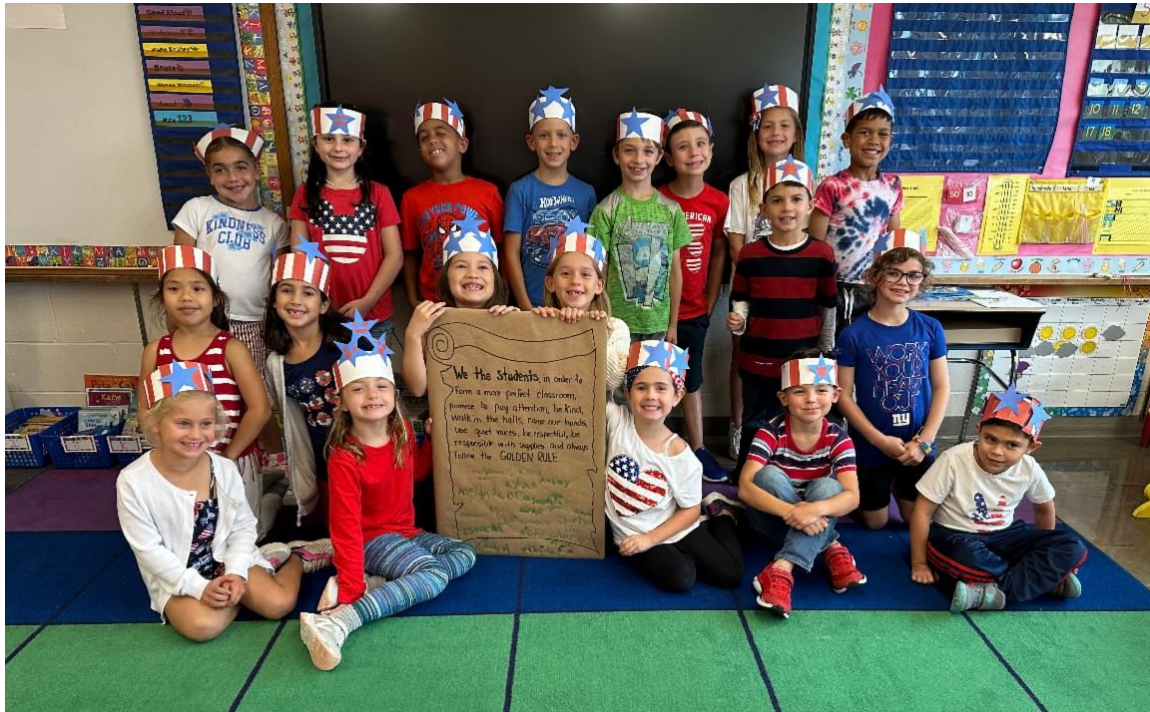


# Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS  
FOR SCSD FAMILIES



Students celebrated Constitution Day in a variety of ways in Somers Schools. At the high school, social studies teachers greeted students in the morning with a patriotic playlist and fun facts about the Constitution.

“We the People” of Primrose Elementary celebrated by wearing star-spangled attire. Many classrooms created Classroom Constitutions, putting pen to paper to define rights and responsibilities in the school community.

“Signing our class rules is a lot like signing the Constitution,” said one Primrose student.

Many classrooms watched a video about citizenship and how this important document came to be. From room to room, students talked about respect, kindness, responsibility, and citizenship; all the things that make a tight knit community.

☐ **Seen Around Somers** ☐



Somers Intermediate School held the first Town Meetings of the new school year. This month focused on what it looks and sounds like to be an SIS student. Each grade gathered together to celebrate their successes as students, recognized "bucket fillers", and finished off with a dance party.

