

# FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

November 2021

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

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Dear School Community Member:

I hope this fall update finds you in the best of health and spirit. The fall season is fully underway, and we await the upcoming holidays and the winter months which will be arriving shortly. I would like to take a moment and update you on a few areas.

### Building Project Update

The final phase of our building project (security upgrades) is still underway. Supply chain issues have extended the time it is taking to complete this project. I ask that you still excuse our appearance as we await the completion of this project. Upon project completion you will see completed and updated security vestibules at the entrances of both of our buildings. In addition to the vestibules, we have replaced most of the doors in both of our buildings. These security upgrades are being done to protect the health, safety and welfare of our students, staff and visitors.

### Pandemic Update

While the pandemic and pandemic-related issues have continued, we have had in-person instruction in place since the opening of school in September. We have had several positive cases that have required contact tracing and we've even had to move to remote instruction in a couple of instances to address our contact tracing efforts. While we continue to address all Pandemic-related issues, we are committed to maintaining in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible. We know that our kids need to be in school to have the best overall education experience. This sentiment has been shared with me by students, parents, staff and school community members.

Additionally, we are keeping our parents and school community updated on all COVID-19 cases and the contact tracing efforts that go along with these identifications. I do want to continue to thank our school nurses, our staff and Sullivan County Public Health for all efforts to address COVID-19 issues that are taking place in our school community.

### Cafeteria Improvement Efforts

The Board of Education and I are aware that concerns have surfaced recently regarding cafeteria lunches. The concerns include food variety, food quality and overall food presentation.

The Board of Education and administration take these concerns very seriously. To that end, the board has discussed cafeteria concerns at the last few board of education meetings and they have established a special cafeteria sub-committee to review all cafeteria protocols and concerns. This sub-committee held a Board of Education Round Table meeting on October 13, 2021, with student representatives in grades 7-12 to discuss cafeteria concerns. In addition to students, we had school administrators and our cafeteria manager present at the meeting. The meeting was very productive, and students and adults alike shared their thoughts and concerns. The students and adults were also treated to a lunch that was prepared in our JSHS cafeteria and it got exceptionally positive reviews from the kids and adults present.

This Board Cafeteria sub-committee met again on October 19, 2021, along with our cafeteria manager and administrators to review the feedback received and to plan for cafeteria improvements which are already underway.

Following this meeting I convened the Superintendent's Round Table, which is made up of student leaders in our various school organizations, to continue the student conversations that were started at the Board of Education Round Table meeting. We brainstormed on how to continue to improve cafeteria offerings.

The discussions at these meetings were top shelf. Students were positive and were part of a problem-solving team and shared the positives and the negatives from their perspectives. Our cafeteria manager did a nice job answering the student generated questions and students did say that the cafeteria food has improved a lot over the past few weeks. At the end of the meetings, students indicated that they were happy we did this and that they felt their voices were being heard. It was nice to work together for positive change.

My proudest moment during these meetings is when a couple of our students shared that their peers are very happy that the students in the Junior-Senior High School are speaking up about cafeteria concerns. They feel like they are really being listened to, and that changes and improvements are happening as a result!

As Superintendent I am exceptionally proud of our students, staff, school community and Board of Education for working together as a team to improve on shared concerns.

I would like to thank all members of our school community for continuing to support our school district!

Educationally yours,

*Dr. Ivan J. Katz*, Ed. D. • Superintendent of Schools

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## SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY, JULY 16TH, 2022, - FALLSBURG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION**

### From the High School Principal

Greetings Fallsburg Students and Families,

It has been a wonderful start to the year at Fallsburg Junior Senior High School! Our students and faculty have truly hit the ground running, and I've witnessed amazing achievements here every day!

In October, we held our first-ever Club and Extracurricular Fair. This experience enabled students to visit booths for all of our clubs during their lunch period. Students learned about the vast array of fun extracurricular activities our school offers them. I am happy to say that many clubs saw an increase in members as a result. Participating in clubs is a great way to elevate your child's experience in school, and I am encouraging all students to get involved in one club or team (or many!). If your child did not sign up, but is interested in learning more, please have them stop by my office.

