

A SPECIAL

SAFETY AND SECURITY INSERT

SEE PAGES 3 - 6



THINKING INSIDE THE BOX

There is something about a cardboard box that ignites children's imaginations. In Janet Sullivan's Kindergarten class at Grant D. Morse Elementary School students have been transforming cardboard boxes into castles, hair salons, classrooms, and more. The creative building projects are all part of the class's "purposeful play time." Research shows that play-based learning is essential for children's academic, social, emotional, and physical development. Additionally, play is the most accessible approach to learning for young children. The box-inspired playtime, adds Sullivan, is also a great way to give a second life to materials slated for the landfill!



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Central School District

WINTER 2023

Saugerties Teen Nominated for Prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

The Saugerties Central School District is proud to announce that high school senior Shaan Sekhon has been selected from a competitive pool of candidates as one of the 25 students nominated by New York State Education Commissioner and Chief State School Officer (CSSO) Betty Rosa to be considered for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recognition—one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

"It is my privilege to submit these fine students to represent New York as Presidential Scholar candidates," Rosa said. "Each has shown excellence in their pursuits in school and has made their mark in their community, building on their education through service to others."

Established in 1964 by executive order of President Lyndon Johnson, the program recognizes some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors based on several criteria, including academic success, artistic excellence, community service, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals. Each year, up to 161 students are selected, after making it through two rounds of evaluation—first by a review committee, and then by the Commission on Presidential Scholars. In June, those chosen are awarded an official U.S. Presidential Scholar medallion and are honored in an online ceremony.

This is a notable first for the District. Saugerties High School (SHS) Principal Timothy Reid has been asked by New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey to nominate a candidate for this recognition twice before, but Sekhon is the first to progress to this level of the selection process. After reviewing a multitude of nominations from the high schools in her District, Hinchey chose Sekhon as her official nominee to send to Commissioner Rosa for review.

"It was my pleasure to nominate Saugerties High School student Shaan Sekhon for the 2023 Presidential Scholars Program," Hinchey said. "Shaan has distinguished himself as an intelligent, well-rounded, and highly regarded young leader among his peers."

For Reid, Sekhon was the perfect choice. "Shaan exemplifies the values that are synonymous with the Saugerties community," he said. "Hard work, leadership, volunteering, service, and kindness are all accurate descriptors of this young man."



(Left) U.S. Presidential Scholar nominee and Saugerties senior Shaan Sekhon poses with Saugerties High School Principal Tim Reid.

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Saugerties Central School District

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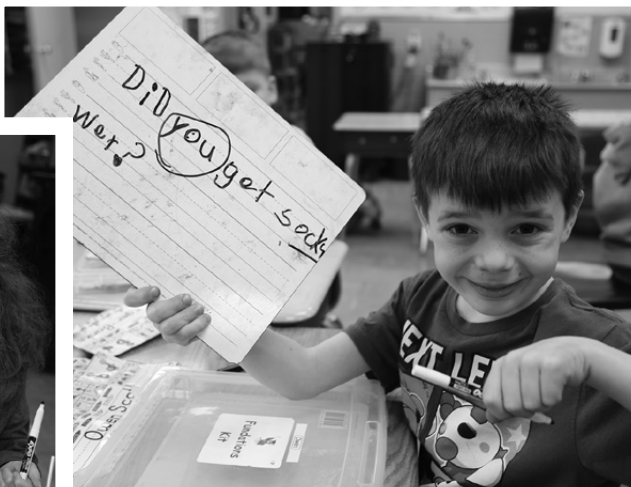
Students Take a Spin at Learning About the Earth's Rotation

Cahill students in Desiree Steyer's Grade 6 class learned about the Earth's rotation during a recent Science lesson. First, the students listened to short video lessons that explained how the Earth rotates on an axis in a 24-hour cycle and orbits the sun over the course of 365 days. Then, the young scientists used their Chromebooks to answer questions and show off what they had learned!



(Their, There, They're) LEARNING TRICK WORDS

Riccardi students in Stefanie Colclough's Grade 1 class recently practiced writing "trick" words. Trick words are phonetically irregular words that your child needs to memorize. For example, the word 'want' has the 'o' sound instead of the 'a' sound, despite how it's spelled. These trick words are selected for their high frequency of use and are important for students to master for both reading and spelling. Mastering these words—including the always-tricky 'their,' 'there,' and 'they're'—allows students to achieve greater reading and writing fluency.



