

# HAMILION CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Hamilton Central School • A Professional Learning Community

# **CLASS OF 2022 - CONGRATULATIONS**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michelle Jacobsen President

Jennifer Jones *Vice President* 

Ellen Larson

G. Cory Duclos

Travis Ames

www.hamiltoncentral.org

Special Points of Interest:

District News Matter of Principal

Elementary News

2022-23 School Calendar

Parent Notifications

HCS All Class Reunion Caitlyn Acompora Henry Jackson Harry Rosbrook Nathan Brooks Simon Klepeis Thomas Simpson Juliana Catania Ian Skinner Zachary LaFrance Sami Cigeroglu Alexis Lapp Brooke Speer Grace Costa Samuel Larson Benjamin Stewart Alexander Linden **Autumn Dailey** Samuel Stewart Morghan Duyssen Michael Mansfield Reagan Toomath Cara Fellone Emma Newman Benjamin Westervelt Siena Figueroa Zoie Ostrander Declan Wilson

Brady Foster Briahna Packer Lillian Woods
Keaton Fravil Kyleigh Pearson Jacob Wright
Myles Fravil Lucas Rice An Zheng
Emilia Goeller Koy Robbins Lincoln Zieme

Emilia Goeller Koy Robbins Lincoln Ziemer Chrislin Hoyle Dylan Rogers

hn Hughas

John Hughes

Hamilton Central School will celebrate its 124<sup>th</sup> commencement exercises this year. The graduation ceremony will be held in-person on our stadium field on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (rain date Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.) For those who would like to view the ceremony but cannot attend in-person, we will be live streaming the event.

The members of the class, 42 in number, have distinguished themselves in academics, athletics, and extra-curricular activities throughout their high school experience.

Special congratulations to our Class of 2022 Valedictorian Zachary LaFrance and our Salutatorian Alexander Linden.









## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear HCS Families & Community Members:

As we approach the end of the 2021-22 school year, we are taking the time to reflect on this past year while preparing for the future. We are extremely thankful to our learning community - individually and collectively—for the extraordinary support of our District during these challenging times. From the very beginning of the pandemic until now, the tremendous efforts of our faculty & staff, students, families and committed community partners have personified the value of community in the face of adversity. I am extremely proud of these collective efforts and our progress under very difficult conditions.

I would also like to thank the residents of the community for their tremendous level of support in passing the budget for the 2022-23 school year. The budget received an 81% "yes" vote. We appreciate the trust the community places in us.

Please join me in taking this opportunity to recognize Mrs. Betsy Marcellus who is leaving us to enter into retirement. We are filled with gratitude for all she's done to help us navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and for serving the children of HCS for the past 20 years. We will miss her and wish her well in retirement!

As we near the end of the school year, our seniors, families and students from every grade level have so much to be proud of. Together we have persevered through the challenges presented to us this year and together we can look forward to a brighter future with the knowledge and strength that comes from a collaborative team that supports our mission of "educating every student, every day."

May the final weeks of this school year bring you all good health, happiness and a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Together, we are #HCSstrong!

William Dowsland

William Dowsland • Superintendent of Schools

#### **Board of Education News**

Congratualtions to Mrs. Michelle Jacobsen and Mrs. Jennifer Jones for being re-elected as a board members for a three-year term starting July 1, 2022.



# MATTER OF PRINCIPAL

Many things have been difficult in the last two years. I am very proud of what our students at HCS have been able to accomplish despite these difficulties. We had many students continue their level of excellence even when various obstacles were put in their path. This year's Valedictorian and Salutatorian modeled resilience in the face of adversity. I am very happy to recognize the HCS Class of 2022 Valedictorian Zachary LaFrance and Salutatorian Alexander Linden.

Our Valedictorian, Zachary Eric LaFrance, is the son of Richard and Dawn LaFrance and the brother of Chloe LaFrance, class of '25. Zachary is the 2021 recipient of the Rensselaer Medal Award and the Clarkson University Leadership Award. He has been an active member of the HCS learning community, participating in Student Council, National Honor Society, Mathletics, Language Club, varsity football, basketball, and baseball. He also worked as a tutor for younger students. Zachary's efforts in athletics and academics have led to numerous accolades throughout his high school career. He has received Scholar-Athlete awards, All-Mohawk Valley honors, All-League honors, and an All-State Honorable Mention in basketball. His leadership skills led to him being named captain of all three of his athletic teams. Zachary was also a member of two outof-school teams: Mohawk Valley Elite Basketball and Syracuse Select Basketball.

