



# Clinton Central School District Newsletter

2019-2020 Winter Edition

*Great Community* → *Great Schools*

## A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Clinton School Community:

There are many wonderful things happening in and around the Clinton School Community, as you will see in this edition of our newsletter. We truly are the community's schools and we continue to benefit from the support received from so many community partners in so many ways, and we want to say thank you for that!

As always, our primary focus is on student learning opportunities, and this year we are looking forward to furthering our work not only in the areas of curriculum and instruction, but also in the continued implementation of practices, programs and curriculum to ensure a culture that values kindness, and embraces inclusivity and diversity for all school community stakeholders. The K-12 implementation of the Positivity Project (P2) throughout the district has had a great effect on our culture of kindness, the personal character growth of our students and our social capital in the form of positive relationship building among and between our students and school community stakeholders.

Another major implementation and focus this school year is occurring in the elementary school as we implement a new reading and writing curriculum—"Into Reading". Thanks to a generous donation by the Clinton Central School District Foundation, we have been able to embark on a full school (K-5) implementation to ensure that all students and teachers will benefit from these resources.

We also thank you for your support and patience during the significant amount of work being accomplished as part of the Capital Project, which involves building the technological infrastructure needed for our students and teachers, and renovating many classrooms and office spaces so as to provide an excellent and safe learning environment for our total school community.

Please know that I look forward every day to continued growth and excellence as we work together to provide the very best educational experience for all of the children in the Clinton school community. Best wishes for a safe and healthy winter season!

Sincerely,

**Stephen L. Grimm, Ed.D**  
*Superintendent of Schools*



**Welcome to the Clinton Elementary School!**

The newly completed entrance provides additional safety and security for students and staff.

### Edward Felt Memorial

Partnering with community members, the *CCSD Foundation* will be the collection site for donations toward the Edward Felt Memorial which will rest near the Brick Garden on the CCS campus. On Sept. 11, 2001, Mr. Felt was a passenger on United Flight 93. The heroic actions taken by those passengers, including Edward Porter Felt, prevented a second attack on Washington D.C. and ended with the aircraft crashing into a peaceful farm field near Shanksville, PA, killing all aboard.

*More information can be found on our website under Community/September 11 Memorial.*

### THE EDWARD PORTER FELT FLIGHT 93 SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 MEMORIAL PROJECT

The mission of this project is to establish and maintain a memorial to honor Edward Porter Felt, a Clinton, NY native a hero of United Flight 93, and an American Patriot.



### Ninth Grade Students Attend Freedom Writers Presentation

All area ninth graders recently enjoyed an inspiring presentation at the Stanley Theater by Erin Gruwell, founder of the Freedom Writers methodology, a standard-based, educational strategy for shifting a classroom into a space for students to grow, with curricula designed to achieve excellence from all students. In some districts, including Clinton, "The Freedom Writers Diary" is being integrated into ninth grade ELA classes.

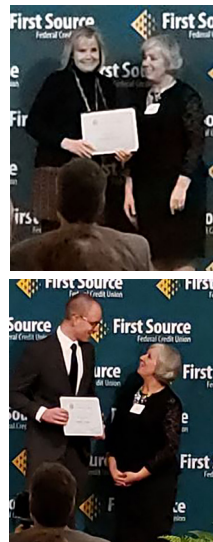
### Veterans Day

Clinton Elementary School was fortunate to be joined by Veteran family members of many of the students for its annual Veterans Day celebration. Student choruses performed patriotic songs, read thank you letters and spoke about the five military branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Mrs. Leuthauser discussed various personality traits exhibited by those that have stepped up to defend our freedom by joining the armed forces.



### Marathon Runner

CCS employee Ryan Dugan completed the New York City Marathon in 4:20:00. Elementary Mighty Miler members collectively ran the number of miles needed to secure a place in the marathon for PE teacher and advisor Heather Hillage-Scribner, who then passed the entry opportunity along to Mr. Dugan. Mr. Dugan said that the students provided him with the incentive to finish the race. Thank you, Mr. Dugan, for representing CCS so well in NYC!



### CCS Personnel Honored

On Nov. 20, two members of the CCS community were honored as recipients of the Genesis Educator award for contributions made in the area of education. The Genesis Group works to advance economic, social and cultural interests, and to foster regional unity and cooperation particularly in the areas of education, health, wellness and quality of life initiatives. Congratulations to Middle School Teacher Mary Anne Murray, and Board Member and Educator Timothy Thomas for this important recognition!



## Virtual Reality

With the assistance of PDC Coordinator Amie Johnson, teachers have been utilizing virtual reality equipment funded by *Hamilton College Town Gown Fund* to experience travel, space, science and history.



