

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

AUTUMN 2020

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear School Community Member:

I hope this newsletter finds you in the very best of health and spirit as we prepare for a new school year.

We have started a brand-new school year with challenges we all hoped would disappear with the close of the last school year. We are faced with unimaginable and ever-changing health threats and societal realities that have set the national backdrop as we begin a new school year.

But, as every metaphorical cloud is said to have a silver lining, ours is the new opportunity to deliver education in a much better way than we did when the pandemic closure was thrust upon us last March.

We opened this new school year with opportunities in the form of flexibilities that we have not had in the past. The silver lining is comprised of new opportunities for innovation, creativity, and flexibility.

Our collective planning, learning and work will bring our students closer to a new version of a quality, equitable, engaging, and safe education. Today that exists in a remote learning format. Tomorrow it will evolve further as we advance to a hybrid model and, ultimately, a return to in-person education five days a week.

One undeniable truth that can motivate us all is that no matter what obstacle is put in front of us, this school community rises

above it. The work done these past months by so many devoted, and selfless individuals is testimony to that.

There is no doubt that our reopening plans have been one challenge after another. The complexities that go into addressing the guidance and requirements of the Centers for Disease Control, the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department are complex at best.

This has not been an easy process because we all know that there are no easy answers that will serve to satisfy everyone. I can tell you though that the health, safety and welfare of students and staff continues to be the chief, decision-making driver.

While this school year is different than any other school year in education history, we will continue to work as a school community team to serve our students, staff and families. Thank you for the feedback you've given us and the patience you've shown us leading up to the opening of a new school year. I truly believe that our collective efforts will make this year a successful one, given all of the challenges we continue to face.

Thank you.

Ivan J. Katz, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools

IN THIS ISSUE...

DISTRICT NEWS	PAGE	2
SCHOOL NEWS	PAGES	3-5
2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR	PAGE	6
SCHOOL CONTACTS/STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS 2020-2021	PAGE	7

As we welcome our students back to schools, our goal remains unchanged: to provide a quality education to each of our students. Whether we are in the physical school buildings or in a remote learning environment, we must prioritize addressing the myriad of challenges and barriers that have arisen in the wake of the pandemic.

After we realized that the unexpected closure of school last spring was not as temporary as we had hoped, we set out to improve our pedagogical approach. Many students lost focus and motivation given the uncertainty they felt in a morphing educational environment. As such, the entire school community is working, and will continue to work, fastidiously to tweak curriculum, refine resources, and augment instructional delivery. Gaps in learning must be closed. Students must feel incentivized. This requires administration and faculty to continue to place a premium on maintaining flexibility, collaboration, and critical assessments of our benchmarks. As we launch into hybrid and fully remote models of learning, assessments of our educational efficacy will be as thorough and consistent as they were prior to the pandemic. While our ultimate goal is to return to direct classroom instruction, safety must take precedent.

We fully realize that this is not only a struggle for students and teachers, but also for parents and families. In order to support families, we will continue to hold informational parent and community meetings that directly address your questions and concerns. We have also been sending out resources and information across all of our communication systems that include guidance from Sullivan County Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control.

Please continue to read all communications, check our website, and let us know how we can help you. This is an opportunity for us to grow our school and community partnerships. We remain committed to providing for the health, safety and welfare of our students and staff. By modeling flexibility and responsibility, we are confident that our students will learn how to be resilient and confident when faced with change.

Please continue to communicate with us so we can work together to educate our students and support them. Below are links to parent tips for online learning that I found helpful. There are also links on the website under 'parents'. Welcome back to school; I look forward to working with all of you!



Sincerely,

Dr. Sally M. Sharkey

Dr. Sally M. Sharkey Ed. D.

USA TODAY

<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/2020/08/06/covid-19-tips-parents-successful-online-learning-virtual-classes-zoom/3303918001/>

PARENTING

<https://www.theladders.com/career-advice/tips-for-parents-online-learning-with-children>

PTA

<http://toolkit.capta.org/programs/family-engagement/how-to-support-student-learning-at-home/>

FCSD Welcomes Dr. Sally Sharkey

At a special Board of Education Meeting on July 24, 2020, the BOE appointed Dr. Sally Sharkey as the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the Fallsburg Central School District. Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz praised her as a dedicated educator with vast experience in the field of education. She started her career as a teacher in Menands, New York. While teaching in Menands, she also served as Board of Education President in her local school district.

