



WINTER EDITION • FEBRUARY 2024

CLINTON

Central School District

PERFORM



LEARN



GIVE



What do COMETS do?



PLAY



CONNECT



GROW

MISSION: Clinton Central School proudly educates and empowers all students to realize their potential in becoming thoughtful, empathetic and contributing members of a global society.

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COMETS-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BEAUTIFYING HALLWAYS

Under the supervision of art teacher Lynn Hall, student artists from all three buildings spent over 100 hours painting STEAM Hall of Fame murals along elementary school hallways featuring famous characters throughout history.



Holiday Fun!

Students enjoyed a holiday sing-along with music teachers, classmates and staff members.



HAMILTON COLLEGE READS

Students look forward to reading with Hamilton College students on Tuesdays. Thank you, college students, for your inspiration and for volunteering your time!



HARVEST OF THE MONTH

A Harvest of the Month item is introduced in the elementary school cafeteria, encouraging students, along with their parents, to try new healthy food choices. The reviews are in!



DEAR CCS COMMUNITY,

I hope that this message finds you well as we begin the second half of the 2023-2024 school year. This edition of our newsletter showcases the incredible talent, athleticism, creativity, scholarship, and generosity of our students, staff, and school community. Everything that you will see and read about is a proud reflection of our ongoing efforts to live our mission: *to proudly educate and empower all students to realize their potential in becoming thoughtful, empathetic and contributing members of a global society.*

This time of the school year finds us immersed in budget planning for the 2024-2025 school year. The administrative team and Board of Education have started the careful and thoughtful process of reviewing our finances and assessing our personnel, supply, and program needs for next year. Throughout the next several months, we will be providing updates and recommendations at Board of Education meetings in advance of the annual budget vote on May 21, 2024. Please see page 11 of this newsletter for more information about the budget process.

Thank you for your support and partnership, and for entrusting us with the education and well-being of our community's children. I am excited about the remainder of the school year and look forward to the continued growth and success of CCS and our students.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Clancy
Superintendent of Schools

★★★★ VETERANS ★★★★★ HONORED

Fifty veterans were recognized with songs and speeches during a meaningful Veterans Day celebration at the Elementary School. Mr. Moshier, father of teacher Rebecca Stilz, served as the guest speaker, and District parent Mark Bolos honored veterans by performing an original song.



THANK YOU

MS. DATTA!



Sixth graders were treated to a lunch from the Minar Restaurant and a presentation on Indian culture and customs by CCS community member Ratna Datta. This marked the end of a cross-curricular unit in which students learned about India in social studies and read "Save Me a Seat" in ELA. Thanks to our 6th grade team for putting together this memorable learning experience and to Ms. Datta for sharing her knowledge with our students!

DRESSED FOR

Success



More than 30 area professionals donated their time during the annual Career Fair to inform middle school students about their career paths and opportunities, including keynote speaker and Wynn Hospital CEO Darlene Stromstad.

RAISING FUNDS

★★★★ FOR VETERANS ★★★★★



Middle school students sold snacks and treats to raise funds which were then donated to benefit veterans. Thank you for your good citizenship!

Fall Clean-up

Middle School Student Council members assisted elderly community members with fall yard clean-up. This initiative was organized by the Oneida County Youth Bureau. Thank you!



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

ACTIVITY NIGHT

At their most recent monthly holiday activity night, students enjoyed games, prizes, food and face painting. Students also brought canned/dry goods to donate to The Country Pantry food bank.



COMETS-MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HISTORY CLUB

Clinton Middle School historians dedicated lunch and recess time to learn about the Titanic.



THANKSGIVING ENGINEERING Challenge

Mrs. Murray's students used engineering skills to create food structures with a fun Thanksgiving theme.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MUSICAL



Congratulations to the cast and crew of "High School Musical Jr.!" Once again, you have amazed us with your talents and enthusiasm on stage! Thanks to the many students and adults who worked so hard to make this production a success. We appreciate your time and talent!



MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to all science fair participants that presented their project at the 45th Annual Clinton Middle School Science Fair.

Students in the classes of 2028 and 2029 will have the opportunity to compete at the Utica University Regional Science Fair to be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024.

Congratulations to all on a job well done! Stay curious!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PLACE FINISHERS!

3rd Place - Susanna Noh

2nd Place - Andrew Van Wynsberghe and Drew Murray

1st Place - Spencer Scoones, Aliyah Bentley, Nicholas Venero, Ellen Bowen and Adeline Grant

MATHLETICS TEAMS PLACE FIRST AND SECOND IN MVCC COMPETITION

Congratulations to our Mathletics teams who placed first and second in the Mohawk Valley Community College competition. Per their coach, Mr. Stanton, the same school placing first and second is an unusual and noteworthy event!

1st place team: Ian Chang '24, Abel Widiss '24, Georgia Deep '24, Colin Sanderson '24

2nd place team: Sean Schreppeel '25, Gideon Dreier '25, John Musante '25, Alexander Hermann '25

Ian Chang '24 and Abel Widiss '24 were also recognized as individual winners!



SABA Breakfast

Several senior students, accompanied by Mrs. Snizek, Mrs. Zegarelli and Dr. Lee, attended the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES School and Business Alliance (SABA) Breakfast. The School and Business Alliance's mission is to provide career development and work-based learning experiences, which inspire and enable students to make informed decisions about post-secondary and career opportunities. At this event, students were able to eat and network with peers from across the region and industry leaders in 22 career fields. This year, the following members of the class of 2024 were selected to attend: Dakota Deveans, Chloe Filippo, Tega Igbo, Matthew King, Victoria Panasyuk, Michael Pascucci, Kelsey Smith, and Aiden Soika. Congratulations!

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Ninth grade students connected with over 2,000 of their peers at the Nexus Center to actively learn from author Erin Gruwell about unity and understanding, with a resounding message of resilience, courage and hope.



HONORING VETERANS

The High School Chamber Singers performed at a Veterans Day ceremony at Helmuth-Ingalls Post. Thank you for honoring our veterans with your beautiful voices.



Science Olympiad

On Saturday, December 2, 16 students competed at the Science Olympiad Invitational at Fayetteville-Manlius High School. Clinton placed third, medaling in 18 different events. Congratulations on a job well done leading up to the regional competition at LeMoyne College. Thanks to the club leaders, Mrs. Callaghan and Mrs. Washburn, for providing this opportunity for students!



PARTNERING WITH HAMILTON COLLEGE



Physics students in Mr. Bashant's class explored the relationship between force, pressure and area by building lunch tray hovercrafts. The unit is being developed and guided by Hamilton College senior Physics and Dance major Maggie Maselli as part of her senior thesis in partnership with her advisor Dr. Gordon Jones. After exploring the concepts through some demonstrations (including the bed of nails), students engineered hovercrafts with different surface areas and explored the weight each hovercraft can hold. The next step was to analyze and interpret the data and to construct explanations as they assessed if the results supported their claim.

COMETS-HIGH SCHOOL



CHS teacher Katie Petrie and her team raised \$1,994 this fall for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Thanks to Mrs. Petrie for leading this important work! Contributions were made by the National Honor Society through a bake sale and by high school teachers through dress-down Friday donations.



3-ON-3 BASKETBALL

A very well-attended 3-on-3 basketball tournament involving student and faculty members was organized by Mr. Sirianni and Mr. Bialek. Thank you to the Esports Team who ran the event and provided refreshments.



Earth Science

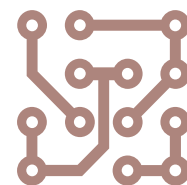
Mr. Campeau's Earth Science students are putting their knowledge of an erosional-depositional system to the test. The students are determining placement for a house and a bridge along a meandering river using a stream table that has running water and loose sand. Thanks to Mr. Campeau for building this incredible teaching tool!