During the month of December, we plan on hosting an Elective Fair! This will provide students with information on our various elective course offerings. Elective courses help students get course credit while also exploring diverse interests. One new pathway we offer revolves around Computer Science. Students can sign up to take an Introduction to Computer Science class which then makes them eligible to take a Siena College Computer Programming class the following year. This is a great opportunity for students interested in exploring careers in the technology field.

Just a reminder to High School parents - the New York State Regents are scheduled to resume this year. This means that students will again be required to pass certain exams in order to graduate. If your child is in a class that culminates in a Regents examination, please encourage your child to proactively begin preparing now for the end of the year. A great way to do this is by attending our After School Tutorial Program. This extra academic assistance is offered every day and is a great way for students to improve their grades and learn more!

Recently, our building was fortunate enough to be visited by Congressman Anthony Delgado. The Congressman participated in a building tour with SGA leaders and then spoke to our Juniors and Seniors. He shared a compelling story about his background and provided students with encouragement for setting their own goals and attaining their dreams. It was a great experience for all!

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your support. The first year back to full-time in-person instruction has been challenging across our country. This transition is difficult for all of our community members, but our strong relationships with families makes all the difference in your child's success. If you ever have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, feel free to contact me any time!

All the best,

*Kyle Roddey*

### From the High School Assistant Principal

Dear Fallsburg Families,

It has been wonderful to welcome all our students back into the building for full time, in person instruction. Although I was in this position last year, I find that this is still a year of many "firsts" for me, and I welcome the opportunity to support our families and school community daily. As we continue to build relationships with students, teachers, and families, please know that the administrative team is working to find additional opportunities to engage with all community members. As always, if there are any questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share - please let me know.

One topic I'd like to highlight is a special initiative we are working on with a select group of 9th graders, called Student Success Planning. It is part of our partnership with Harvard University and allows us to provide intervention and support for a specific grade around their academics and post-secondary readiness goals. This year, half of our 9th grade students have been randomly selected to participate, and they are working one-on-one with a mentor from the District around setting and modifying academic goals. This is a pilot program that may be expanded in future years, depending on the findings of the initiative at the close of the school year. Students have already participated in a kick-off and quarter one meeting, focusing on setting goals to encourage academic success and develop action plans where support might be needed. The feedback from students and staff has been largely positive, and I am looking forward to tracking the results to see if this intervention is supporting the needs of our students.

It is with initiatives such as this that we can continue to make strides in our efforts to support academic goals and provide post-secondary readiness training.

Sincerely,

*Shana Bruestle*

## From the Elementary Principal

### BCES Car Rider Drop off and Pick Up

As we are getting settled into this new school year and the weather is turning colder, I just wanted to remind our families of our "Car Rider" Drop off and Pick Up procedures. We understand that everyone's time is valuable. Following these steps will help us keep our students safe and help our drop off/pick up line move smoothly and efficiently:

#### Drop Off:

As you are waiting in your car in the line up please have your child:

- Put on their mask.
- Put on their coat/hat/gloves.
- Put on their backpack.
- Give those last-minute hugs/kisses/goodbyes.

Once your child has their temperature checked and you have pulled up to the sidewalk area, students should be ready to leave your car

and walk directly into the building.

#### Adults are asked to:

- Ensure that your child is ready to exit your vehicle as soon as you pull up by the sidewalk.
- Whenever possible, seat your child on the driver's side of the car so they can safely exit your vehicle directly to the sidewalk.
- Drive up as close to the fire hydrant as possible.
- Pull your car up, one behind the other. This allows us to unload up to six cars at a time.
- Remain in your car as your child exits your car. This saves time and keeps our line moving.
- Stay in the line up until the car(s) in front of you pull(s) out, or a staff member signals you to drive around a vehicle. For the safety of our students:

**DO NOT PASS VEHICLES.**

#### Pick Up:

- Begins at 3:31 PM.
- Please wait in your vehicle, in the "car rider" line up.
- When it is your turn, please drive up as close to the fire hydrant as possible.
- Pull up, one behind the other, allowing as many students as possible to dismiss at the same time from the sidewalk area.
- Remain in your car.
- A staff member will meet you at your car for you to sign your child out.
- Be prepared to show identification when picking your child up.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our children safe and for ensuring your time is valued.

