

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

September 2022

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



I hope that this newsletter finds you in the very best of health and spirit as we prepare to welcome a brand-new school year with brand new possibilities!

The Fallsburg Central School District spent time this summer preparing to meet and greet the new school year. To start with, the Board of Education held its reorganizational meeting on July 6, 2022, and there is new leadership at the helm. The newly elected board president for the 2022-23 school year is Mr. Michael Weiner, a long-time board member and a retired teacher with the district. The newly elected board vice-president is Dr. Sean Wall-Carty, board member and Deputy Supervisor for the Town of Fallsburg. This new leadership along with all 9 members of the board of education, is looking forward to another successful year in the name of district improvements at all levels.

We begin this school year thanking our voters for supporting our budget and noting that our budget had an actual tax levy **decrease** of **1.67%**. The board had a goal of balancing school district needs with what taxpayers could afford. This falls in line with several years of exceptionally low tax levies for the Fallsburg Central School District.

In terms of student successes in the 2021-22 school year, the district saw substantial increases in marking period to marking period grades for students as compared to the 2020-21 school year where student grades dropped significantly. As a result, the board of education opted to self-fund an after-school tutorial program last year and that seemed to help with a lower number of course failures from the previous school year. The after-school tutorials focused on supporting students in the various academic areas with certified teachers.

The District plans to continue the trend of student academic success in the new school year. Part of the upward trend in student opportunities for success includes new academic pathways in partnerships with SUNY Sullivan College (formerly Sullivan County Community College) and Siena College. These pathways will, in the very near future, allow students who participate, to graduate high school with an Associates Degree from SUNY Sullivan or with credits towards a degree for students who continue studies with Siena College.

We also had new opportunities for school community engagement last year with two very successful events. We had a winter ice-skating event in March and a Family Engagement Day in May. These events were part and parcel of revitalized commitments to improve school community relations. We anticipate and we are working towards additional family engagement events in the new school year.

Here is wishing everyone in the school community a successful new school year.

Educationally yours,

Dr. Ivan J. Katz, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools

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FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

From the High School Principal

Dear Comet Students and Families,

We are so excited to see everyone join us again this September! We missed you this Summer!

This is going to be a great year in the Junior Senior High School! Your faculty and staff members are already working on exciting new classes, clubs, and activities that we know you will love!

Be on the lookout for future announcements on our Elective and Extracurricular Activity Fair! This will take place during lunch periods and students can visit booths to learn about all the fun after-school activities that we offer. We encourage all of our learners to participate in some club or activity - these groups can help you learn new skills, make the world a better place, and help you expand your social circle. They also look great on college applications.

We continue to add new classes. This year we will be adding an additional Computer Science Class through Siena College! Students can take this class in grades 10-12 and learn computer programming while earning college credit. We also have a new Family and Consumer Science Foods Elective Class. Students will be able to learn new recipes and cooking techniques in a hands-on setting.

Our new SUNY Sullivan Associates Program kicks off this year as well. Starting this September our Juniors and Seniors will be able to take a full slate of SUNY Sullivan Classes and graduate with both a high school diploma *AND* a college Associates Degree! Interested underclassmen should speak to their school counselor to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

As always, we will be planning fun field trips and theme days for our students. Our goal is to make the Junior Senior High School an intellectually engaging, inviting, and fun place for all of our school community members.

Welcome back Comets! Let's have a great year!

Yours truly,

Kyle Roddey

Kyle Roddey

kroddey@fallsburgcsd.net

From the High School Assistant Principal

Welcome back Comet families!

September 2022 brings us many new possibilities as we welcome our students back into the building. We are excited to engage students in new coursework and opportunities for learning that were previously just discussed on paper, such as additional college classes. While the summer is always a wonderful time to pause, reflect, relax, and enjoy the sunshine - the fall brings in a sense of community, togetherness, and opportunity for growth.

For our students, it is an opportunity to begin again - strengthening old learning and developing new skills. It is a chance to join an activity such as a sports team, the drama club, or perhaps even look to start a new enrichment club that meets your needs. For our families, it is a chance to watch their loved ones continue to grow into young adults who will leave their mark on the world in the future. We hope that our 7th grade Orientation that was held on August 31, 2022 helped to settle any nerves and create excitement for our incoming Class of 2028!