2022/23 PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY

Do you have a child who will be eligible for Pre-K or Kindergarten starting in September 2023? If so, please fill out the registration form found at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3GiD3Cs>. This will allow us to add you to our mailing list, so you will receive a registration packet and instructions in advance of the registration dates. Registration will take place February 21-24 at Mt. Marion Elementary School between 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM. To be eligible to enter Pre-K, your child must be 4 years old on or before December 1, 2023. To be eligible to enter Kindergarten, your child must be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2023.





SAUGERTIES CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAFETY AND SECURITY INSERT

Safety, Security, and Emergency Management

Saugerties Central School District holds several District Safety Committee meetings throughout the year. The committee is composed of school administrators, teachers, members of law enforcement, and community stakeholders. The purpose of the meetings is to review the current safety plan to make necessary adjustments and solidify best practices to keep students, faculty and staff safe. One of several topics discussed recently was the possibility of having students and staff display a parking sticker on their vehicle, so that staff can easily identify cars that belong in our parking lots.



Saugerties Central School District Hosts Tabletop Safety Exercise

The Saugerties Central School District administration, the Saugerties School Resource Officer, several teachers, and members of the Town of Saugerties Police and Glasco Fire Departments met on January 30 to carry out a security “tabletop exercise.”

The goal of the event was to review current safety protocols from a lens of one of our district buildings for precision and accuracy. This exercise was designed to evaluate District safety procedures while making any necessary updates in relation to securing the safety of all staff and students. This review was completed by focusing on an

emergency scenario and carrying out an appropriate response to ensure that the participants understood their respective roles and could act in unison in the event of a threat or crisis situation.

Going forward, the school district administration, law enforcement and other

emergency services will strive to hold tabletop exercise drills periodically in order to evaluate security procedures and ensure the continuation of staff training throughout the year.



Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Saugerties Central School District Community,

It is an unfortunate truth that school violence remains a persistent problem across the United States, with tragedies spanning decades, states, and communities—impacting the health and well-being of our nation’s youth. However, I wanted to assure our families that the Saugerties Central School District is committed to the safety and education of all of our students. To that end, we provide regular and ongoing training to make sure that our schools are places where students can learn and grow, free from concerns about safety.

Our staff train for a variety of crises that may be encountered, including health issues, accidents, intruders, wildlife interactions, and weather-related emergencies. We ensure that our facilities are well maintained and that all of our equipment is in good working order. We have communication protocols and procedures that, in the event of an emergency, outline how we will communicate with community responders and parents.

Throughout the year, the District implements and utilizes various programs to support our students’ well-being, including anti-bullying awareness campaigns, the “See Something, Say Something,” “Too Good for Drugs” initiative offered through the Ulster Prevention Council, parent Town Hall meetings, and counseling services.

While our work will never be done in this area, we are operating from a strength-based position, as we have already created many layers of protection in our schools. Please know that facilitating your child/ren’s education is our mission, and safeguarding their well-being is our duty. From administrators to teachers to support staff, everyone in the District is dedicated to making sure that every child is learning in a safe environment.

Please take some time to review and become familiar with the information found on the following pages of this Safety and Security insert.

Sincerely,
Kirk Reinhardt
Superintendent of Schools



ABC's of Safety-Related Terms and Drills

During a crisis, schools are often among the safest places for students. The buildings are solid, and they offer food, medical care, and plenty of adult supervision. When there is severe weather, local police activity, or a perceived threat, the District will make the determination whether to keep all students, teachers, and staff members in school, even if one's first instinct might be to send everyone home. In fact, dismissing students during an incident could actually endanger them.

The Saugerties District-wide School Safety Plan and the confidential Building-level Safety Plan outlines an array of actions to help safeguard students while responders, police, school officials, and other emergency personnel are responding to a potentially dangerous situation.

Sometimes it may feel as though a lockdown or evacuation is an overreaction, especially if the perceived threat turns out to be nonexistent. But it's always easier to downgrade or cancel a protective action than it is to try to heighten a response in the middle of an emergency.

Drills are a crucial part of school safety and are scheduled throughout the school year. Each is designed for a specific circumstance. Parents may worry that drills can be upsetting to their child, but teachers and staff are well equipped to handle these situations at each grade level. Drills also make emergency responses routine for children, bolstering their sense of confidence and safety.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Hold-in-Place

Hold-In-Place is used to limit the movement of students and staff during a short-term emergency. Students in corridors, bathrooms, or lobby areas are collected, and everyone stays in their classrooms and waits for further instructions. An example of an incident that might warrant a hold-in-place is a student getting sick in a hallway; the hold-in-place would allow custodial staff time to clean up.