Dr. Sharkey served as Superintendent of Schools for the Cairo Durham School District for seven years. As a school leader, she championed the Greene County school board association in creating shared services to help address the financial challenges that rural districts face.

For her commitment to education in a special time of need, Dr. Sharkey and her team received a legislative commendation for delivering food and supplies to isolated locations in a nearby community when it was devastated by hurricane Irene. This experience will be of great value to the District during the current pandemic. She has served on the New York State Commissioner's Advisory Board and also chaired and worked on legislative committees. Dr. Sharkey's legislative committee work includes advocating for school districts to improve opportunities for students and staff.

Dr. Sharkey has also worked as a human resource director and was an adjunct professor for St. Leo University, teaching graduate educational leadership courses in school law and school and community partnerships. Welcome to FCSD!

Fallsburg Jr-Sr High School 2020 Fall Remote Period Schedule

Period A: 9:30 am to 10:00 am Period B: 10:04 a. to 10:34 am Period C: 10:38 am to 11:08 am

7th Grade

Lunch 1: 11:12 a.m. to 11:42 am
 Period DD: 11:46 am to 12:16 pm
 Period EE: 12:20 p.m. to 12:50 pm
 Period FF: 12:54 pm to 1:24 pm

8th Grade

Period D: 11:12 a.m. to 11:42 am
 Period E: 11:46 a.m. to 12:16 pm
 Period F: 12:20 pm to 12:50 pm
Lunch 4: 12:54 pm to 1:24 pm

9th & 10th Grade

Period D: 11:12 am to 11:42 am
 Period E: 11:46 am to 12:16 pm
Lunch 3: 12:20 pm to 12:50 pm
 Period FF: 12:54 pm to 1:24 pm

11th & 12th Grade

Period D: 11:12 am to 11:42 am
Lunch 2: 11:46 am to 12:16 pm
 Period EE: 12:20 pm to 12:50 pm
 Period FF: 12:54 pm to 1:24 pm

Period G: 1:28 p.m. to 1:58 p.m.

Period H: 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Welcome to the beginning of the Fallsburg JSHS 2020-21 school year!

CoVid 19 has required us to do many things as a society that we never would have believed. Virtual learning is one of them. While this is definitely not the ideal way to begin the school year, it is CRITICAL that everyone is on the same page so that we can effectively use the technology we now have to get the 2020-21 school year off to a great start. Here are some key concepts:

What might a virtual lesson look like?

- a. Compelling opening (Anticipatory set/Motivational hook): Could be a Daily Check In, a Welcome prompt, a Do now...(Can be Social Emotional or Academic based)
- b. Live Google Meet for check-in with whole class to review or preview
- c. Google Meet/Share that may include a video of teacher instructions, notes, demonstrations or a clip to watch for whole group
- d. Small group lesson with teacher
- e. Independent or student collaborative work
- f. Closure (assessment or preview of upcoming lesson, possibly as Google Form)

What can parents/guardians do?

Be sure that your student is logging in EVERY DAY. While there may be scheduling conflicts caused by virtual learning, teachers will be providing instruction and work to do EVERY DAY.

What should students do?

Approach the school day at home as if they were going to school. Get up, get dressed, get ready. Once you log in, be There, be Ready, be Responsible, be Respectful. It is always important to begin the year on a positive note. Your grades are important. They are the path to a successful future.

What can everyone do?

Communicate. Your teachers will reach out to you. If you or your students have any concerns please contact them. If there are any issues, please feel free to contact the Jr./Sr. high School administration.

If all goes well, we will be back in the building and back to "normal" before you know it. We are all looking forward to that!

We also want to take this time to welcome back Mr. Frank Godlewski as the Interim Principal and welcome Mrs. Shana Bruestle as Assistant Principal. We said goodbye to Mrs. Adams as Principal September 21st.