This year we will be enforcing our cell phone policy, as student use of mobile devices during the academic day last year was not creating a positive learning community. I would like to remind everyone of this policy and our Code of Conduct as it is going to be a change in practice for everyone. For our 7th and 8th graders, students will be allowed to use their cell

phones during lunch. For grades 9-12, students can use their phones during study halls and while in the cafeteria for lunch. Students will not be allowed to use earbuds or other electronic communication devices, such as smartwatches, outside of the above times. Families, please note that the second time a student does not follow this policy, the device(s) will only be returned to a parent/guardian - not the student. While this is a shift for many of our students and families, we expect that it will support academic and social-emotional needs for our students. As all of our students will have Chromebooks®, please ensure that they are charged nightly and brought into school each day, as technology will still play a vital role in student learning.

I look forward to working with you and your family and wish you all a wonderful start to this new school year.

Please remember to reach out to a member of administration or your child's guidance counselor with any questions or concerns as we begin the 22-23 school year!

Sincerely,

Shana Bruestle

Shana Bruestle

sbruestle@fallsburgcsd.net

Annual Fallsburg Alumni Association Reunion

On July 16, 2022 the Fallsburg Central School District Alumni Association (FAA) held its 18th annual reunion and awards celebration. Every award presented truly honored good people that have made a difference in Fallsburg as graduating seniors and distinguished alumni.

Five students received FAA Award Scholarships - **Kaitlyn Cross**, **Musa Dumbuya**, **Josie Galeas Iraheta**, **Jonathan Espinoza** and



that honors her daughter who was a beloved teacher for many years in FCSD. **Kyle Tremper** was the recipient, someone who Ms. Hussey watched grow up. Kyle's memories of Ms. Hussey from BCES made a wonderful moment truly momentous. Kyle was also the recipient of the FAA Award in Honor of Jack Leshner, another beloved former teacher and Hall of Fame member.



The three members of the Fallsburg Community who were honored are all outstanding contributors to the Town. One of the awards was presented to former teacher and coach **Mike Weiner**. His service includes serving on the Town of Fallsburg Planning Board and Town Board, and currently as President of the Board of Education.



The two additional Honorees among the Alumni were **Robert Kaplan** and **Terence Duncan**. Mr. Kaplan has served on numerous community-related governing and agency organizations since he graduated from Fallsburg and was given the Alumnus Award. Presently, he is Treasurer of the Fallsburg Lions Club. The late Fallsburg alumnus Lawrence Kotin devoted his life to serving children with special needs and being their advocate. As the recipient of the Lawrence Kotin Award, Terence Duncan embodies these ideals as he now serves as Assistant VP of Program Operations at Loch Sheldrake's New Hope Community.

Jennifer Santos. The Sheryl Kalter Memorial Award went to two deserving seniors, who embodied the values of love, scholarship and commitment to the community, **Ana Dell'quila** and **Isabel Cruz**. Arlene Hussey presented the Robynne Anderman Award

From the Elementary Principal

On behalf of the staff at BCES, we would like to welcome our students, families and friends back to another great year! If you are joining us for the first time, or have been with us through the years, welcome!

Please join me in welcoming our new assistant principal, Ms. Pamela Carr! Ms. Carr is coming to us from Minisink Valley Elementary School. We are very excited to have her as a member of the BCES family!

Over the summer, our custodians have been busy preparing our building for the start of the school year. Our teachers have been preparing their classrooms and spent the last week of August in professional development workshops to better support our students both socially and academically. We are very excited to continue to offer various learning opportunities for our students to hone in on specific skills to support their learning needs.

During the 2022 - 2023 school year, students will participate in:

- **Into Reading** (Grades K-6) is a curriculum, based on research in the essential elements of literacy. Lessons are scaffolded to build on prior knowledge and supports students at every learning level.
- **Into Math** (Grades K-6) is a comprehensive math curriculum that provides students with differentiated instruction to meet their individual needs.
- **Science 21** (Grades K-5) is an inquiry-based elementary school science program, developed "by teachers for teachers," that includes comprehensive curriculum guides, materials kits, and staff development services. As an inquiry-based program, students study the natural world and construct meaning and explanations based upon evidence that they derive from their activities.
- **Pearson myWorld Interactive Social Studies Program** (Grades K-6) encourages students to explore their world, expand their thinking, and engage with social studies content and the C3 Framework (College, Career and Civics Life Frameworks).

- **DIBELS** (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) (K-3) is a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of literacy skills. Each subtest has been thoroughly researched and demonstrated to be a reliable and valid indicator of early literacy development. DIBELS results are used to evaluate individual student development, which, in turn, supports the teacher in appropriately supporting students based on their level of needs.
- **B.R.A.V.E.S. program**, sponsored by Sweethearts and Heroes, will train 6th graders to support our younger students to empower them as bystanders. Two teachers will be trained to work with groups of 6th graders who will provide mini-lessons to our students in grades 1-3 during the school year. The goal of BRAVES is to create a self-directed culture that empowers bystanders to "Jump into Action" and to support peers in the "ABCs" of anti-bullying.