## Third Grade Bakers

Third grade students enjoyed having their classroom set up as an array bakery where they worked at stations to perform various multiplication and division activities.



## Book Report Pumpkins

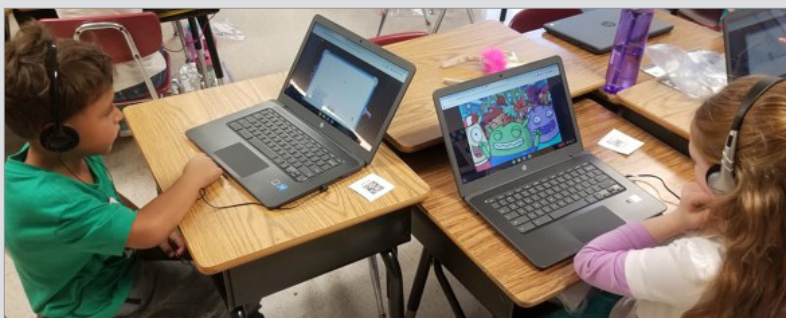
Third grade students sharpened their writing, speaking and creative skills by presenting book reports to classmates, focusing on strong character traits. Each student decorated a pumpkin to depict their favorite book character.

## Into Reading

After two years of study, elementary teaching staff chose what they felt to be the best ELA program for K-5 students, largely funded by the *Clinton Central School District Foundation*.

"Into Reading is a comprehensive literacy curriculum that meets the needs of the changing educational landscape to equip students at each grade to become successful readers and writers. The core instruction is based on a reading workshop model and text sets that provide students with a rich array of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and media, anchored by strong scaffolding and close reading support. Whole-class instruction is based on short, focused mini-lessons that deliver a shared reading experience. Small-group instruction—where much of the learning and instruction occurs—incorporates a comprehensive leveled reader offering that provides high-quality texts to match students' needs and maximize student growth. The explicit step-by-step writing workshop approach provides modeling and instruction in process and technique and integrates grammar within the context of writing. Mentor texts are used as springboards for students' daily writing. In addition, support for dual language students, as well as intervention students, is embedded within the daily lessons."

Teachers continue to participate in training in order to maximize benefits of this new program for their students. Pictured are first graders delving into new resources.



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## Accomplishments

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**Front row:** (left to right): Mallory Wickline, Juliet Weinberg, Rebecah Bashant, , Madeline Walters, Olive Niccoli, , Caleb Stanco, Richard Hughes, Nicolas Fostini, Olivia Bessey Nolan, Mia Lopata, Carter Hinderling, Nicholas Crane, Tyler Karuzas.

**Second row:** Morgan Pflanz, Juliana Palmer, Mei Cassidy-Heekin, Elizabeth Wratten, Abigail Soika, Mariah Seward, Emily Hemstrought, Briar Lennon, Sydney Evans, Kole Davignon, Aiden Walter, Katie Dewhurst, Shannon Emery, Hannah Slawson, Gianna Trunfio, Leah Taft.

**Third row:** Brynn Hewitt, Lily Collins, Nathaniel Otto, Alex Getman, Corbin Melie, Ryan Galinski, Daniel Frank, Gwendolyn Williams, Kaitlin Williams, Carly Horton, Bart Hearn, Taylor Harvey, Grace Johnson, Bozhena Samoshuk, Casey Vechery, Emily Smith, Kaitlin Deveans, Anthony DeVasto

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### Student Work Featured at NYSSBA Art Exhibit

The artwork of four CCS students was displayed at the 2019 NYSSBA Convention in Rochester in late October. Co-sponsored by the New York State Art Teachers Association and New York State School Board Association, the work on display "clearly demonstrates a high level of student ability at every grade level." Congratulations to Lange Matteson, Delainey Williams, Eliana Crissey and Miriam Leahy and to their teachers Lynn Hall and Amy Pape for this outstanding accomplishment. Pictured are Board of Education members Erica Shaw and Melinda Leising viewing the students' work.



**MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL** — Middle school students successfully presented "Alice in Wonderland, Jr." enjoying participation from more than half of the students in grades 6 through 8.



## Fall Sports Highlights

CCS fall sports teams had a great season with several teams advancing to section play.

- Boys and Girls Cross-Country won the CSC League Tournament;
- Field Hockey made it to the Section III Finals, before losing to Camden;
- Football made Sectionals for the first time in 23 years, 5-2 regular season record;
- Boys Soccer won the CSC Division 1 title;
- Girls Soccer won the CSC Division 1 title;
- Girls Tennis won the CSC title;
- Madison Luke placed #9 in the New York State Cross Country Championship!

