

# FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

March 2023

EDITOR - SHELLEY MARCUS ★ ASSOCIATE EDITOR - SARAH SATZ ★ CONTRIBUTING EDITOR - MATTHEW MCCRELL

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



I hope this issue of the Comet Newsletter finds you in the very best of health and spirit as we prepare to welcome the spring season.

As you may know The Fallsburg Central School District received two strands of Federal grant funds; \*Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRSSA) and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) which we hoped to spend on a number of projects including, but not limited to:

- A Modular Classroom Unit housing two Classrooms at the Benjamin Corcoran Elementary School
- A Modular Classroom Unit housing two Classrooms at the Junior-Senior High School
- A Storage Building at the Junior-Senior High School
- District-Wide Unit Ventilator Replacement and Air Conditioning Installation

While there are additional things that we are utilizing these Federal grant funds for (field trips, community days, auditorium renovation, etc.), the four items named above are the main issue for this newsletter.

Our main problem is that these CRSSA and ARP strands that we have access to have to be "spent" by particular deadlines. These deadlines are September 2023 (CRSSA) and September 2024 (ARP) respectively. "Spent" means that all materials and equipment will need to be ordered, received, installed, and fully paid for by those deadlines. Ultimately, the Federal grants funds must be fully liquidated by September 2023 and September 2024. There are no exceptions to these dates. We have lobbied various entities only to find that the Federal Government has no intention of extending the deadlines for when the monies have to be "spent."

Originally, we had planned to do several projects utilizing the first strand of Federal grant funds before the deadline of September 2023. Unfortunately, we will not have the time to complete the work planned for the first strand of Federal grant funds by the September 2023 deadline. Therefore, we must reallocate the funding strands. We will have to utilize some of the second strand of Federal grant funds, which must be "spent" by September 2024, to complete some of the work originally scheduled to be finished by September 2023.

The Issue: There are very long procurement times relative to having the Modular Classroom Units built and delivered to the sites. Since these Modular Classroom Units are permanent, they must undergo a lengthy building

inspection process with the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of State after fabrication and prior to their delivery to the sites. Furthermore, due to some material shortages, there are very long procurement times related to the fabrication of equipment associated with the Unit Ventilator replacements and Air Conditioning installations. As a result, we are not going to be able to complete all four Projects that are noted above.

Consequently, we had to make a choice between the Modular Classroom Units and the Unit Ventilator replacements and Air Conditioning installations. The Buildings and Grounds Committee had been tasked with choosing between the Modular Classroom Units and the Unit Ventilator replacements and Air Conditioning installations. We have met with the Architects, Engineers, and Construction Managers to review the options and potential scenarios for these Projects in question to help inform the decision.

After some deliberation, we have decided that the priority for the Federal funding is to utilize it for new Modular Classroom Units, in lieu of new Unit Ventilators and Air-Conditioning. Our Classrooms within the buildings are currently meeting or exceeding their maximum capacities. We also plan to move forward with full-day Pre-K. Because of this, it is important that additional learning spaces are provided at the buildings. While new Unit Ventilators and Air-Conditioning would be a nice luxury, we are prioritizing the new Modular Classroom Units to ensure we can provide learning spaces which can accommodate the needs of the students in the community. At this time we are looking into classroom sized air conditioners for the short term to address the summer heat. Additionally, we are also planning to enhance the planned auditorium upgrades, installing lockers at the elementary school and replacing the two BCES playgrounds. We are moving ahead and planning to utilize the Federal grant funding strands to complete the Projects for the Modular Classroom Units and the Storage Building at the Junior-Senior High School. The construction for these Projects is slated to begin this Summer (late June 2023).

Thank you!

*Ivan J. Katz*, Ed. D.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

\*CRSSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act) Information from SED:

<http://www.nysed.gov/federal-education-covid-response-funding/crssa-act-allocations-and-application-information>

ARP (American Rescue Plan) Information from SED:

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/federal-education-covid-response-funding/arp-esser-application-part-2-arp-act.pdf>

# FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL INTERIM PRINCIPAL

Hello Fallsburg Families,

As I write this, we are approaching the first days of Spring, which typically is a time of renewal and growth. Our students are working hard in their classes, while also thinking ahead to next year's schedule and potential college course pathways. I am also honored to be the current Interim Principal for the building, and I am working alongside our staff to prepare our students for upcoming school milestones. We are continuing to hold assemblies that support student mental health as well provide students with a refresher on safe driving practices.