DIGITAL MEDIA

Class

Students enrolled in Ms. Pavone's Digital Media class are busy designing the 2024 Clintonian Yearbook.



HOPE HOUSE

High School Positivity Project ambassadors visited Hope House, a favorite destination, to help staff members prepare meals for those in need. Thanks to Mrs. Washburn and Mrs. Pavone for organizing this opportunity for students to serve the community.

Congrats

to our **Championship Teams**



FALL SPORTS SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Boys Varsity Soccer	97.21
Girls Varsity Soccer	98.88
Boys Varsity Cross Country	98.12
Girls Varsity Cross Country	97.33
Girls Field Hockey	97.23
Girls Varsity Tennis	98.98
Girls Varsity Cheer	93.42

All seven CCS varsity fall sports teams were awarded NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete status, with 88 athletes earning individual distinctions. To qualify, 75% of the team roster had to achieve a cumulative GPA of 90 or better.

KICKING IT WITH

JULIA!

Julia Nessel '26 recently earned her second degree black belt in Taekwondo with a Kukkiwon certification. A Kukkiwon certificate is widely regarded as the most prestigious of all the black belt certificates within the art of Taekwondo. In addition to her second degree black belt, Julia also holds the title of Deputy Leadership in the US Black Belt's Leadership program. Congratulations, Julia, on your outstanding achievements!



TRIUMPHANT

TRIFECTA FINISHERS!

Under the leadership of Mr. Sirianni, the Mindfulness Adventure Club completed a fun and successful fall climbing season! A special congratulations to the Fulton Chain Trifecta Finishers! These club members have completed all three mountain hikes and earned a special patch for their accomplishment!



Molly Call '26
Natalie Courtright '26
Ian Mummer '24
Batleen Hermann '30

Calrich Kline '30
Eli Ollerenshaw '28
Steven Walker '30



FASTEST-FLYING

COMETS!



The modified boys cross country team won the day in a league-wide meet.

COMETS-PERFORM



ALLEGRO HONOR BAND



Nominated CCS Elementary School band students participated in the Allegro 5th & 6th Grade Honor Band. The Honor Band practiced throughout the month of November and concluded with a concert at Liverpool High School. Participating students included: Chase Gogola, Alistair Heintz, and James Shelley on the flute; Ava Carney, Lauren Gus and Simon Terrell on the clarinet; Nicholas Waskiewicz on the saxophone; and Micah Fisher, Evan Gifford and Logan Otto on the trumpet.



Area All-State Music Festival

On November 17-18, several Clinton High School students represented our school at the Area All-State Music Festival. These students were selected for their excellent performance and high scores at last year's NYSSMA solo festival. Students gathered with peers from Herkimer, Oneida and Oswego counties to practice and perform selected pieces in Phoenix, NY. Congratulations to the students listed below! Thank you to Mr. Lavender, Mr. McAvaney and Mrs. Wratten for working with these students to prepare and for accompanying them to the festival.

Treble Choir: Elizabeth Bashant '25, Nikolina Gleboff '26, Gracen Grimm '25, Phoenix Townsend '26

Mixed Chorus: Alex Abraham '24, Olivia Cofano '24, Lydia DeTraglia '24, Clara Kelly '25, Reilly Notar '25, Nora Reid '25

Band: Gideon Dreier '25, Mia Le '25, Alena Wratten '24

Orchestra: Eliana Bentley '27, Chloe Filippo '24, Delia Memmer '24, Mac Spadea '27, Fiona Vogel '24, Maren Wohnsen '25



Winter Concerts



Elementary School Band



Elementary School Chorus



Elementary School Orchestra



Middle School Band



Middle School Chorus



Middle School Orchestra



High School Chamber Singers



High School Orchestra

Music groups from all three buildings entertained audiences, both in-person and virtually, with wonderful performances to usher in the holiday season. Congratulations to our talented students and dedicated music staff, Ms. Lopata, Ms. Jones, Mr. Lavender, Ms. Wratten, Mr. McAvoy and Mr. DeGiovine.