Shelter-in-Place

When a shelter-in-place is called, students take refuge in designated areas to protect them from hazardous materials or severe weather. No entry into or exit from the school is allowed until an "all-clear" announcement is made. Students will NOT be released during a shelter-in-place.

Evacuation

In the event of certain building emergencies, students are relocated to an evacuation assembly area. When the evacuation is complete, students may be released to authorized adults through a structured family reunification process to ensure the safety of all children. Parents/guardians may NOT call for their children until the evacuation process is completed and reunification procedures are announced.

Lockout

During a lockout situation, all students who are outside the building are summoned indoors. The building perimeter is secured, and all outside doors are locked. Within the school, classroom activities proceed as usual. An immediate concern outside the building but one that is not specific to the school—such as criminal activity in the area, or a dangerous animal on the loose—triggers a lockout response.

Lockdown

A lockdown takes place if an immediate internal or external threat directed at the school is identified. All doors, internal and external, are locked, and students and staff are called in from hallways and confined to classrooms. No entry into or exit from the school is allowed until an "all-clear" announcement is made. Students will NOT be released during a lockdown.

In the event of an emergency, we know that parents worry and, understandably, want information as fast as possible. However, if there is a delay in communications, it is because we are engaged in putting the safety of your children first. We'll then get the information out as quickly as we can.

In addition to these drills, the District also conducts Fire Drills, Bus Evacuation Drills, and an Early Evacuation Drill that tests the evacuation procedures of the District's Emergency Management/Disaster Preparedness Plan.



Staying Healthy During Flu Season

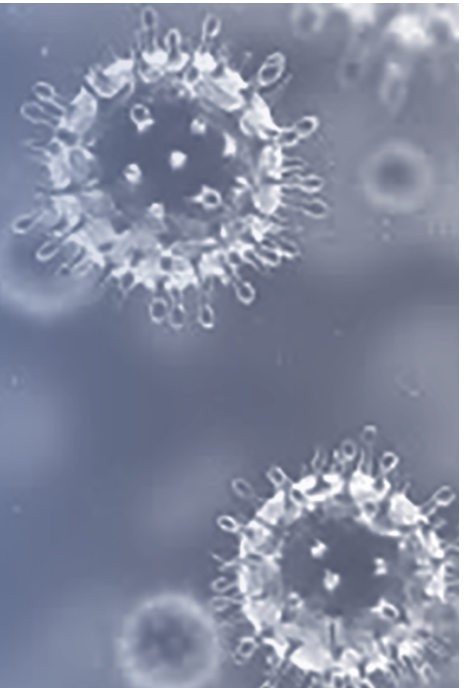
The seasonal flu can be extremely dangerous for our children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warn that thousands of people die each year from the flu, and still more are hospitalized. Days lost from work and school also take a toll: a student with the flu can expect to miss about a week of classes.

The United States experiences epidemics of seasonal flu each year. "Flu season" occurs in the winter, but outbreaks can happen as early as October and as late as May.

Flu activity most commonly peaks between December and February.

The flu comes on suddenly, and most people with the virus feel very tired, have a high fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, and sore muscles. The cough can last two or more weeks. Students who are sick are encouraged to stay home until they are symptom free.

At Saugerties, everyone from teachers to the nurses to the custodians is especially vigilant when it comes to the flu. Students are frequently reminded to wash their hands and to use hand sanitizer. In addition, surfaces such as desks, countertops, keyboards, doorknobs, and phones are routinely cleaned.



Bullying Prevention and Intervention

The Saugerties Central School District is committed to providing all students and staff with a safe, healthy, and welcoming learning environment. All school community members are expected to treat each other with respect and to appreciate the community's different and richly diverse personal qualities and skills.



Dignity for All Students Act (DASA): What constitutes a DASA-level incident?

An incident can be either a single event or a series of related verifiable occurrences regarding bullying, harassment, and/or discrimination, either actual or perceived, based on, but not limited to, the following: race, color, ethnic group, national origin, disability, religious practice, religion, weight, sexual orientation, gender, or sex. A material incident must be severe enough or pervasive enough to

substantially interfere with education, well-being, or fear for physical safety. To report an incident, students are encouraged to contact one of the two building DASA coordinators.