Zachary would like to thank his mom for being there to help him through academic struggles and always being there to support him, and his dad for always making sure that he had every lesson and piece of equipment, and all the motivation he needed in everything from sports to school. He would like to thank his sister for always being there and becoming one of his best friends, someone he could always count on to make him food and make him laugh when the business of life got the best of him. Also, his coaches, teachers, and friends (especially Jake) have had a great impact on him throughout his years at HCS. Zachary's favorite quote is "Why Not Change the World?" from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. His advice for younger students is to find time for yourself and find hobbies that you enjoy; pursue what makes you happy rather than following the path of others.

Zachary will graduate in June with a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors. In the fall, he will attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute majoring in industrial engineering with plans to work in an engineering business field.

Our Salutatorian, Alexander Bergen Linden, is the son of Kerry Linden and Daryl Wilson and the brother

of Vivian Linden, class of '25. Bergen is the 2021 recipient of the George Eastman Young Leaders Award and the RIT Innovation and Creativity Award. He has been involved in many activities while a student at HCS such as the National Honor Society, Mathletics, Student Council, Secondary Steering Committee, Ski Club, Tech Club, varsity soccer, varsity tennis, and Masquers. As a member of Masquers, he performed in various theatrical productions. On the tennis court, he was a captain and a Sectional Champion. His hard work in all of his pursuits led to him receiving Scholar-Athlete awards, CSC All-Star honors, and a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Outside of school, he was a member of the Delta Brick Builders, Hamilton's Lego League team, and he received his black belt in karate at Miori Martial Arts. He has also found enjoyment climbing in the Adirondacks and in being a tennis coach for the Hamilton Summer Recreation program. In our community, he has volunteered for the Hamilton Food Cupboard, the Hamilton Public Library, holiday church sales, and the Friendship Inn, and he helped a fellow senior with their Eagle Scout project.

Throughout his time in Hamilton, he has built meaningful relationships with his peers, teachers, coaches, family members, and others in the community. He would especially like to thank Coach Poznar, Dr. Helfant, and his mom for all of their support. Bergen's favorite quote is "And now for something completely different" from Monty Python. His advice for younger students is to make the most of everything you do; both school and life will be more enjoyable and rewarding if you are actively trying to improve yourself and expand your knowledge.

He will graduate in June with a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors. In the fall, Bergen will attend Rochester Institute of Technology majoring in mechanical engineering in the combined bachelor's and master's program where he hopes to gain the skills needed to build the products of the future.

Zach and Bergen, we are all very proud of your accomplishments and your dedication to the many things that make HCS a special place to learn and grow. Your efforts have followed a long tradition of excellence, and your representation of what it means to be an Emerald Knight will add to that tradition.

# Mark Arquiett

Mark Arquiett • Secondary Principal

### Hamilton Central School District





#### **BAND NEWS**

Thomas Roy shows off his new prosthetic that holds a drumstick that was provided to him by "GRiP". GRiP is an organization, made up of University of Florida students, that strives to make a difference in the lives of others. They make 3D-printed assistive devices to those in need across the world. This prosthetic allows Thomas to play more intricate drum parts including drum rolls. The project took almost a year to complete, but has been well worth the wait!

# 2022 Center State Conference Track & Field Class D Champions

Freshman Teddy Freeth in the 1600 meters Sophomore Joe Berry in the 3200 meters.

# **HCS News from the Science Wing**

by Dr. Astrid Helfant

An image of sophomores Nick Catania, Jonah Rood Creel, and Wes Ziemer analyzing water samples from around the Hamilton area in Dr. Helfant's classroom. Nick and Wes constructed a distillation set-up to isolate all the minerals in the water. Jonah tested the minimum concentration of lead needed for detection using the Gold Rain precipitation method. This independent study was a spin-off from a Project Based Learning lesson plan Dr. Helfant learned about at last November's STANYS (Science Teacher Association of NYS) conference held in Rochester.

#### **Sixth Grade**

Ms. Chamberlain

This year 6<sup>th</sup> grade has immersed themselves in the world of technology. We have utilized the opportunities that we have available here at HCS to strengthen our understanding of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Students have learned to operate drones, and we have recently begun using Educational Minecraft in our social studies curriculum to bring our content to life.