Holiday Giving

Staff members in all three buildings organized collections for those in need over the holiday season. A drive-up station allowed families to pick up bags of food, clothing, gift items and cards while enjoying a sweet treat.



Boys Ice Hockey Team Sponsors Cheer!

The boys varsity hockey team sponsored a local family this holiday season. The boys each brought a monetary donation and carefully chose gifts for the family's children. Thanks to John and Stacy Davignon for leading this effort, to Hale Transportation for donating a bus, to the parents that were able to chaperone, to the hockey community for supporting a local family, and to our students for representing CCS so well.



WRAPPING WITH CARE

National Junior Honor Society and Middle School Student Council members offered holiday gift wrapping, along with smiles, snacks and activities to community members. Thanks to all those who made this event successful: advisors Ms. Abel, Ms. Taranto and Ms. McLaughlin, students, chaperones, and to community members for participating. Over \$200 was raised for student organizations!



STUFF THE BUS



Thanks to Mrs. Tesak and the LEOS Club for their hard work collecting gifts for the area Stuff the Bus campaign, an annual toy drive created to help the less fortunate in the Mohawk Valley have a happy holiday season despite any financial circumstances their families might have. Thanks to all who donated!

Santa for Seniors

Ms. Ganey's English 11 students participated in the Oneida County Office for the Aging and Continuing Care's Santa for Seniors program this year. Students "adopted," wrote holiday messages and wrapped gifts for two area senior citizens. Thank you to Mrs. Smith's Everyday Science students who also participated by making Christmas cards for our adopted seniors as well.



COMETS-CONNECT

CHAMBER SINGERS AT THE CLINTON SHOPPERS' STROLL

The Chamber Singers (present and past!) spread holiday cheer at the Clinton Shoppers' Stroll through song. Thanks to Mrs. Jenna Wratten for leading this effort.



THANK YOU CCSD FOUNDATION

Thanks to the generosity of the CCSD Foundation and the Hamilton College Town Gown Fund, who provided almost all of the funding for this program, K-6 summer school was a great success. Themed weeks focused on reading, math, writing and project-based learning and enrichment. Transportation was provided for the 126 students enrolled.

Pictured: Superintendent Mr. Christopher Clancy gratefully accepts a check presented by CCSD Foundation Officers Mr. Frank Perretta and Mrs. Ruthann Fuller.



REAL LIFE LEARNING

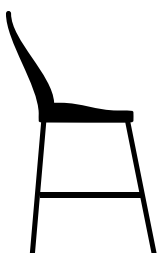
District parent Mr. Paul Head spoke to Mrs. Washburn's Environmental Science classes about his 30-year career as a wildland firefighter in places as far away as Alaska and Canada. Students learned what causes wildfires and the equipment utilized to fight them, tying into weather extremes and climate change curricular topics.



FIRE SAFETY DAY



Firefighters Eric Mosher, Kevin Griffin and Michael Scoones, in full turnout gear, demonstrated to students what a firefighter wears to prepare for hazardous work. Fire department personnel spent time with students explaining what their job entails, introducing them to equipment used, and instructing them on how to stay safe in the event that a fire occurs. Thank you to the Clinton and Clark Mills fire departments for a successful Fire Safety Day and for the many services that you provide to the CCS community. You are always there for us and we appreciate you!



Thank You Town Gown Fund!

Middle school students enjoy the ability afforded them to create new learning and study spaces using the flexible furniture that Town Gown Funding helped purchase.





FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS



Two PTA movies nights held in the school gym were well attended, providing families with a fun night out. Thank you PTA members for the many ways that you support the students, staff and families of CCS.