We would like to invite our parents/guardians to attend our Open House events on the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 28th: Open House for parents of students in grades Pre-K, 1, 3 and 5
- Thursday, September 29th: Open House for parents of students in grades K, 2, 4 and 6

Parents will receive an invitation from your child's teacher that includes the time of your Open House session.

For up-to-date information about school events, please follow us on Facebook @Benjamin Cosor Elementary School!

We look forward to working with you and your child this year. If you have any questions at any time, please reach out to your child's teacher or me.

Respectfully yours,

Mary Kate Stinehour

BCES Principal

mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net

From the Elementary Assistant Principal

Dear Fallsburg Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! I am so incredibly grateful and excited to join the Fallsburg Community as the assistant principal of Benjamin Cosor Elementary School. I am honored to accept this new role and look forward to supporting Ms. Stinehour, the BCES faculty, staff, students, and families in continuing to grow this amazing school community.

I have spent the last 16 years of my career teaching elementary students of all ages in both the Middletown City School District and the Minisink Valley Central School District. My decision to become an administrator grew from the desire to make a positive impact on as many children as possible and this will be my first year as an assistant principal.

It is my belief that schools must provide students with opportunities to become well-rounded individuals and must provide the means for them to develop academically, socially and emotionally. With this in mind, I plan to lead and support others in every and any way that I can to ensure the success of all students. I plan to be an integral part of that process and pledge to support all stakeholders within the school community.

I look forward to meeting all of you and to a wonderful partnership and school year!

Pamela Carr

BCES Assistant Principal

pcarr@fallsburgcsd.net

2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>
<p>JANUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p>
<p>MAY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>JULY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>

SCHOOL CLOSED
 CONFERENCE DAY
 TESTING
 TESTING DAYS
 GO HOME EARLY DRILL

SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER	5, 6, 26
OCTOBER	5, 10
NOVEMBER	1, 11, 23 - 25
DECEMBER	26-30
JANUARY	2, 16
FEBRUARY	21
APRIL	3-7
MAY	29
JUNE	19

MAKE-UP DAYS

Day 1	2/20
Day 2	4/3
Day 3	4/4
Day 4	4/5

SCHOOL DAYS

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

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

** If allowable, remote learning will take place after all 7 snow days have been used. Snow day 8 and beyond will be remote learning days. **

7 = FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

23 = LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

24 = GRADUATION

Updated: 6/29/2022

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

★ Mr. Joseph Collura ★ Ms. Arlene Hussey ★ Ms. Renee Kates ★ Ms. Regina McKenny-Snead ★

★ Ms. Fiorella Muscia ★ Ms. Colleen Picciotti ★ 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
Mr. Jaime Dymond	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. Kyle Roddey	High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
Ms. Shana Bruestle	High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2207
Mr. Brian Lynn	Interim High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2205
Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour	Elementary Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3206
Ms. Pamela Carr	Elementary Assistant Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3204
Mr. Ronald Montalto	Interim 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	Fallsburg Central School District Office
Business Office	434-0418	& Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School
Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School	434-0168	115 Brickman Road ★ PO Box 124 ★ Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124
Benjamin Cosor Elementary School.....	434-0871	Benjamin Cosor Elementary School
		15 Old Falls Road ★ PO Box 123 ★ Fallsburg, NY 12733-0123

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 INFORMED

9/7	First day of classes	10/7	Go home early
	Board of Ed Mtg. • 7pm • MS Board Rm.	10/10	School Closed
9/21	Board of Ed Mtg. • 7pm • MS Board Rm.	10/19	Board of Ed Mtg. • 7pm • MS Board Rm.
9/26	School Closed	11/1	School Closed
9/28	BCES Open House	11/2	Board of Ed Mtg. • 7pm • MS Board Rm.
9/29	BCES Open House	11/11	School Closed
10/5	School Closed	11/16	Board of Ed Mtg. • 7pm • MS Board Rm.
10/6	Board of Ed Mtg. • 7pm • MS Board Rm. Open House 6-8pm	11/23-25	School Closed

ELL Open House

An information session and social gathering for all English Language Learners and their families. Come learn about our Bilingual and English as a New Language (ENL) Programs. Food, games and prizes.
Friday, September 23rd, 5:30-7:30pm. BCES Cafeteria

Reunion de ELLs

Una sesión de información y reunión social para todos los estudiantes que están aprendiendo inglés y sus familias. Venga a conocer nuestros programas bilingües e inglés como nuevo idioma (ENL). Comida, juegos y premios.
viernes, 23 de septiembre, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Cafetería BCES.

SAVE THE DATE