#### FIFTH GRADE NEWS

Our fifth-grade class had the incredible opportunity to visit the *Beyond Van Gogh* exhibit in Rochester this April with sincere thanks to the Hamilton Emerald Foundation. Before the trip, students learned about Vincent Van Gogh in art class and recreated a painting of their choice using oil pastels and then included a poetic writing piece. The first half of the art exhibit educated viewers on Vincent Van Gogh's personal and professional history as an artist, including first-hand letters written by Van Gogh. The second half was an immersive experience of Van Gogh's digitally recreated paintings paired with music and movement to make you feel like a part of the artwork. It was truly a captivating and unforgettable experience!

#### Mrs. Kowalski

K-8 Art Teacher • Hamilton Central School



#### HAMILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL 2022-23 CALENDAR W 5 November 2 W 12 13 14 21 12 13 2 15 16 18 22 29 10 11 19 15 21 22 23 24 28 29 30 F 16 17 18 19 20 25 16 20 21 22 23 24 13 14 15 16 17 21 22 23 27 28 25 29 26 First Day of School for Students - Sept. 7 Last Day of School for Students - June 23 9 10 11 12 16 23 Regents Test Days 17 Sept. 18 25 Supt's Conf. Day Sept. 5 Jan. 24-27 Labor Day Mar. 22 14 Sept. 6 Nov. June 14-16 20-23 Supt's Conf. Day Dec. Oct. Supt's Conf. Day 22 Jan. Oct. 20 Indigenous Peoples' Day Nov. **Total Student Da** 11 Veterans' Day Nov. 23-25 Staff Days Thanksgiving Recess Sept. Supt. Conf. Day = Yellov 23-30 Winter Recess acation Day = Purple -Boxed Jan. Jan. Oct Winter Recess Mar. PK-12 Half Days = Blue PK-6 Half Days=Green 16 18 ML King Day 14 22 Feb Dec. 20-24 Mid-Winter Recess Supt's Conf Day agents Test Day = Oran Mar 17 Apr Good Friday Apr Total Staff Days: 184 10-14 2022 Final Spring Rece Take Back Days - 4/13, 4/14 May 29 Memorial Day Give Back Days - TBD Jun 19 Juneteenth

# ELEMENTARY NEWS

Dear Hamilton Learning Community,

It is amazing that we have come to the conclusion of another wonderful and productive school year! Together we have accomplished so much to ensure the safety, social emotional needs, and education of our students. Below are just a few highlights from this year.

The Weekend Knight BackPack Program was a service that provided supplemental meals and snacks for those families in our district. Backpacks of food were sent home twice a month during the academic school year on Friday afternoons. There was no cost to families thanks to coordinated efforts between the Hamilton Teachers Association, Hamilton Emerald Foundation and community member donations.

Our students enjoyed the new addition to our school this year of a Makerspace room. The Makerspace was a place where students could gather to work on projects with a focus on creativity, innovation, and imagination. Students used this space both during the class day with their teachers as well as after school as part of the Mighty Knights program.

The second grade team collaborated with the high school students to complete a project based experience for their economics unit. The students made and sold 278 wooden cookie-like ornaments. The funds that they raised were used towards hygiene kits for area rescue missions. This collaborative project was recognized by the New York State School Boards Association (NYSS-BA) which acknowledged our teachers and students by awarding them the Applause for the Cause recognition for their acts of kindness and self-directed initiative.

The Elementary Student Council brought our school community together by their production of weekly announcements in video format. Each Monday morning we looked forward to the student produced weekly

installment that included student birthdays, interviews with teachers, and a focus on the weekly Positivity Project character trait.

Our Elementary Steering Team had an active year with many new teacher and parent members joining our group. The focus of the Elementary Steering Team includes supporting the HCS current and ongoing academic, social/emotional, health and

safety, and technology goals. This year we focused on providing feedback for our report card revision process.

We were so excited to have been able to offer an after school program, Mighty Knights, for our students in grades K-5. Additionally, a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs were offered this year including Liberty Kids (collaborative with Colgate University), Ukulele Club, Art Club, Math Club, Literary Magazine, Novel Writing Circle, Kickball, among others.

We were equally excited to welcome back our in-person theater and musical events this year. These included chorus, band, and orchestra concerts, the fall play, Twinderella, and the combined elementary, middle, and high school musical Seussical.

As a school community we all read the book Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate as part of our HCS Reads program. Additionally, together we collected and donated over 300 boxes of cereal to our local Food Cupboard. This donation sparked another act of kindness. Johanna Bossard coordinated with Emma Andrews from the American Dairy Association and they were able to secure 300 milk vouchers from Stewarts to be donated alongside the cereal boxes collected during our HCS Reads cereal drive. This was a wonderful real life example of the domino effect of kindness!