Anonymous Alerts

Students or parents in the school community can also anonymously submit suspicious activity, bullying, or other student-related issues to a school administrator(s). To make a report, students, parents or other school personnel can simply visit the Saugerties Central School District website and click on the "Anonymous Alerts" button at the top of the page to submit a report expressing their concern. Once you complete the contact form, you will receive a confirmation that your information has been submitted to the school district.

"If You See Something, Say Something"

Students play an important role in keeping schools safe. If they become aware of something that makes them uncomfortable, worried, or frightened—a suspicious package, threatening comments on social media, menacing behavior—they should alert a trusted adult.

Parents need to be equally vigilant. If your child shares information that concerns you, it is crucial that you contact a school official

immediately. The often-repeated mantra "If you see something, say something" has become ingrained in our collective consciousness, and its effectiveness is proven daily.

Students are not only encouraged to report possible dangers, but also to tell someone if a classmate is

harming themselves, seems depressed, or has mentioned suicide.

"There is a difference between reporting and tattling," said High School Principal Tim Reid, explaining that this message is often conveyed by teachers as well as in special assemblies. "Tattling is to get someone in trouble, while reporting is to help get someone out of trouble," he added.



WHEN IS IT BULLYING?

When someone says or does something unintentionally hurtful, and they do it once.

That is considered RUDE.

When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they do it once or both parties are equally being intentionally hurtful.

That is DISRESPECTFUL.

When someone says or does something verbally, physically, in writing, or electronically that intentionally hurts someone, continues the behavior even when told to stop or shown that the person being targeted is upset and has a perceived power imbalance over the target.

That is BULLYING.

SUICIDE HOTLINE

Recently the United States transitioned the 10-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number to a 3-digit number. The 988 dialing code will be available nationwide for calls (multiple languages), texts, or chats (English only).

This 3-digit number offers a memorable, easy path to access services. The Lifeline offers free, confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the U.S.

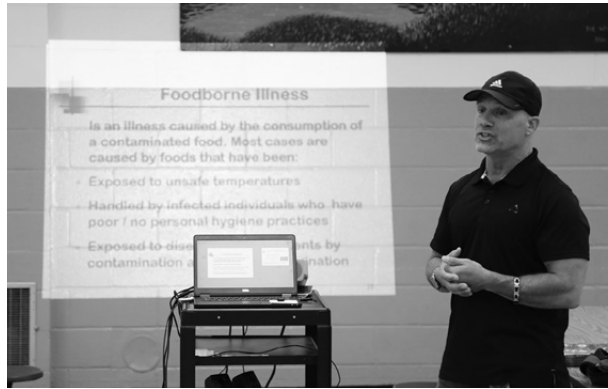
Memorize the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number and share it with family, friends, and colleagues. We

don't always know the problems that people around us are struggling with—even those very close to us. Sharing the news about 988 and its services might help save a life or lift a burden.



Food Safety

Food Safety is a top priority in the Saugerties Central School District's School Nutrition Department. Our employees are trained to follow and carry out all Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) procedures. HACCP is a management system in which food safety is addressed through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards—from raw material production, procurement and handling, to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of the finished product. The District also participates in two health inspections per school year, which are conducted by the Ulster County Health Department at each of the District's schools. The District also requires all staff members to complete in-service training annually.



New Radios Link School Security with all School Buildings

The Saugerties Central School District recently received the approximately 50 portable two-way Motorola radios they ordered, which will replace older, outdated ones. These radios will be used by the school resource officer, administrators, and staff to help improve school safety. Individuals who are authorized to use the radios will be able to notify other staff members of an intruder, weather alert, water leak, transportation issue, security incident, or any other important message in a quick and efficient manner.

“Unlike cell phones, radios allow for quicker, more direct communication in an emergency,” said Saugerties School Resource Officer Travis Winchell. “In the case of a dangerous situation, a cell phone could drop a call or not function due to a dead zone or dead battery. Radios allow us to quickly alert everyone on one channel all at once, and they have a longer battery life than a cell phone.”



The Policy Committee Addresses the Dress Code Through Sub-Committees

Each month, the District's Policy Committee—which is made up of community and Board of Education members, teachers, and administrators—meets to review and update current policies as well as develop new policies that reflect the District's values. Included on the committee's current agenda is the District's Dress Code.

The Saugerties Board of Education believes that appropriate school dress has a positive impact on student behavior and leads students and the community to hold the school in higher esteem. Therefore, students are expected to wear clothing appropriate for school.

