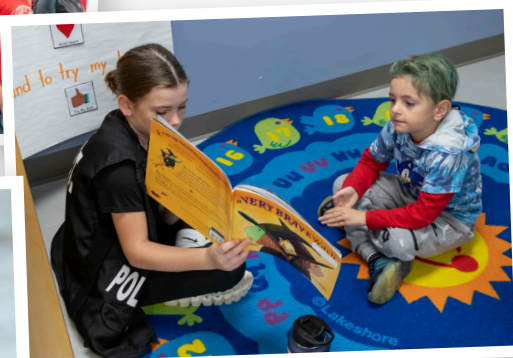


MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT NEWS

December 2023



#RedJacketPride

EXCELLENCE

Challenge and learning are the goals and the rewards

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OUR MISSION

We will challenge all learners and work in partnership with students, parents and community to achieve high standards.

 REDJACKET.ORG

 @REDJACKETSCHOOLS

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Message from the Superintendent



Dear Manchester-Shortsville School District Family,

As we embrace the festive spirit of the holiday season, I find myself reflecting on the immeasurable joy and gratitude that each of you brings to our school community. In these moments of celebration, it becomes clear that the positive impact of joy and gratitude extends far beyond the classroom.

Our dedicated staff plays a pivotal role in creating a school culture filled with warmth and inspiration. Their commitment to fostering an environment where students thrive is a gift that keeps on giving. This holiday season, I am profoundly grateful for the joy our staff bring to our students' lives, not just through academics, but through the lasting

memories they help create.

It's important to recognize that the memories our staff makes with our students during this holiday season will last a lifetime. Whether it's a heartwarming lesson, a creative project, or a simple moment of kindness, these experiences contribute to the rich tapestry of our school culture.

As we come together in the spirit of joy and gratitude, let us appreciate the profound impact we have on the lives of our students and our entire community. Your dedication to spreading joy and creating meaningful connections is what makes the Manchester-Shortsville School District truly special.

Wishing you and your loved ones a holiday season filled with joy, gratitude, and the warmth of shared memories.

With Red Jacket PRIDE,

Christopher J. Barnard
Superintendent of Schools
Manchester-Shortsville CSD



Red Jacket Rebranding Update



At Red Jacket, the district's commitment to PRIDE—Partnership, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, and Excellence—remains steadfast. In November, the district started hosting monthly Tuesday Town Hall meetings. They happen on the last Tuesday of every month. The town halls give community members the opportunity to openly discuss topics with Superintendent Christopher Barnard. Discussions include rebranding timelines, costs, and other concerns. In addition to the town halls, Superintendent Barnard will continue to provide monthly community updates following each month's Board of Education meeting.

The district has begun the process of forming a Rebrand Advisory Committee which will include community members, organization representatives, and district stakeholders. This committee will assist the district through this transformative phase, and help ensure inclusivity in the decision-making process.

To address community questions regarding financial implications and the impact of the district rebrand, District Business Administrator Tim Burns will attend an upcoming Tuesday Town Hall meeting, tentatively scheduled for March.

For the latest district information, visit our district website at www.redjacket.org. Rebranding news and information can be found on the district website by going to the "District" dropdown menu and selecting "Rebranding Info & Updates."

Reindeer Games: Local Business Donates Coloring Books to RtI Program

When Mrs. Sara Eskildsen, a reading intervention teacher at Red Jacket Elementary School, saw an alphabet coloring book at a local reindeer farm, she knew it was the perfect opportunity to make a learning connection with her students.

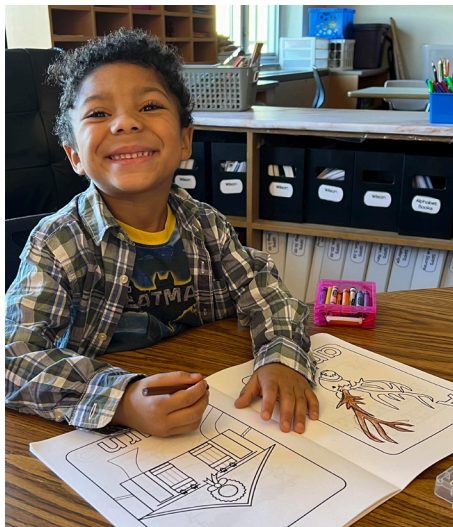
The Shortsville Reindeer Farm is owned by Michael Schaertl, a Red Jacket alumnus who taught in the district for 25 years before retiring in 2022. “It was my wife Lisa’s idea,” said Mr. Schaertl. “She spent hours drawing all the photos.” The coloring books have pictures of different activities at the reindeer farm along with a corresponding letter associated with that activity.