Respectfully yours,

*Mary Kate Stinehour*

## From the Elementary Assistant Principal

On November 1st, I was walking in the hall, and I noticed something that gave me pause. I walked past the "Lost-and-Found" cubbies. The cubbies were full! They were full of shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, and sweaters!

With the weather turning colder, the students need to make sure that they are dressed in a way that ensures that they stay warm. In other words, those who have misplaced clothing items need to get their warm clothes back.

Sincerely,

*Dave Viglione*

## Pre-K Kids Relish Rennie the Rooster's Reading

Fallsburg's Pre-K classes were thrilled to have Rennie the Rooster come to read to them about growing healthy food on October 19

(the morning session) and October 21 (the afternoon session). Rennie is the mascot for Sullivan Renaissance, and Rennie has read to the children at BCES on several occasions.

The children are so excited to see this giant rooster, who engages each child with warmth and enthusiasm. The reading emphasizes how much hard work is needed to prepare

the soil for planting, tend the vegetables as they grow, and get them to our kitchen tables. During the reading, Rennie asks questions, and many little hands flash into the air in response.

Teacher Mindy Conciatori and teacher aide Jennifer Varner are grateful to Sullivan Renaissance for their partnership with the school and the wonderful teachings about the earth and taking care of growing our food. We are sure that Rennie will be back again and again.





## Welcome Back, Fallsburg

Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School Welcomes Families Back to School 2021

Fallsburg Junior Senior High School welcomed families to the 2021 Middle School Orientation and BBQ on the evening of September 1, 2021. Principal Kyle Roddey and Assistant Principal Shana Bruestle organized the event with a lot of support from the school administration, My Brother's Keeper Family & Community Engagement Grant, the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program and the Student Government Association.

The flow of more than two hundred parents and children went very smoothly despite the heavy rainfall from tropical storm Ida. All visitors had their temperature taken upon entering the lobby, signed attendance sheets, and passed through different tables of information including My Brother's Keeper, Student Government Association help with clubs and activities available for students, healthcare information for families, and overall answers to any questions from school administration.

The barbecue fixings were served in the cafeteria by BOE Members, teaching staff and cafeteria workers. PBIS leaders and math teachers Daniel Redmond and Anthony Cordero were cooking burgers and franks under a small tent by the cafeteria loading dock.

Instructional Technology Staff Jane Tingley and Jamie Dymond were distributing Chromebooks to each student outside the Principal's Office. They were also giving each student a raffle ticket for a mountain bicycle made by Giant. FCSD was donating this incredible bike thanks to the Board of Education. Eighth-grader Mariah Vega won the bicycle.

Visit our **WEBSITE**

[www.fallsburgcsd.net](http://www.fallsburgcsd.net)



a  
single  
bite

Do You Need Support Feeding Your Family?  
**Let us help!**

## FCSD Wellness Committee Celebrates Edible Gardens Project

At the first meeting of the school year, the Fallsburg Central School District Wellness Committee acknowledged the Junior/Senior High School Life Skills Class for the fabulous Edible Gardens Project behind the Central Administration Offices. At the remote meeting, the class teachers, Ms. Renee Wilson and Ms. Amber Smith introduced two of the students to the Committee. Sabrina Wunner and Natalie Garcia eagerly shared about the lettuce and tomatoes that flourished over the summer with special care by the teachers, staff groundskeepers and volunteers. The children picked many pumpkins that they soon would be carving.

Long-standing member of the wellness committee Colleen Emery of Sullivan Renaissance congratulated the students on a video meeting for the excellent work they did. Sullivan Renaissance supported the project with a Community Gardens Grant that the teachers and students put together. School Board member and part of the committee Ms. Renee Kates said that the Board of Education was very impressed with the gardens when they all did a walk-through during the summer.

At the close of the meeting, Ms. Emery added that she was excited about the Renaissance Fall Gardener in the Schools Program. They would be providing pea shoots for planting for a fall crop. She knew that the Fallsburg kids would be happy to see them grow and harvested.