To help decide what clothing is appropriate, the Saugerties Policy Committee will be working on updating the District's Dress Code. School Psychologist Kayla Lamb is leading the effort to organize separate elementary and secondary committees composed of students, parents, staff members, and Board of Education members. The findings of these two smaller committees will be combined to make recommendations to the Policy Committee and the Board of Education.

Saugerties CSD Social Media Guidelines

We welcome your comments as a means of sharing your experiences, suggesting improvements, or chiming in on conversations. To help keep our social media pages focused, the District has set the following guidelines:

1. The page is moderated, and all comments are reviewed by the District's Community Relations personnel.
2. To ensure that exchanges that are informative, respectful of diverse viewpoints, and lawful, we will not allow comments that are or include:
 - **Off-topic Subjects.** We will delete/hide comments not related to the subject of the page entries.
 - **Spam.** Comments focused on selling a product or service will not be posted.
 - **Personal Attacks.** If you disagree with a post, we'd like to hear from you. We do ask that you refrain from personal attacks or being disrespectful of others.
 - **Illegal.** Laws that govern the use of copyrights, trade secrets, etc. will be followed.
 - **Inappropriate Language.** Comments including but not limited to: profane or provocative language, hateful, racially or ethnically offensive or derogatory content, threats, and obscene or sexually explicit language will be deleted.
 - **Links to outside websites.** Comments with links to other websites will be monitored for their appropriateness.



PROM ATTIRE TO BE OFFERED TO SAUGERTIES STUDENTS FREE OF CHARGE



Prom season is right around the corner, but for some students it may seem financially out of reach. Wanting to help keep prom dreams alive—despite the rising price of everything—Saugerties senior Faith VanRoy decided to host a Formal Wear Drive. The goal of the drive is to help make sure that all of her classmates are able to enjoy this high school milestone.

If you have a gently used prom dress, mens suit, formal shoes, and/or accessories to donate, please drop it/them off to the attention of the SCORE (Saugerties Community Offering Resources for Everyone) store at Saugerties High School. The collection of formal wear will be available to students free of charge. Let's help pay it forward this prom season! The prom will be held on June 3 at The Chateau in Kingston.

Saugerties Teen Nominated for Prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

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The most influential aspect of Sekhon's legacy, according to Reid, is the work he has done with his school's Building Leadership Team. Sekon, Reid noted, has been a dedicated member of the team since its inception in 2021. This important initiative aims to raise graduation rates, increase attendance, improve student morale, and encourage more students to participate as stakeholders in their education, the principal explained. "Shaan has collaborated with students, teachers, parents, and administrators to craft goals and action steps to improve the quality of education here at Saugerties High School," said Reid. "He has been instrumental in the growth of our school and continues to leave his mark on both the school and community."

After graduation, Sekhon plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering and business, and then a master's degree in either nuclear or aerospace engineering. His ultimate goal, he said, is to fuse both fields of study into a career that will benefit the larger community.

"I come from a family of farmers and business people, and I recognize the role the business community plays in uplifting and supporting their local towns and villages," Sekhon said "I hope to build a business that can create jobs and serve the community I live in."

Saugerties Thespians go Deep—Into the Woods



Come and show your support for our young actors and singers as they present the comical, emotional, thought-provoking, and at times strange story of Into the Woods, written by James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim. Performances will be held in the High School's auditorium on Friday and Saturday March 17 & 18 at 7 PM and on Sunday, March 19, at 2 PM.

This Tony Award-winning musical features characters and plots from a number of well-known fairy tales, including "Cinderella," "Rapunzel," "Little Red Riding Hood," and "Jack and the Beanstalk." One of the plots follows the story of a baker (played by James McTague) and his wife (Ahmya Carrube), who must "go into the woods" to seek the ingredients for a magic potion that will reverse a curse that has left them childless.

Meanwhile, Cinderella (Grace Hopf) dreams of attending the King's Festival, and Jack (Sean Mahoney) wishes that his cow, Milky White, would begin producing milk.