Thank you to each and every one of you, teachers, support staff, parents, community members and organizations, for your commitment to helping to make our school a place to learn and grow. I wish you all a happy, safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

All the best,

Heather Thomas • Elementary Principal



HOME OF THE EMERALD KNIGHTS

#### **KNEWS**

Mrs. Coddington's Kindergarten did the Daily Pledge on News Channel 9 on May 5, 2022. The children were very excited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance on television! Go to https://www.localsyr.com/pledge/the-daily-pledge-mrs-coddingtons-kindergarten-class/

#### THIRD GRADE





May 11th was National School Nurse's Day. Thirds graders showed their appreciation for Mrs. Macellus and all she does at HCS by writing inspirational messages in sidewalk chalk and presenting her with handmade cards!

# HCS Elementary Students and Career Development

This past February, elementary students completed career assessments with our Elementary School Counselor, Mrs. Houck, and results were sent home for families to review with their child. In collaboration with Mrs. Kow-

alski, students completed art projects that represented the career cluster they scored highest in based on their interests. Student art projects are displayed on a bulletin board in the elementary hallway.

#### For Families:

There are a number of other ways to support your child with their own career development. Talking to family members or neighbors, looking at books, and observing people at work are just a few. For more information about how to teach your child about career development you can visit www.careerkids.com.





# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

Hello Hamilton Families,

In the aftermath of the recent tragic events we are, once again, asking ourselves the same questions...

"Why does this keep happening?"

"How can we stop this from happening?"

"What can we do to actually make a difference?"

And, there are lots of partisan opinions about how to answer these questions. Likely, there will be outrage, debates, pointing fingers, and little will be done to keep this from happening again.

Here at HCS, we have been and will continue to make changes that we believe will make a difference. Part of the change is a paradigm shift in the way we understand discipline. Traditionally, as many of you know from your experience at school, we have rules, regulations, and policy designed to address student misbehavior. When a student fails to meet these rules, a discipline is given (detention, suspension, etc.). Often we involve the students in the process of making rules so that they are more likely to have buy-in. This system of discipline works for the majority of students, usually those that do not need this sort of system. For those that are subject to the discipline, evidence clearly shows that suspensions, detentions, and exclusionary practices are not effective in lowering repeat offenses. I'm not suggesting that we do away with discipline, but that we just need to do much more. Additionally, we are building programs and supports for students that are struggling with their social and emotional well-being.

Our SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) team is in an ongoing process of developing systems and programs to best support our students' emotional development. Our primary efforts will focus our energy on preventative actions before concerning behaviors occur. In September, all staff will be trained in the concepts of Restorative Practices. Instead of using punishments and rewards to influence the way students behave, restorative approaches address the underlying reasons for students' hurtful behavior and nurture their intrinsic desire to treat others with care and respect. Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS), by Dr. Ross Greene, will also be implemented through a pilot team of teachers and counselors. CPS addresses the problems that cause concerning behaviors and helps students and adults to work collaboratively to solve the problems. In this model, we become problem solvers, not behavior modifiers.

This year, grades Prek-5 were introduced to Second Step, a curriculum designed to give teachers an easy-to-implement, engaging way to teach social-emotional skills and concepts. Second Step programs are designed to help children thrive and be more successful in school - ultimately setting them up to be thoughtful and productive adults.

Next year, we will also be adding members to our SEL Team that will increase the support for our students, families and our teachers. Currently, we have a school psychologist, 3 counselors and a part-time behavior specialist. Beginning this September, we will add a full-time social worker to support families both at school and in the home. We will also be adding an additional teacher to help support students and teachers within the classroom.

It is our intention to build a collaborative and caring community where all students feel included, engaged, and supported. As more and more students are struggling to feel connected at a personal and trusted level, it is becoming increasingly important that we respond with the strategies, interventions, and levels of support that they need.

If you have any questions in regards to any of the programs or services that help build social and emotional learning, please don't hesitate to reach out to me here at school.

Kevin Ellis

#### NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS

Pursant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act, the school district must disclose to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon request, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of our high school students. However, the district must also notify parents of their rights and the rights of their children to request, in writing, that the district NOT release such information if it is requested.

For the 2022-23 school year, parents, or students who are at least 18 years old, wishing to exercise their option to withhold their consent to the release of the above information to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, must sign and return the form attached below to the High School office. Please return by July 1, 2022.