RtI, which stands for Response to Intervention, is a process where educators use assessment data to guide instructional decisions and help students achieve grade-level standards. The program in the elementary

school supports students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

“With kindergartners having little letter recognition, anything that you can do to make a connection will



create a positive experience,” said Mrs. Eskildsen. “The hope is that the association of the picture students are coloring with the letter, will also help increase the memorization of letter recognition.”

The Shortsville Reindeer Farm donated more than a dozen books to the program. Students will use the books from now until the winter holiday break. Once the lesson plan is completed, they will be able to take the books home and show off their work.

“You can see the personal creativity from each of the students and the positive

impact it’s having on them,” said Mrs. Eskildsen. The plan is to expand next year and continue the tradition along with supporting one of our local businesses.

Mr. Schaertl says he’ll be ready to help, “My wife and I have always had a strong desire to support not just students but the entire Red Jacket community. We believe a good public education is essential to maintaining a productive society.”

Mrs. Eskildsen says with Red Jacket being such a small community, it is very close knit. “The connections current staff have with former teachers and students; all those things strengthen the fabric of the learning atmosphere, which is a benefit to this district.”



My Friend's Closet

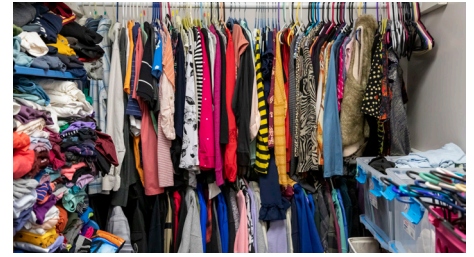


The school library has evolved into a place that is far more than checking out books. With new technology and ample learning space, the school library is a great place for all students to either study, or just destress. Here at Red Jacket schools, our library has even more to offer, My Friend's Closet.

My Friend's Closet is a place all students can go if they

are in need of clothes or shoes. Whether it's because they forgot their jacket at home, need snow boots to go outside, or just like one of the shirts on the rack, any student can go and take what they need. There are even dresses for those who may need to find something for the school dance

Mrs. Emma Lampley, the Middle School Counselor, came up with the idea. She worked with Mrs. Karen Burns, the Red Jacket Library Media Specialist, to help make it a reality. "Students don't need a reason," said Mrs. Burns. "They can just come in at any time and grab something they need or



like."

Everything found in My Friend's Closet has been donated by the Red Jacket faculty and staff.



Red Jacket High School Earns Nat'l Recognition

Red Jacket High School earned high National and metro-area rankings in the 2023-2024 Best High Schools, which U.S. News released on August 29th.

To determine a school's placement on this list, U.S. News evaluated nearly 18,000 high schools nationwide based on six factors: college readiness, reading and math proficiency, reading and math performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth, and graduation rates.

By earning a national ranking, Red Jacket High School achieved status as a U.S. News Best High School and gained eligibility to display a U.S. News-trademarked 2023-2024 Best High Schools award "badge". For the 2022/2023 school year, Red Jacket High School was ranked in the top 20% in the country and top 33% in New York State.

Thank You Veterans! Red Jacket Honors Local Heroes



On November 9th, the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District welcomed local veterans who spoke with our students. At Red Jacket Elementary, the school held its annual Veterans Day assembly to honor those who currently serve, or have served, our country.



Students in grades 3-5 were given the opportunity to submit a personal essay on the importance of veterans and why we should honor them for their service. Four student essays were selected to be shared at the

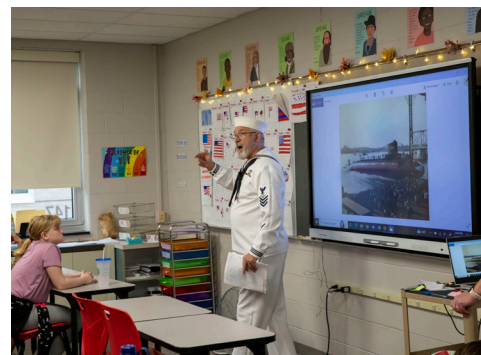
ceremony.