*Thank you to our students, coaching staff, volunteers and athletic department for a great season!*



## Students Participate in Area All-State Music Festival

Twenty high school students qualified to participate in the All-State Music Festival held in Rome, including band, orchestra and chorus.

### Picutred:

Maggie Bailey, Rebecah Bashant, Olivie Bessey-Nolan, Leah Borton, Alyssa Cancilla, Sydney Evans, Noah Freund, Bart Hearn, Grace Johnson, Alayna Krom, Emily Le, Gaibrielle Lewis, Jacob Lewis, Sophie Macpherson, Olive Niccoli, Sylvie Novak, Shayla Pominville, Jason Rivera, Abigail Witte and Lizzie Wratten.

*Congratulations Everyone!*



## Scholar Athlete Awards Fall 2019

NYSPPHSAA Scholar Athlete Varsity Team Award Winners

Girls Tennis	94.81
Boys Cross Country	93.88
Girls Cross Country	94.75
Girls Soccer	94.93
Field Hockey	92.51
Boys Soccer	92.10

*75% of roster has to have a cumulative GPA of 90 or better.  
All students > 90% receive recognition and pin*



## Exploration

**Growing Agriculture** — Clinton Elementary Teacher Laura Pomerville attended a Growing Agriculture Education Conference presented partly by the Future Farmers of America to learn about ways that agriculture education programs can make their way into classrooms. The hope is that Clinton can find even more ways to utilize programs such as Farm to School, The Grow With Us grant and The Agricultural Literacy program to inform students about the importance of agriculture and related careers.



**Farming Your Future** — Clinton Middle School and High School students traveled to the Herkimer County Fairgrounds to learn about careers in the agriculture field. Students listened to presentations about conservation programs offered at BOCES, SUNY Cobleskill, and were learned about livestock first hand.

### TECHNOLOGY AT OHM BOCES

CCS student Deven Smith recently reported to the Board of Education on his experience as a student in the OHM BOCES P-TECH Program. The program enables students, over a period of four to six years, to obtain both a regents diploma and an associate degree in a STEM field while enrolled in the BOCES program. Students work with and are mentored by both local and global businesses. A favorite project was the design of the sea lion exhibit at the Utica Zoo, requiring students to research and develop an appropriate natural habitat.



### Eighth Grade visits OHM BOCES

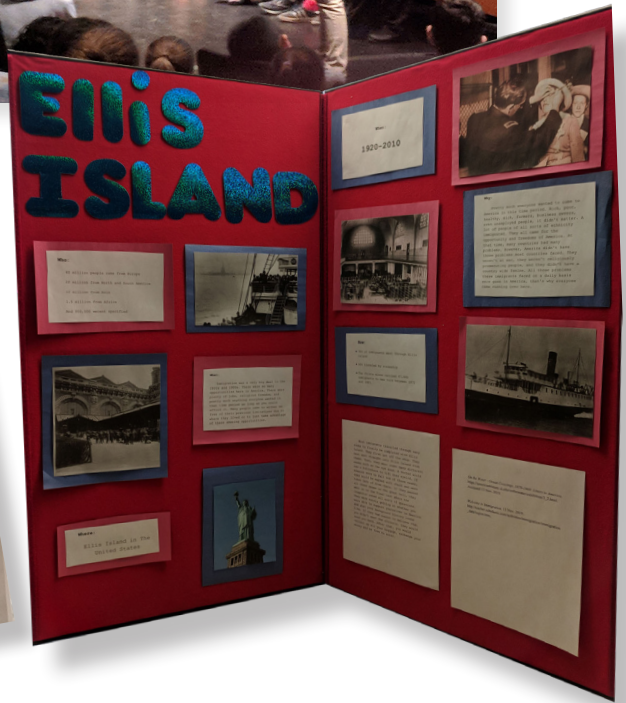
Eighth grade students visited the OHM BOCES to explore career and educational opportunities that are available to them as they enter high school including culinary arts, conservation, early childhood education, welding, nursing and graphic design.





## Multicultural Day

Eighth grade students recently spent the day recreating the Ellis Island immigration experience through informative research project displays, music, personal diaries and publications, some acting as journalists and even as medical triage personnel. The day culminated with speakers from the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees. The Center staff members Lisanne Divine and Kyi Kyi Min (formerly a refugee) personalized the experience for listeners as it exists today. Students were given the opportunity to ask thoughtful questions.



**Eighth Grade Trip** — The eighth grade class enjoyed visiting the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the Empty Sky Memorial during their recent trip to NYC while collecting materials for a research project.