### NOTIFICATION TO SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: Hamilton Central School Main Office

Re: Reservation of Consent for the Release of Certain Student Information under the No Child Left Behind Act

Please DO NOT release the name, address or tele	ephone number of	
to military recruiters or institutions of higher learning.		
	D. G.	
Date	Parent Signature	

#### TITLE I PROGRAM

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF RIGHT TO RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF TITLE I TEACHERS

Per Title I parental notification requirements, parents have the right to receive, upon request to the District, certain information as authorized by federal law regarding the professional qualifications of the child's classroom teachers. Upon the District's receipt of the request, in a timely manner, the following information will be provided.

- 1 Whether the teacher has met New York State Education Department qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas he/she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisonal status through which New York State Education Department qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived due to special circumstances.
- 3 The teacher's college major (undergraduate level); whether the teacher has any graduate certifications or degrees and, if so, the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- 4 Whether your child is provided services by any teaching assistants and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to receive this information, please contact the elementary or high school office.

#### TITLE IX

Hamilton Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities which it operates and it is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 not to discriminate in such a manner. This policy of non-discrimination includes the following areas: recruitment and appointment of employees, employment pay and benefits, counseling services for students, access by students to educational programs, course offerings and student activities.

#### PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION

New York State law requires that schools and BO-CES maintain a list of staff and parents who wish to receive written notice 48 hours prior to a pesticide application at our facility. If you wish to be included on the School District Notification List, please contact the District Office at 824-6310. You will then receive advance notification of an application of a pesticide product covered by notification requirements, except in the event of an emergency application in response to a threat to public health.

#### Hamilton Central School

47 West Kendrick Avenue Hamilton, NY 13346

"A Professional Learning Community"

Non-Profit Organization US Postage PAID Hamilton, NY 13346

# Postal Austomer Rural Route or Box Holder





At the EATON STREET PAVILION by the ball park A covered outdoor facility, much safer if the virus is still around

SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2022 11:00 - 1:30

MANY LUNCH CHOICES - Hamburgers, Hot dogs, shaved rib eye, Crab cake, NT LUNUN บทบานธอ - namburgers, กบเ นบบูร, ราสงาย กม eye, บาสมาชิ Cheese steak, Ratatouille sandwich - vegan, Chicken cheese steak Chill - vegan, chicken or steak, assorted sides Soft drinks and bottled water Catered by Doug Kane, HCS '97, www.oscarsdiner.com Doug now owns the brick and mortar restaurant "Oscar's Hometown Diner" in now owns the brick and mortar restaurant "Oscar's nometown bine Bouckville. Great food, stop in soon and say hello to a fellow alum. No reservations required, just drop in.

DETAILS ON THE HALL OF HONOR INDUCTION CEREMONY

WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

TO HOLD A MAJOR REUNION **EVERY 5 YEARS** AND MAKE THE ANNUAL ALL CLASS REUNION A PART OF YOUR PLANS.

Art Zimmer, Class of 56, Chairperson, zimmer123@twcnv.rr.com Suzanne Morton Collins, Class of 79, Co-chair Plan now to attend next year's reunion, Monday, July 3, 2023

For more information about the reunion, Hall of Honor and school, please visit For more information about the reunion, Hall of Honor and School, https://www.alumniclass.com/hamiltonseniorhishschool/eunioneg/https://www.facebook.com/groups/fa445147goas/www.facebook.com/groups/fa445147goas/www.facebook.com/groups/fa445147goas/www.facebook.com/groups/fa445147goas/

#### **Dignity For All Students Act (DASA)**

The Dignity Act impacts the following SAVE requirements: Code of Conduct, Harassment, Discrimination, Civility, Citizenship, Character Education, Reporting.

Mr. Matthew Crumb, Mr. Kevin Ellis, Mr. Mark Arquiett, and Ms. Heather Thomas are the DASA Coordinators. Please feel free to contact them with concerns that you may have.

## NOTIFICATION OF POLICIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE VIA OUR WEBSITE FOR YOUR REVIEW

As required, the District is to provide parents with the following policies. At your convenience, please visit our website (www.hamiltoncentral.org) to view the policies listed below, as well as all school policies.

- #0020 Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment & Bullying
- #0031 Tobacco, Nicotine and E-Cigarette Use Prohibited
- #1014 Code of Conduct
- #1040 Parent and Family Engagement in Title I Programs'
- #5320 Short-Term Work Asbestos Notification
- #5662 School Food Service Program & Meal Charge
- #7365, #7365.2, #7365.3, #7365.4 Education Records/FERPA
- #8100 Grade Placement, Retention and Promotion
- **#8602 Interpreter for Hearing Impaired Parents**

If you are unable to access and would like a copy, call the District Office at 315-824-6310 to request a copy.