Ms. Dawne Adams

From the Interim High School Principal

As I write this "Welcome Back" article, it occurs to me that it seems like March 16th was yesterday, and we were contemplating what the rest of the year would bring! Since that day, we have continued to work to provide the best educational experience for our students, no matter what the setting. As I reflect upon what so many people have done, I cannot help but feel a sense of pride, as well as sadness.

I am very proud of the work that so many members of the faculty and staff have done. So many people have attended so many meetings, engaged in so many discussions, placed so many phone calls, and have distributed so much material that it boggles the mind. The work ethic of our faculty and staff is second to none!

I am, however, saddened by the fact that even more time will pass before we are able to see each other! I know that I speak for everyone in education when I say that we look forward to the day when we can assume in-person instruction! Until that happy day, stay strong Fallsburg!

Frank Godlewski

Fallsburg CSD Kicks Off School Year

To welcome back students, Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD) held a special parade through thirteen key

locations along school bus routes in the Town of Fallsburg on September 11, 2020. The event was sponsored by the

Comet Chapter of My Brother's Keeper (MBK). Leading the event to its first destination was the Director of Family and Community Engagement and Advisor to MBK, Dr. Aleta Lymon. Following her were a Prestige Production van filled with school supplies and ice cream treats and cars with the Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ivan Katz, BCES Principal Mary Kate Stinehour, and Chair of the FCSD Wellness Committee and Athletic Director Suzanne Lenzian, with her dog Huckleberry.

Also supporting the event were the Advisors to the FHS SGA Elisa Baum and Isabel Mejia; Boys Modified Basketball



Coach Michael Ballard; SGA Volunteers Emily Collura and Tamia Caston; Special Education Teacher Sharon

Blake and her husband Jimmy, who is a cafeteria monitor at BCES; and Prestige staff Corey Gips and Jaison Rivera.



The event observed social distancing protocols and wearing of masks. The van was equipped with music and a sound system, including the jingling bells of an ice cream truck. Bells brought dozens of kids and families streaming out of their homes as the van approached each residence area. This afternoon delight began at BCES at 1:00 PM and ended in the Mountaintale Municipal Lot at 7:00 PM.

“Preparing for remote learning has been a challenge for everyone,” said Dr. Lymon. This event provided a great opportunity for students and parents to ask any remaining questions regarding the challenges of remote learning. Parents also received resources on wi-fi hot spots while their children obtained needed school supplies.



FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to a new year of learning. As you know, because of concerns regarding student safety related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District has chosen, for the first marking period, to utilize the “remote-only” model of instruction.

We realize that many of you have questions and concerns related to this learning model. We hope that the information contained here can answer some of those questions.

When will school begin?

The first instructional day for students was Monday, September 14th. Students

needed to log-on to their Google Classroom on that day for announcements and assignments.

Will meals be provided by the District?

Yes, the Fallsburg Central School District will provide all students who are enrolled in the School Food Authority (SFA) with access to school meals (breakfast and lunch). If you haven't completed the district survey on wanting meals, you must complete the survey in order to receive, or continue to receive, meals. Both meals will be delivered at the same time by bus or you may pick up the meals between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM from the BCES cafeteria, each school day. Meal distribution and delivery will take place with

adherence to all social distancing and safety protocols.

What type of instruction will my child receive?

Students will have access to small and whole group instruction provided by a certified teacher. All assignments will be posted, submitted and graded through Google Classroom. Students will receive live instruction virtually through Google Meet. Your child's teacher will provide a schedule of when the Google Meet will occur. Lessons will be based on New York State learning standards and will be fashioned to meet the needs of the students.

What curriculum will you use?

District-wide, staff will continue to utilize the teaching programs and materials that were in place prior to the pandemic-induced school closure that took place from March through June of 2020. These programs are in alignment with the NYS Learning Standards. Standards-based learning objectives will be posted and shared with students in Google Classroom.

What if we need help with assignments or have questions about assignments?

It is very important that parents maintain open communication with their child's teacher. In addition to the support of the teacher, all students will have virtual access to our teaching assistants who will provide "help desk" opportunities for students during the school day. A "help desk" form will be provided through the district website. This form can be submitted as a help request. You may also contact us for help by sending an email to: bceshelpdesk@fallsburgcsd.net. Please be sure to include your name, your child's name, your child's teacher's name and how you wish to be contacted (email or phone call.) If you would like a return call, a phone number would need to be provided.