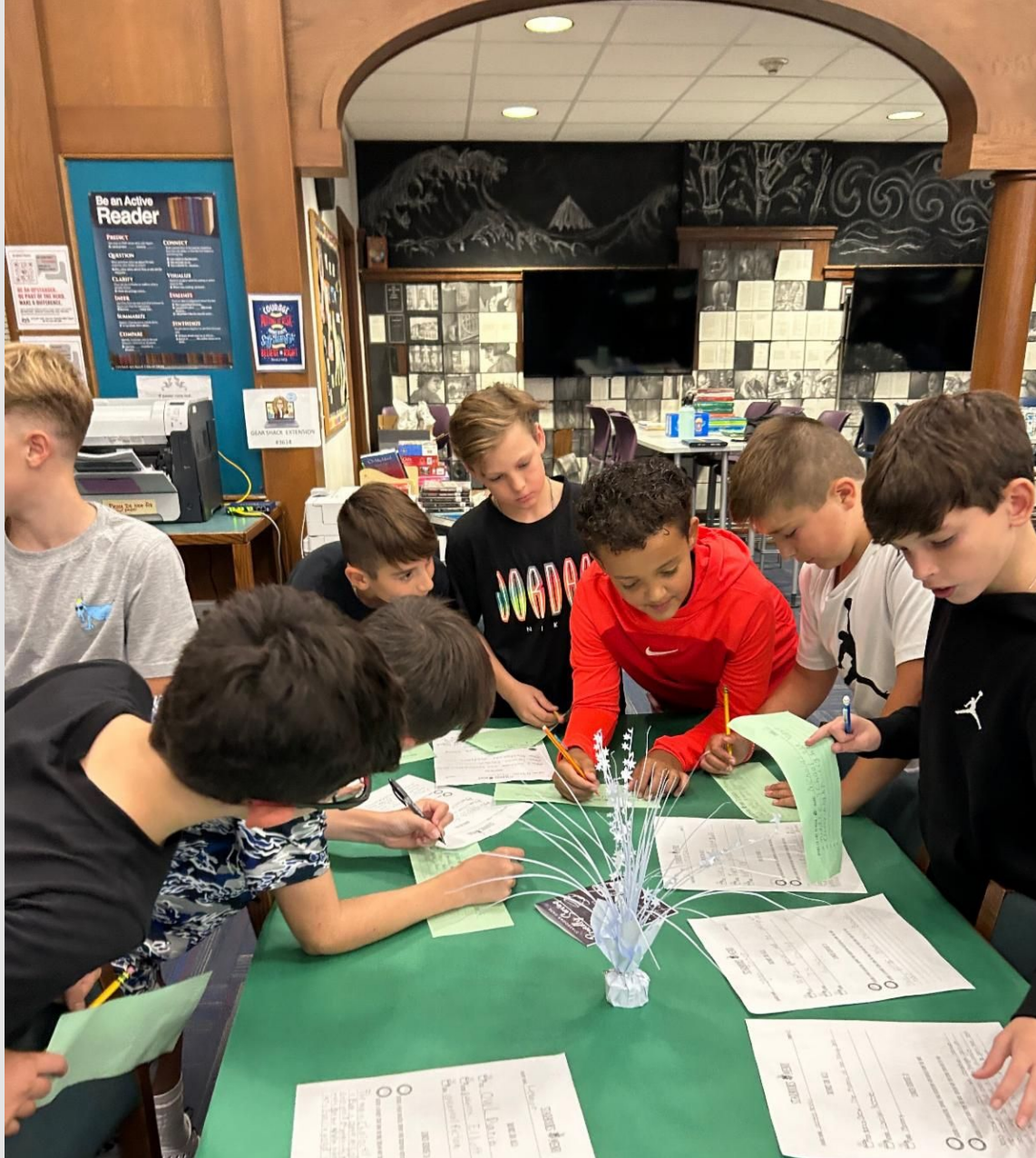


Principles of Biomedical Science, a college-level Project Lead The Way course at the high school, has started off the year by investigating the scene of an untimely death! Students will learn about experimental design, lab skills, biochemistry, DNA analysis, anatomy and physiology while they investigate.



Middle school students honored the 22nd anniversary of 9/11 by creating a Survivor Tree. An SMS counselor shared the story of the pear tree that survived at Ground Zero and inspired this activity. Students wrote on paper leaves inspiring quotes that have gotten them through tough times.