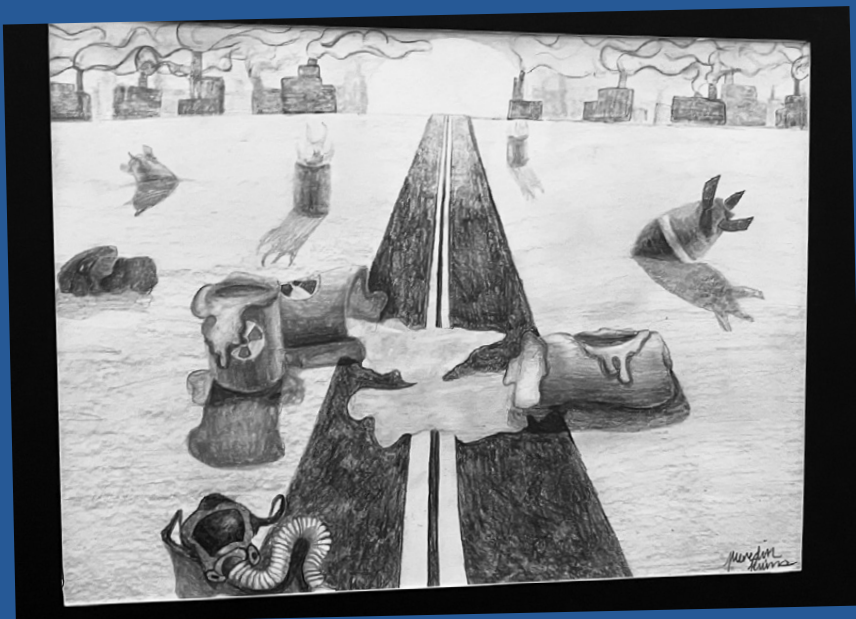
Kudos are once again in order for the Saugerties Varsity Wrestling team! The team finished out its season with a 19-8 record and won the Dual Meet Section IX Championship on January 11. For the first time in Saugerties history, the team qualified to compete at the Dual Meet State Championship, which was held at the SRC Arena & Events Center at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse on January 27. Three Saugerties girls also competed at the New York State Invitational on January 26. Savannah Tittelback placed sixth in the 114-pound weight class. "It's been a very good season," said Varsity Wrestling Coach Scott Wickham. "I think we have a good chance of having three to four wrestlers win individual sectional titles and move on to the NYS Championships in the next few weeks as well."

ART STUDENTS WORK IS SHOWCASED AT COLLEGE

The artwork of two Saugerties High School students has been selected to be showcased at this year's Columbia-Greene Community College (C-GCC) high school art show. C-GCC hosts this juried art show annually, highlighting work from 13 area high schools. To help kick off the event, the college held an opening reception on January 26 in the Foundation Gallery.

"It was a great opportunity for senior Katie Cook and sophomore Meredith Mills to show off their talents," said Saugerties Art teacher Elisa Tucci. "It's a big honor to be chosen, as only two students from each school are asked to be a part of the show." The exhibition will be on display through February 23.

(Katie Cook (standing with artwork) and Meredith Mills's submission are pictured in the following photos.)



Science Olympiad Moves to States



Saugerties crushed the Mid-Hudson Regional Science Olympiad competition on February 4 at John Jay High School in Hopewell Junction. The team ranked 5th overall and will be moving on to the State tournament at Le Moyne College in Syracuse on March 17 and 18. Individual medals included:

- Astronomy:** Audrey Chen and Sarah Davis (7th place)
- Anatomy:** Becky Li and Anthony Egan (3rd place)
- Bridge:** Ian Vickery and Owen Moorhus (1st place)
- Detector:** Audrey Chen and Chris Stokes (3rd place)
- Disease:** Becky Li and Ari Newkirk (6th place)
- Dynamic Planet:** Zachary Feinberg and Owen Moorhus (5th place)
- Fermi Question:** Angelo Arrandale and Jason Scheffel (4th place)
- Flight:** Ian Vickery and McKayla Weber (3rd place)
- It's About time:** Zachary Feinberg and Becky Li (3rd place)
- Rocks and Minerals:** Sierra Knapp and Hannah Loebakka (5th place)
- Scrambler:** Ian Vickery and Zachary Feinberg (1st place)
- Trajectory:** Ian Vickery and Zachary Feinberg (3rd place)
- Wifi:** Audrey Chen and Anthony Egan (4th place)

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The Saugerties Central School District affirms its commitment to non-discrimination and recognizes its responsibility to provide an environment that is free of harassment and intimidation as required by Federal and state law. Harassment is a violation of law and stands in direct opposition to District policy. Therefore, the District prohibits and condemns all forms of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, veteran status, disability, use of a recognized guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, or domestic violence victim status by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees such as contractors and vendors as well as any third parties who are participating in, observing, or otherwise engaging in activities subject to the supervision and control of the District. All inquiries regarding the Non-Discrimination policy and/or all complaints regarding violation(s) of these policies should be directed to the Compliance Officer, Dan Erceg, Director of Human Resources; (845-247-6550).