Congratulations to Kylie-Rae Helstrom, Cecelia Mencucci, Katie MacGeorge, and Candace Montanez-Santana! The elementary school chorus and band also put on performances for our veterans.



In the Middle School, veterans from our community and staff spent the entire school day sharing stories with

students. The halls were decorated and our students wore red, white, and blue as they welcomed the veterans. The district had veterans from nearly every branch of the military,



including army, navy and the air force. At the end of each class, students were also able to ask questions.

The district would like to thank all of our local veterans for the sacrifices they have endured to secure our freedoms as Americans.



Nat'l Honor Society Helps Spread Holiday Cheer!



Students from the Red Jacket National Honor Society helped spread some holiday cheer this season. They collected food items for the Twin Cities Holiday Food Basket Program.

The program is a volunteer-led effort whose mission is to provide families in need, who are residing in the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District, with a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal basket, as well as Christmas gifts for children.

With donations from Red Jacket staff members, the National Honor Society was able to put together 9 food baskets for donation. In addition to collecting the food items, National Honor Society members donated their time to help collect other donations from community members and organize distribution of donations to 67 families.

Game On! Red Jacket Esports Team Completes First Season



What started off as a gaming club playing against friends, is now bringing in bigger competition. The Red Jacket Esports Team just finished their first season as a high school esports team.



Esports stands for electronic sports, and has become very popular in school districts across the nation. The team gets matched up with other school districts through a system called PlayVS. The Red Jacket Esports Team mainly competes in the game Super Smash Bros Ultimate on the Nintendo Switch, but also has tournaments in Mario Kart.

They played in a total of 13

matches this season across three different teams. They played against schools all across New York State.



"It started with us just playing around having fun with friendly competition," said Red Jacket Junior Seth Gurewitch. "We are excited to have this opportunity now to play against other districts in meaningful games."

The esports winter season is set to kick off on January 17th. Any high school students interested should contact Coach Christopher Hall.

Smooth Sailing: Red Jacket Competes in Great Cardboard Boat Regatta at Pal-Mac



Racing across a pool of water on a cardboard boat. That's exactly what several Red Jacket students accomplished at a competition back in November. The team of cardboard boat engineers traveled to cross-town district Palmyra-Macedon Central School District to compete in the Great Cardboard Boat Regatta.

The team of students took part in several events that involved floating cardboard boats in a pool. The task wasn't as simple as dropping a box into a pool. It took the students seven weeks to engineer



multiple vessels that could take on the watery elements.

The students are part of Mr. Stephen Powers' Materials Processing class, which is an elective available to all

high school students. They were only allowed to use cardboard, masking tape and latex paint to create a



paddling boat that could support two people. "I think the students realized how big the event this was and how much work went into creating and racing the boats," said Mr. Powers. "It was fun to watch the students go through the process."

Great Cardboard Boat Regatta consisted of a March Madness style bracket. Seven teams total entered the competition;



The most creative boat received a first round bye in the competition. In the end, multiple Red Jacket teams filled the top spots, including first overall.

"For the first year of Red Jacket competing in The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta race, I believe everyone had a great time," said Mr. Powers. "I look forward to making this an annual competition with the technology class from Pal-Mac high school."

There are no future competitions planned at this time for this school year, however, the students are talking about putting together a boat for Derby Day in April.



Budding Readers Program

Free Books for Babies

The Budding Readers Program began serving the Red Jacket community in 2012. Babies up to 36 months of age in the Red Jacket School District can receive a free “bundle of books” along with our Parent Guide, which contains tips for reading to babies and young children. Age-appropriate books for siblings through age 7 are also provided.



Budding Readers also gifts a new book to each UPK and Kindergarten student in the Red Jacket district three times during the school year: at the start of school in the fall, around Christmas time, and one to take home for the summer.

The Red Jacket Budding Readers Program is coordinated by Mary Beth Poupart, retired Red Jacket Elementary School Librarian. Key Red Jacket volunteers are Burdie Gillern and Suzanne Winslow, retired teachers from Red Jacket.

Want to know more about the Red Jacket program?

Know a Red Jacket baby or expectant mom?

Contact Burdie or Mary Beth to receive a free “bundle of books,” or place your request here.

To contact Mary Beth: mpoupart@rochester.rr.com or 315.310.3743

To contact Burdie: burdgil@aol.com or 585.394.0963

**MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE
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www.redjacket.org

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