## Sharing Good Reads at "Starbooks" Cafe.



Sixth graders shared their favorite summer reading books at the "Starbooks Cafe" in the library. They prepared a book review and then chose other books they'd like to read based on reviews written by their classmates. As at any good bookstore cafe, drinks were served.

## The Ups and Downs of a Roller Coaster Challenge



*Third grade students watch as their classmates test their roller coaster design.*

A third-grade class at Somers Intermediate School recently completed a roller coaster STEM activity that challenged them to collaborate with their classmates, problem-solve, think critically, and be creative.

"I had the design in my head," said Camille Blewitt about coming up with the design her group used. "Our design worked."

Each group of three or four students was given twenty straws, a roll of masking tape, a pair of scissors, and a ping-pong ball. Using these supplies, students had to work together to design and build a roller coaster that would support the ping-pong ball from start to finish.

"It takes a lot of tries to do it," Camille said. "I would try it again with different materials."

Students had thirty minutes to work on their roller coasters and were then asked to test and present their final creations. "We tried to keep on fixing it so it would go straight, but the ball kept tipping over," Christopher Pizzimenti said about his group's design. "We didn't get enough time, but we would've put on sides so the ball couldn't tip over."

Regardless of whether the designs successfully transported the ping-pong ball, all the students applied hands-on learning that was innovative and inspired them to think creatively to bring their roller coaster visions to life.

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## Fresh Paint for a Fresh New Year



**Senior Connor Meyers, top right, paints different album covers on his high school parking space.**

This year's seniors continued the tradition of painting their parking spots at Somers High School. As the summer ended, seniors at SHS were preparing for their new, and final, school year by putting a fresh coat of paint and a new design on their assigned parking spots.

Earlier in the summer, students entered a lottery through the school and submitted their proposed parking spot designs to the administration for approval. Every senior who entered the lottery was granted a spot. Once spots were assigned and designs were approved, students were on their own, or recruited the help of friends, to get their masterpieces completed before the first day of school.

Students expressed their creativity with a variety of designs, including patterns, favorite characters, hobbies, and landscapes.

Connor Meyers was hard at work on his spot on August 31, just a few days before the start of school. He chose his design based on his passion for album covers. "I've always liked to collect albums and records, and I felt like if I did that for my spot, it's pretty unique, and not many people would think about doing a bunch of album covers," Connor said.

Mikayla Haran was also putting the finishing touches on her spot. She chose her design with a little help from her friends. "Ever since middle school, everyone knows just how much I like ducks. So, I thought I'd put them on my parking spot," Mikayla said.

Both Conner and Mikayla were excited for their final year at SHS and had been looking forward to this senior tradition since they were freshmen.

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## Building Classroom Communities



**Second grade students and teachers energize their bodies after sitting and greeting each other during morning meeting.**

Morning meetings at Primrose Elementary School take place in every classroom, every morning. They are in keeping with Somers Central School District's goal of building a strong school community and fostering social and emotional wellness. During morning meetings, students learn cooperation with classmates, kindness, respect for others, taking turns, listening to each other, and what it means to be a part of the Somers school community.

"I like greeting my friends," said second-grader Aria Sharma. "We greet different people every day."

Teachers and students participate in a variety of activities in their morning meetings, including songs, questions, and sharing activities designed to help students learn more about their classmates. "I like to share how you can be a nice friend," said Aria.

Games, art projects, writing, and movement are also used to nurture connections with others. "In writing, we usually learn about each other, like who we are and what we like to do," said classmate Grace Wintje.

Every morning meeting builds on the last to continually encourage students to get to know each other in new and meaningful ways, helping them to build friendships and find commonality with their peers.

## The PTA Corner



**Welcome back Tuskers!**

On August 30th, the PTA Council hosted a breakfast for all the faculty and staff to kick off the school year. All five PTA units were on hand to greet everyone.

Somers is fortunate to have 5 active and PTA units. Consider joining the PTA today!



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