Will attendance be taken?

While we are working in the remote-learning model, the District expects that students participate in instruction on a daily basis. Teachers will record daily attendance in schooltool. Online daily attendance may be measured by several methods, which include, but are not limited to:

1. student participates in a Google Meet session,
2. student accesses Google Classroom and responds to a post,
3. student turns in an assignment online through Google Classroom,
4. student responds to a teacher's email or call.

How do I get access to technology?

If needed, the District will provide ChromeBooks and chargers for all students in grades Pre-K through 12. In addition, the District will provide WiFi Hotspots to those in need who have access to a Verizon signal. Those who wish to receive ChromeBooks and/or WiFi Hotspots may contact the district at chromebooks@fallsburgcsd.net.

How do I access Google Classroom?**For District-loaned chromebooks:**

Students should be logging into chromebooks with xxxxx@comets.fallsburgcsd.net, where xxxxxx is their six-digit student ID number.

Pk and K passwords are 12345678

Grade 1 passwords are asdfghjkl

All other student passwords were reset to password on September 11th. Students were prompted to create a password.

For personal devices:

If you do not have a school Chromebook your child should be logging into Classlink with their Google credentials (noted above) from the District Website.

There are online tutorials for parents found on our District website (fallsburgcsd.net) Please watch the two top movies found here: <http://bit.ly/FCSDOLR> or here in Spanish: <http://bit.ly/FCSDRAL>

What if I have questions about technology or the access to technology?

If you have questions about technology or how to access it, you may call 434-6800 x2222 or email at helpdesk@fallsburgcsd.net. Please be sure to provide your name, your child's name, your child's grade level, his/her student ID number and share what you need help with. Someone from the Technology Department will respond to you.

How do I communicate with my child's teacher?

It is very important that parents maintain open communication with their child's teacher. Keeping the school informed of your change of phone number or address is extremely important. Your child's teachers will provide contact information to you. This will include the best way to reach him/her and the times that they are available. Teachers will respond to parent communication, when possible, by the end of the subsequent academic day.

What supplies will my child need?

- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils
- **1 handheld pencil sharpener**
- **1 box pencils**
- 1 pair of Scissors
- (2) Glue Sticks
- **(2) Dry erase markers**
- (1) large plastic pencil case to hold all of the above supplies

- **Small whiteboard or plastic plate (found at the Dollar Store) to use as a whiteboard.**
- **Old sock or piece of cloth to use as an eraser for the whiteboard.**
- **(1) notebook (Grades 3-6)**
- **(1) primary notebook/journal (has larger lines for Grades PreK-2)**
- (1) folder to keep any loose papers in
- **1 pair of headphones or earbuds with a microphone**
- Index Cards (Grade 6 only)

The supplies that are bold and underlined are the most important supplies to have during remote learning. These supplies should be kept in your child's workspace so they are easily accessible during their learning time.

What are my child's expectations?

It is expected that children attend the Google Meet daily and are ready to learn. Google Meets are when direct instruction will be given so it is important for them to attend with little to no distractions.

What are the expectations of the parent?

Parents are expected to support their children in this learning process by providing time for the learning to occur. Creating a schedule is most important. Communicating with your child's teacher and staying in contact with him/her is essential.

We understand that these continue to be challenging times, but together we can support each other to create a successful learning experience for your child.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year. We will continue to keep you updated and informed through letters like these, our District website, announcements through Google Classroom and our BCES Facebook page.

We wish you and your family the best of health and spirits.

Mary Kate Stinehour
BCES Principal
mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net

Dave Viglione
Assistant Principal
dviglione@fallsburgcsd.net

2020-21 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	7, 28
OCTOBER	12
NOVEMBER	11, 26 & 27
DECEMBER	24-31
JANUARY	1, 18
FEBRUARY	15
MARCH	29-31
APRIL	1 & 2
MAY	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...

Dr. Ivan J. Katz	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
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
Mr. Frank Godlewski	Interim High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
Mrs. Shana Brueste	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

Oct. 7, 2020

Oct. 21, 2020

Nov. 4, 2020

Nov. 18, 2020

Dec. 2, 2020

Dec. 16, 2020