



Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

The Latest News from Somers Schools

Congratulations Somers High School Class of 2019



World War II Veteran Gets Long-Awaited Diploma

Mr. Louis Forte, a 104-year old World War II veteran and Somers resident, received an honorary diploma from Somers High School during the 2019 graduation ceremony on June 24. Mr. Forte never received a high school diploma because his father passed away and he had to drop out of school to support his mother. Accompanied by his granddaughter and amid rousing cheers from the audience, Mr. Forte donned a Somers cap and gown.

"It was a very proud moment," says Christa Rotolo, Forte's granddaughter. "He was beaming and enjoyed himself immensely."

After receiving his diploma, Forte shook hands with Principal Mark Bayer, Superintendent Ray Blanch, and other Somers Central School District administrators.



Live High School Events Coming Soon to Your Device



A screen shot from a baseball game between two local teams, as seen streaming on LocalLive.

You'll soon be able to see all the lights, cameras, and action at various Somers High School events from the comfort of your own home, thanks to a video streaming service called LocalLive. Through a partnership with Putnam | Northern Westchester BOCES, the Somers Central School District has contracted with LocalLive to install high definition cameras in the high school auditorium, at Turf 1, and in the main gym.

"This gives the opportunity for friends and family members who can't get to a game, awards ceremony or a concert," says Athletic Director Roman Catalino, "to be able to watch events even if they can't physically be there."

Fox Lane, Lakeland and Briarcliff High Schools are just a few of the area schools who also have the system in place, which means many Somers High School sports away-games will be viewable as well. Catalino says he expects coaches will use the recording feature as a learning tool, since teams will be able to watch and analyze their games after they have played.

As part of the service, which is free to use, technicians control the cameras remotely, following the action during covered concerts, games or other event. The events are streamed live with audio, and the action is recorded so you can watch on demand at a later date. The link can be accessed by anyone – including family members who might live far away – and can be streamed on desktops, tablets, and smart phones. When the system is fully installed, a link to events will be on the Somers Central School District website, www.somersschools.org.

Summer Construction Limits Building Access



The construction projects scheduled for this summer at Somers school buildings will limit access to the schools throughout the summer.

Work on the roofs at Primrose Elementary School and Somers Intermediate School has already begun and will increase now that school is out. Work is expected to be finished by August 28. Because of the busy construction traffic around the buildings, including both main entrances, only 12-month staff (custodians, clerical and administrative staff) will have access inside the buildings.

At Somers Middle School, approximately 30,000 square feet of the roof will be replaced. This work started in May, along with repairs to the roof parapet walls, and will continue throughout the summer. This will create construction traffic in the lower parking lot; however, summer drop off and pick up for the Extended School Year program will still take place in the lower entrance. All other summer building operations will continue as

normal.

Roof work at Somers High School started in May and is almost finished. The remaining roofing work is not expected to impact normal summer building operations. Starting June 27, the high school auditorium upgrades will begin. This work includes painting of the ceiling, new theatrical lighting, new curtains and a new audio system. There will be no public access to the auditorium during this project.

The Ozobots Have Landed

The Ozobots have landed at Primrose Elementary! Ozobot Evos are small, smart robots that can follow lines or roam around freely, detect colors, and can be programmed using visual codes.

"Playing with Ozobots makes learning fun and engaging," says Paula Pica, a math enrichment and remediation teacher at Primrose. "The kids and teachers are having a blast with them."

Using the Ozobots, students are learning robotics, math, and programming while addressing additional 21st century concepts such as collaborative thinking, problem solving, computational and sequential thinking, and spatial relations.



Noah Samuel programming an Ozobot robot.

Student Athletes Launch *Somers Committed*



Who better to teach teamwork and optimal mental and physical health than Navy Seals? Six Somers High School student-athletes attended the Human Performance Project youth development workshop in Lincoln, Nebraska, run by founder John Underwood and two former Navy Seals. The program is designed to teach student-athletes the importance of healthy lifestyle choices and the impact of those choices on all aspects of their lives – from academic to athletic to personal. The overall goal is to have the student athletes act as role models to the rest of the Somers schools community, creating a culture of healthy living and smart decision making.

"I think the experience was valuable because it taught me how to be a better leader and teammate on and off the field," says high school sophomore Angelia Hurtado.

The trip was funded by the grant for a Drug Free Community, which was awarded last year to the Somers Central School District along with Somers Partners in Prevention. The Human Performance Project is a researched-based program developed by Underwood, who has trained dozens of professional and Olympic athletes. Attending the program with the students was intermediate school physical education teacher and girls varsity basketball coach

Marc Hattem.

“The research showed the kids in a concrete, real world way how their actions impact their teams and themselves,” says Hattem. “We want all students to understand the cause and effect of their behaviors.”

The students attended sessions about the effects of sleep, drugs and alcohol on performance, building resilience and managing stress, conflict resolution and peer intervention, team work and leadership.

Once back in Somers, the six students, joined by John Underwood, shared their experiences in Nebraska with the high school Student Athletic Council, coaches and district administrators. The Student Athletic Council has formally named the program *Somers Committed* and will now work with Hattem and Underwood to adapt the program to best fit the Somers community.

“We’re starting with the high school athletes, but the intent is to integrate this way of living into the entire student culture,” says Superintendent Dr. Raymond Blanch. “Eventually we will have the older students visit with young kids down to fourth or fifth grade to demonstrate to them the importance of making healthy lifestyle decisions.”

“I think Somers as a whole will benefit from this program,” says Hurtado, “Because it is going to implement a healthy lifestyle for high schoolers and hopefully spread through the community as a whole.”

Picture - left to right Ashli Ginquitti, Sabrina Somoza, Drew Lasher

PTA Celebrates Many Successful Events



The Somers Parent Teacher Association kicked off this school year with a breakfast for district staff, Freshman Orientation and a Back-to-School picnic to welcome everyone back. Throughout the year, we organized Authors Visits, Socials, Holiday Happiness, the SIS Birthday Party, a Magic Show, a Driver Safety Program, Recycling Day, the Tusker Trot, and many more programs. The final PTA event of the year was the annual Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast.



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