We recently held our Quarter 2 Honor Roll celebration assemblies. 95 students received Superintendent's Honor Roll awards and 155 students received Honor Roll awards. Another event that was just held was a second "Battle of the Classes" to promote school spirit and foster team building. This event required the effort of many staff members, and I am thankful for the hard work put in by all!

Our music and arts program was highlighted at our mid-winter Pops Concert, which was held for the first time in 3 years and was a successful event. We are also looking forward to this year's school musical, "Little Shop of Horrors", which will be performed the weekend of March 24th. In order to participate in events such as the Battle of the Classes or the school musical, or to attend the upcoming Junior Prom, students must be academically eligible. If a student is failing two or more classes, it is important to speak with your counselor and attend daily after school tutoring sessions to make progress, improve your grades, and get off the ineligibility list.

Thank you for your continued support of the Junior Senior High School!

Yours truly,

*Shana Bruestle*

[sbruestle@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:sbruestle@fallsburgcsd.net)

## FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

The New York State Theatre Education Association, a strong, statewide organization of theatre educators, promotes and supports theatre education for students in grades pre-K through 12. On the weekend of January 6-8, 2023, NYSTEA welcomed over 600 students to its 26th Annual Student Conference at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, New York.

This conference creates an opportunity for high school students from all over New York State to come together for a full weekend of learning and peer interaction. These students attended workshops given by colleges, universities and other theatre professionals, as

well as networking with one another and experiencing a variety of performances throughout the conference.

For the Student Conference delegates, this conference is a highlight of their high school career. In the over 100 workshop offerings, students received expert instruction in technical theatre, acting, dance and voice. Meeting and sharing interests with other similarly-minded students from every region of the state is paramount in working collaboratively, gaining self-confidence and exploring new areas of learning. This conference is a testament to how "theatre transforms students' lives!"

This year seven students from Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School attended the conference. This will be the 15th year that Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School has sent representatives to the NYSTEA Student Conference.

NYSTEA believes that theatre is an essential component of a pre-K-12 education for all students. Studying theatre in schools develops abilities needed for the 21st century including critical thinking, problem solving skills, applications of technology, social responsibility, and creativity. In addition to the annual Student Conference, NYSTEA provides resources to educators teaching theatre in the classroom, directing school drama and musical presentations, and hosts professional learning opportunities for teachers throughout the year

Sincerely,

*Tobi Magnetico*

[tmagnetico@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:tmagnetico@fallsburgcsd.net)



## SAVE THE DATE

**We are back!!**

On Saturday, July 15th the Fallsburg Alumni Association is returning to our pre-pandemic program. We will be bringing back our luncheon this year as we award scholarships to deserving graduating seniors. We will also be recognizing a community member and a retired staff member.

There will be various items donated by local merchants that will be raffled off. More information will be forthcoming as details are finalized. In the meantime, there are a number of scholarships that are available including the FAA scholarships, the Leshner Memorial scholarship, the Robyn Anderman scholarship and the Sheryl Kalter Memorial Scholarship. If you would like to donate to any of these, please send a check made payable to Fallsburg Alumni Association with the name of the scholarship on the memo line to:

Eileen Kalter, PO Box 383, South Fallsburg, NY 12779.

All donations are greatly appreciated and help us to make these awards possible. Mark your calendars and join us for a pleasant afternoon.

### *Finding Ways to Communicate with Your Child*

In today's fast-paced world, filled with technology distractions, it is important to establish routines that foster communication with our children. It is never too late to set up times in our day to focus on that communication.

According to Linda O'Brien's Parent Guidebook, in order to keep up with what is going on in your child's life; take the time to talk with your child every day. The following tips will help you and your child communicate effectively.

- Ask open-ended questions that require more than one-word answers. Instead of "How was school?" say "Tell me about your day" or "What did you learn in school today?"
- Be available when your child wants to talk. This may be right after your child gets home from school, or before your child goes to bed. Another good time to talk is when you and your child are driving in the car.
- Recognize the importance of nonverbal communication. Children aren't always able to put into words what they want or need their parents to know. It is, therefore, important to pay attention to body language, moods, eating habits, sleeping patterns, and school performance. These can be good indicators of how things are going at school or with friends.
- Regularly spend one-on-one time with your child doing things you both enjoy. Try cooking, shopping, playing a game, or taking a walk. Not only are these good ways to spend quality time with your child, they also provide opportunities for you to answer your child's questions, and to discuss issues and concerns in a safe, comfortable environment.
- Try to eat dinner as a family as often as possible. Research shows that students whose families eat dinner together do better in school. Turn the television off and talk about your day. It's a great time for families to reconnect.
- Above all, cherish the time that you have with your children. They grow up way too fast. By establishing open communication at a young age, you are building a trusting relationship as your child enters his/her teenage years.