Congratulations to Andrew Bashant '27, Hannah Burdick '29, and Mackenzie Covell '27! Their submission about "One & Done" Recycling earned a second place spot in the Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority Trash Can Film Festival. For their efforts, they will receive a private tour of the facility and a celebratory pizza party. Thanks to Mrs. Pape for supporting this effort and to our students for reminding us to recycle!



HIGH SCHOOL STRING QUARTET PAYS TRIBUTE TO

MAESTRO CHARLES SCHNEIDER

At a performance given by the Catskill Symphony to honor the late Maestro Charles Schneider, the High School String Quartet delighted guests with their performance during intermission in the theater lobby. Thank you for your willingness to share your beautiful gift.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS



Congratulations to our latest members of the National Honor Society! Thirty-seven new members were inducted to this prestigious group. A special thank you to NHS adviser Mrs. Dunn who has led this club and organized this event for over 15 years! We will miss her leadership next year.

Cassi Adams, Elizabeth Bashant, Garrett Bauer, Alicyn Calcara, Benjamin Copperwheat, Eliana Crissey, Hudson Daughtry, Wynnin Davignon, Eli Davis, Gideon Dreier, Sophia Dunikova, Wyatt Forbes, Gabriella Gemelli, Gretchen Grimm, Gracen Grimm, Alexander Hermann, Natalie Heselton, Jack Jacobson, Clara Kelly, Mia Le, Victoria Maier, Sophie McKee, John Musante, Kyla Nicholas, Reilly Notar, Elise Pape, Milo Pasiak, Benjamin Pelkey, Lauren Rey, Beatrix Rioux, Josephine Rioux, Sean Schreppele, Bianca Siepiola, L Stephens, Eva Stone, Teagan Tabolt, Maren Wohnsen

2024-2025 SCHOOL BUDGET PREVIEW

The school budget development process is one that spans several months and requires us to look closely at our programs, personnel, and purchasing for the following year. The CCS administrative team and Board of Education have already begun to carefully and thoughtfully review each of these items, their overall impact on our students, and their associated financial implications. Our efforts will always be to provide a rich, fulfilling, and well-rounded learning experience for each of our students in the most fiscally responsible way.

Just like a household budget, our district seeks to find balance between our annual revenues and expenses. School districts in New York State rely, almost exclusively, upon two major sources of revenue: Foundation Aid from New York State and the district tax levy from local taxpayers. Preliminary Foundation Aid amounts provided to school districts across the State by Governor Hochul are demonstrating a reduction in Foundation Aid for the 2024-2025 school year. While final aid numbers have not been released yet, this anticipated reduction in aid - when compared to operating expenses that increase annually - will force us to look more closely at our programs and offerings this year in order to responsibly balance our budget. Throughout the upcoming months, our district will be analyzing course enrollment, and overall program expenditures so that we can make informed decisions about how to best proceed. This analysis could result in a change or reduction in programs that affect a few in order to introduce programming that will have a positive impact on many. As the budget process continues to unfold, please watch for updates on our website, at Board of Education meetings, and in our upcoming annual budget newsletter.

Our students, faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Education are profoundly grateful for the support of our community. Your partnership is paramount to the continued growth and success of our school district.



CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Clinton Board of Education

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Board Members

Dr. Lyndsey Bauer

Mr. Sam Catterson

Ms. Rachael Clark

Mr. Patrick LaVeck

Ms. Lisa Magnarelli



STUDENT ARTWORK GALLERY



Elementary School



Middle School



High School



DRAMA CLUB

PERFORMANCE

CCS Drama Club members showcased their talents in their performance of "Little Women," adapted by Marisha Chamberlain from the novel by Louisa May Alcott. Congratulations to Alex Abraham, Nora Reed, Olivia Cofano, Samantha Bender, Chloe DeNoon, Nikolina Gleboff, Phoenix Townsend, Rowan Dawes, Darcy Head, Camila Rodriguez-Plate, Josh Sipe and all of the production crew members for an excellent production. Drama Club is advised by Mrs. Jenna Wratten and Mr. Keith DeStefanis.