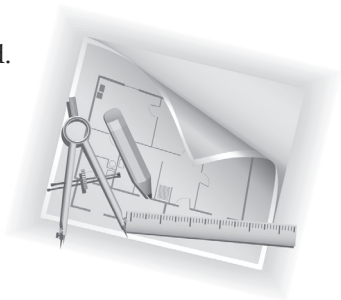




## Capital Project Update

In addition to what appears in the following photos, many other improvements occurred.

- Repointing of exterior brick and masonry work
- Sidewalk repair and replacement of exterior stairway on Chenango Ave
- New wiring to support technology in high school and middle school
- New ceilings and lights
- New athletic offices and storage
- New security systems cameras
- New PA and phone systems in process
- Top dressing of athletic fields



*Middle school office renovation*



*Nesting computer stations in technology classrooms*



*New elementary art rooms*



*New elementary office suite*



*New energy efficient windows in all three buildings*



*New tennis courts*



*Soon to be high school office and Guidance office suite*



*Spools of wiring for high school Technology updates*



*Elementary school nurse's office*



## Improvements



Elementary office suite storage and hallway



Technology teacher Mr. Milana with new Intelitek CNC Machine



Updated classroom with new windows



New wall tiling in elementary hallways



Updated FACS rooms funded by the CCSD Foundation



Updated elementary classrooms



Windows joining adjacent technology classrooms



Updated FACS classroom funded by the CCSD Foundation



Updated wiring and LED lighting in tech classrooms



Updated elementary music suite



Updated wiring to support technology



Middle school classroom renovation



### HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS

Art club members are currently working on a wreath for the annual "Festival of Trees", a fundraising event for the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse. Each year, contributors create a tree or a wreath to be donated and sold. All proceeds from the sales go to benefit the museum. The Festival of Trees is being held from December 5-15 for those interested in attending. Pictured is freshman Mistee Eldevik-LaCotera. She is creating origami birds to be featured in Clinton High School Art Club's wreath. The wreath's theme is loosely based on John James Audubon bird illustrations.



### thINCubator Visit

Seventh graders shared ideas with coordinators Ryan Miller and Stacey Smith during their visit to MVCC's "thINCubator", tying in with Creative Freedom Friday endeavors. ThINC offers programs and resources to help entrepreneurs generate better business ideas, refine and accelerate startup businesses and interact with other local creators.



### Schools to Watch

After a lengthy application process involving all middle school team members, Clinton middle school will be visited and reviewed by experienced Schools to Watch personnel to help identify areas of strength and those that need improvement. Development of a continuous plan tailored specifically to middle school grade levels will follow. Notification of the potential School to Watch designation would occur in February. As Dr. Carney stated, whether or not the designation is awarded, the process has been very beneficial and will continue as a model for self-evaluation. Stay tuned for updates!

### Coat Drive Benefits Refugee Center

The High School National Honor Society organized the annual District-wide coat drive chaired by student Shayla Pominville. More than 100 coats were collected, as well as numerous hats and gloves, which will be donated to the Refugee Center. Thank you to all who donated.



### Backpack Donation

Thirty-five backpacks full of supplies were donated to students through the combined efforts of the Fitness Mill, the Compassion Coalition and the United Way. Thank you to Guidance Counselor Danielle Tesak and Social Worker Rachel Grisham for coordinating this effort.





## Middle School Opening Day

The Opening Day "House" Event helped sixth graders to become acclimated and feel welcomed, focusing on building relationships with staff and with students in other grade levels. Events are ongoing throughout the school year.



## Visiting Brookdale

Elementary students often spend time brightening the day for Brookdale residents. Pictured are students joining residents for some Halloween fun!



## Fifth Grade Band

Fifth Grade Band students were able to watch the President's Own Marine Band celebrate the birth of John Phillip Sousa via live stream in the newly renovated band room. CCS Alumni Tom Malloy and Glenn Paulson are members of the Presidents Own Marine Band.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 12** Middle School Winter Concert  
Theater, 7 p.m.

**December 13** Middle School Career Day  
"Dress for Success"

High School Science Fair  
Atrium, 8:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Middle School Dance, 6 – 8 p.m.

**December 17** Board of Education Meeting  
Senior Lounge, 5:30 p.m.

**December 18** High School Winter Concert  
Theater, 7 p.m.

CCSD Foundation Meeting  
Senior Lounge, 6:30 p.m.

**December 23 – January 3** Winter Recess – No School



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## CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

75 Chenango Avenue  
Clinton, New York 13323

### Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Stephen L. Grimm

### Clinton Board of Education

Ms. Mary Lou Lauchert, President  
Ms. Erica Shaw, Vice President

### Board Members

Ms. Megan Burdick  
Mr. Sam Catterson  
Ms. Melinda Leising  
Dr. Luke Perry  
Mr. Timothy Thomas

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## Middle School Banner Honoring Veterans