Here's to turning off the technology and finding small "family time" moments that will be remembered by our children as they look back on their childhood!

Respectfully yours,

*Mary Kate Stinehour*

BCES Principal

[mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net)

### From the Elementary Assistant Principal

Dear Fallsburg Families,

Now that it is March, there is no denying that Spring is in the air! Spring offers a chance for warmer weather, but please be mindful of daily temperatures. We want to ensure that students are prepared for weather changes, so that they can comfortably enjoy their time outside when the weather allows.

As we soar into Spring, our staff continues to support our students in every way possible. Spring is a time of new beginnings, renewal, and growth and this is a great time to remind our students of BCES expectations. We ask that students continue to BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE, and BE SAFE throughout the entire school building. This includes all settings; the bus, classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, cafeteria, nurse's office, and main office. We ask that students follow directions, treat others and equipment with respect, use time wisely, and seek out an adult for support whenever needed.

Wishing you all a happy Spring and a wonderful Spring Break! Please reach out with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thank you for your continued support of Benjamin Cosor Elementary School!

Sincerely,

*Pamela Carr*

BCES Assistant Principal

[pcarr@fallsburgcsd.net](mailto:pcarr@fallsburgcsd.net)

**SAFETY FIRST**

### Fallsburg JSHS Celebrates Honor Roll Inductees with Breakfast

This past week, the quarterly Honor Roll Celebratory Breakfast took place over three days at Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School. Over 173 students were recognized for their achievements as this past marking period's Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll inductees. Grades 7-8 were recognized on March 7th, grades 9-10 on March 8th, and grades 11-12 on March 9th. As a reward for their hard work and dedication, the cafeteria staff provided a wonderful breakfast for the inductees after they received their certificates.

Interim Principal, Shana Bruestle, and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz, congratulated the students for their high achievements.



### English Language Learners Breakfast

Yesterday, our English Language Learner students met for breakfast to explore college and career choices. The event was a component of the My Brother's Keeper Initiative, which strives to provide support for our ELL students to live a prosperous future





Feed Me!



# Little Shop of Horrors

Fallsburg High School's Drama Club took to the stage this past weekend, performing the critically acclaimed musical, "Little Shop of Horrors". The students blew everyone away with their stellar performances.



# Super Hero Breakfast



Up, Up, and Away!!

# Book Fair



# 2022-2023 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
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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    
   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**  $183 + 4 \text{ CONF} - 7 \text{ SNOW} = 180$

\*\*  
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...

<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>Mr. Jaime Dymond</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. Shana Bruestle</b>	Interim High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
<b>Mr. Steven Nilsen</b>	High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2205
<b>Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour</b>	Elementary Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3206
<b>Ms. Pamela Carr</b>	Elementary Assistant Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3204
<b>Ms. Amanda Stevens</b>	Director of Physical Education & Athletics	434-6800 Ext. 2212
<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>Fallsburg Central School District Office &amp; Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School</b> 115 Brickman Road ★ PO Box 124 ★ Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124
<b>Business Office</b> .....	<b>434-0418</b>	<b>Benjamin Cosor Elementary School</b> 15 Old Falls Road ★ PO Box 123 ★ Fallsburg, NY 12733-0123
<b>Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School</b> .....	<b>434-0168</b>	
<b>Benjamin Cosor Elementary School</b> .....	<b>434-0871</b>	

*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...

<b>4/3-4/7/23 Closed</b>				5/16/23	Elem Spring Concert	6pm	HS Auditorium
4/12/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room	5/17/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room
4/25/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room	5/24/23	Samuel Beytin Scholarship Dinner	5:30-7:30pm	HS Gym
5/3/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room	5/25/23	Jr/Sr HS Concert	6pm	HS Auditorium
5/16/23	Budget Vote & Board Member Election	8am-8pm	MS Board Room	5/29/23	<b>Closed</b>		



*a single bite*

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