote learning. We have learned that schedules are very helpful to keep track of the numerous sessions students participate in on any given day. If you have questions regarding your son/daughter's schedule or need assistance creating their schedule, please contact your child's special education teacher.

Special education staff have been meeting with students through live Google Meets since the beginning of the school year to ensure our students have access to their specialized instruction. Related services such as speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and psychological counseling services also meet with students through Google Meets. It is extremely important that students participate in their specialized instruction, as well as their related services, so they can continue to progress in all their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals

For our special education students who are due for reevaluation testing, school staff will be reaching out to parents to schedule an individual testing session in accordance with all health and safety protocols. We greatly appreciate you making your child available for testing, as this will enable us to better meet our student's needs. Subsequent reevaluation Committee of Special Education meetings will be scheduled and held through Google Meets. Parents will continue to receive a meeting invitation as well as a phone call in advance of the meeting with the details on how to participate in the meeting via phone or computer.

We want to express our appreciation to our parents who have truly stepped in and stepped up to support their children in remote learning. As parents ourselves, we realize that remote learning adds one more responsibility to an already full plate. The fact that your son/daughter is doing well, is no doubt, in large part, because of YOU!

Sincerely,

*Leighanne Russell,*

Director of Pupil Personnel Services

*Michele McCoy,*

Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services

## A Special Diploma for a Special Woman

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Sally Sharkey, drove up to Albany to the home of Ms. Rhodesia Jones on the evening of September 16, 2020. She was bringing her a high school graduation diploma from Fallsburg Central School District. A former student in the District, Rhodesia was unable to complete her secondary education because she chose to serve in the United States Armed Forces during the Gulf War from 1996-2003. She was one of the first female truck drivers in her assignment.

In accordance with Section 29C of the New York State Education Law, the Commissioner of Education is required to develop a program whereby any veteran

of the armed forces who has served on active duty, and who was unable, for any reason, to complete a secondary education, may be awarded a high school diploma based on knowledge and experience gained while in service. Proudly, Dr. Sharkey telephoned into the virtual Board of Education meeting to introduce Ms. Jones and turned the program over to Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz.

Dr. Katz said, "Dear members of the Board of Education, as Superintendent of Schools, it is my honor and great pleasure to present to you the newest graduate of the Fallsburg Central School District, Rhodesia Jones. Thank you for your service to our country and to this school district. Fallsburg is proud of you

and your accomplishments. You are an inspiration to all Fallsburg Graduates."

Dr. Sharkey presented Ms. Jones the diploma. You can see how happy she is to earn this honor in the attached photo, smiling and in her cap and gown. The Board members and the Superintendent shared in the graduate's happiness on this memorable evening. Can you imagine how much joy Dr. Sharkey must have felt during the ride up and back from Albany? It was an evening that everyone participating will never forget.



## Sports Update

At this time, ALL interscholastic athletics are suspended at ALL levels. Although we are doing everything we can to bring students back to the building and reignite the after school scene, we do not expect to operate after school programming until at least January 2021. At this time, Fallsburg does not plan to go to the armory for indoor track.

En este momento, TODOS los deportes interescolares están suspendidos en TODOS los niveles. Aunque estamos haciendo todo lo posible para traer a los estudiantes de regreso al edifi-

cio y reavivar las actividades después de clases, no esperamos operar la programación después de clases hasta al menos enero de 2021.

En este momento, Fallsburg no planea ir a la armería (armory) para el atletismo interior.

*Suzanne M. Lendzian,* CAA

Director of Physical Education and Athletics



# 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
		1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
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						
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
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29						28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

  

MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
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
						1			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	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

### 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**

### MAKE-UP DAYS

Day 1	.....	2/15
Day 2	.....	3/29
Day 3	.....	3/30
Day	.....	3/31

*\* 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:	.....	5/28
If 2 remain:	.....	5/28, 5/21
If 3 remain:	.....	5/28, 5/21, 4/5
If 4 remain:	.....	5/28, 5/21, 4/5, 4/6
If 5 remain:	.....	5/28, 5/21, 4/5, 4/6, 4/7
If 6 remain:	.....	5/28, 5/21, 4/5, 4/6, 4/7, 4/8
If 7 remain:	.....	5/28, 5/21, 4/5, 4/6, 4/7, 4/8, 4/9
If 8 remain:	.....	5/28, 5/21, 4/5, 4/6, 4/7, 4/8, 4/9, 3/26
If 9 remain:	.....	5/28, 5/21, 4/5, 4/6, 4/7, 4/8, 4/9, 3/26, 3/12

*Amended: 2/5/20*



# 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...

<b>Dr. Ivan J. Katz Ed.D.</b>	Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1215
<b>Dr. Sally M. Sharkey Ed.D.</b>	Assistant Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1204
<b>Mr. Daniel Grecco Jr.</b>	Business Manager	434-6800 Ext. 1219
<b>Ms. Jane Tingley</b>	Director of Staff Evaluation & Student Data	434-6800 Ext. 1257
<b>Ms. Leighanne Russell</b>	Pupil Personnel Director	434-6800 Ext. 1273
<b>Ms. Michele McCoy</b>	Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services	434-6800 Ext. 1276
<b>Mr. Frank Godlewski</b>	Interim High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
<b>Mrs. Shana Brueste</b>	High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2207
<b>Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour</b>	Elementary Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3206
<b>Mr. David Viglione</b>	Elementary Assistant Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3204
<b>Ms. Suzanne Lenzian</b>	Director of Physical Education & Athletics	434-6800 Ext. 2212
<b>Dr. Aleta Lymon</b>	Family & Community Liaison	434-6800 Ext. 1223
<b>Central Registration</b>		434-6800 Ext. 1222
<b>Tax Collection</b>		434-6800 Ext. 1219

### FAX NUMBERS...

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

### 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](http://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](mailto:tax@fallsburgcsd.net).

## Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

**Dec. 2, 2020**

**Feb. 3, 2021**

**Dec. 16, 2020**

**Feb. 17, 2021**

**Jan. 6, 2021**

**Mar. 3, 2021**

**Jan. 20, 2021**

**Mar. 17, 2021**

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

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