### NY-Alert & Public Registry of Sex Offenders



Visit our **WEBSITE:**

[www.fallsburgcsd.net](http://www.fallsburgcsd.net)

### Child Abuse Hotline

New York State Office of Child and Family  
Services (OCFS):

**1-800-342-3720**



Middle School Orientation 2021



Anthony Delgado



Trick or Treat 2021



### Sports Physicals

Fallsburg will be offering physicals with the school medical doctor on December 1, 2021, at 8:30am. Interested students with their parents/guardian must complete two steps:

1. Register for sport

<https://www.familyid.com/fallsburg-central-school-district-athletics>

2. Complete the attached form and return it to the JSHS nurse on or before November 29, 2021



### Football Champion

### Isaiah Young!

Congratulations Isaiah Young for being named the Times Herald Record varsity 845 high school football player of the week!



### Big Apple Crunch



On October 21st Fallsburg joined the Big Apple Crunch sponsored by Sullivan County and Cornell Cooperative Extension. All students were offered a locally grown apple to enjoy. The participants celebrated NYS apples, celebrated and practiced healthy eating choices and shared a moment in time together!



# 2021-2022 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	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31
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	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28	27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
30 31			
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 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30 31
		31	

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

### SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER	6, 7, 16
OCTOBER	11
NOVEMBER	11, 24 - 26
DECEMBER	24-31
JANUARY	17
FEBRUARY	21
APRIL	15 - 22
MAY	30
JUNE	20

### MAKE-UP DAYS

Day 1	2/21
Day 2	4/22
Day 3	4/21
Day 4	4/20

### SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER	16
OCTOBER	19
NOVEMBER	18
DECEMBER	17
JANUARY	20
FEBRUARY	18
MARCH	22
APRIL	15
MAY	21
JUNE	17

**TOTAL**                      **183 + 4 CONF - 7 SNOW = 180**

Updated: 7/7/2021

8 = FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL  
24 = LAST DAY OF SCHOOL  
25 = GRADUATION

# 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 ★

### Varsity Fall Sports Coaching Contacts:

Varsity Cheerleading  
[krodgers-sanchez@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:krodgers-sanchez@fallsburgcsd.net)

Varsity Boys Soccer  
[lwhite@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:lwhite@fallsburgcsd.net)

JV volleyball  
[mballard@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:mballard@fallsburgcsd.net)

Varsity Cross Country (boys & girls)  
[dhalikias@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:dhalikias@fallsburgcsd.net)

Varsity Football  
[Dscanna@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:Dscanna@fallsburgcsd.net)

Varsity Girls Tennis  
[JCarey@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:JCarey@fallsburgcsd.net)

Varsity Girls Soccer  
[Asmith@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:Asmith@fallsburgcsd.net)

Varsity Volleyball  
[hobbyamy@yahoo.com](mailto:hobbyamy@yahoo.com)

*"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. Kyle Roddey</b>	High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
<b>Mrs. Shana Bruestle</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>Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School</b> .....	<b>434-0168</b>
<b>Benjamin Coser Elementary School</b> .....	<b>434-0871</b>

### Fallsburg Central School District Office & Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School

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

### Benjamin Coser Elementary School

15 Old Falls Road ★ PO Box 123 ★ Fallsburg, NY 12733-0123

**WEBSITE:** [www.fallsburgcsd.net](http://www.fallsburgcsd.net)

### SCHOOL ADDRESSES...

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).

## Keeping you informed...

11/17 Board of Education Mtg. ....7:00pm	12/16 BCES Winter Concert 1 snow date	1/05/22 Board of Education Mtg. ....7:00pm
11/24-26 School Closed	12/21 Jr/Sr HS Winter Concert HS Aud. ....7:00pm	1/17/22 School Closed
12/01 Board of Education Mtg. ....7:00pm	12/23 Jr/Sr HS Winter Concert snow date	1/19/22 Board of Education Mtg. ....7:00pm
12/15 Board of Education Mtg. ....7:00pm	12/24-31 School Closed	1/26/22 BCES Winter Concert 2 HS Aud. ....7:00pm
12/15 BCES Winter Concert 1 HS Aud. ....7:00pm	1/03/22 School Resumes	1/27/22 BCES Winter Concert 2 snow date

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)