

Winter 2019-20



# HAMILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Hamilton Central School \* A Professional Learning Community

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## Special Points of Interest:

- ❖ *Matter of Principal, Alumni, Masquers*
- ❖ *Music Dept, Model UN, 6th Gr.*
- ❖ *Director of PPS Message*
- ❖ *Elementary News*
- ❖ *Budget Calendar of Events*

## From the Superintendent

Hello Friends & Families of HCS:

I hope you are all well! It's hard to believe the first semester is already coming to a close. By the time you receive this winter newsletter, we will be entering into the second semester and have begun counting down the days until Spring.

I'm thrilled with the excitement and events that are happening within our schools! Lots of activities have been taking place including the annual Back to School Bash, Pumpkin Walk, community tree lighting ceremony, National Honor Society & National Junior Honor Society inductions, Masquers performances, athletic events, food, clothing and hygiene drives to support the less fortunate, Mathletics, FFA events, and last but certainly not least, the outstanding teaching and learning taking place in our classrooms on a daily basis.

Speaking of teaching and learning, I've made it a priority to find time in my schedule to visit classrooms on a regular basis. Without a doubt, these visits have been the highlights of my school year. The intellectual conversations between and amongst faculty and students have been amazing.

It's wonderful to hear from our thoughtful, and intelligent young people. This is a great time to be a part of the Hamilton Central School District, and I hope you and your children share the same excitement.

Please accept my gratitude for the support you provide our students, faculty and administration. As I have stated before, with the support from families and community members that stand alongside us as partners in education, we will ensure that our students become well educated, exceptional young people who help shape the future.

As always, we continue to welcome your positive partnership as we strive to make our school not just a place to go, but a community to be a part of.

All the best,

Superintendent of Schools

## Construction Countdown

The District has hired the following contractors to begin Phase I of the three-phase Capital Project to address the roofing, HVAC, electrical and plumbing needs of the building. Phase I work is scheduled to start in the spring, with most construction taking place over the summer and completed by the start of school.

General Construction - Richard E. Alexander Co.    HVAC/Plumbing Construction - H.J. Brandeles Corp  
Electrical Construction - S.C. Spencer Electric, Inc.    Roofing Construction - Apple Roofing Corp.



*Our Mission...*

*To Educate Every Student, Every Day*



## **A Matter of Principal**

submitted from the desk of Mark Arquiett

Dear HCS Families,

Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe that we are wrapping up the first semester and are preparing for the second half of the 2019-20 school year. We look forward to a productive spring.

The counseling department has been busy meeting with students to work on schedules for next year, as well as long-term planning. These meetings are valuable, and we encourage you to continue the conversation at home. We will continue to do our best to support our students' plans and to provide them with opportunities to prepare for the future.

Remember that you can access your children's courses and grades on Schoology. Also, five-week reports and quarterly report cards can be found on SchoolTool (the Parent Portal). If you do not have an account for Schoology or SchoolTool, please contact Mr. Rogers and he can help you set up an account. His email address is [crogers@hamiltoncentral.org](mailto:crogers@hamiltoncentral.org). If you are unable to access SchoolTool, the counseling department can mail five-week reports and report cards to your home. As always, communication and parent-teacher partnerships contribute greatly to our students' success. Please reach out to your children's teachers if you have questions or concerns about their progress. We want to address these issues early and collaboratively.

Earlier this school year, students in grades 6-12 were able to hear a message from presenter Tim Collins about bullying. An important piece of the presentation applied to technology and its use as a vessel for bullying and harassment. The social and emotional health of our students is a priority at HCS. Please be aware of and monitor your children's social media accounts, as well as gaming platforms and other methods of communication. Far too often, these modes of communication can be used in a negative way and can have lasting effects on our students.

Additionally, our high school students attended an assembly entitled "Hang Up and Drive," focusing on the dangers of distracted driving. If you would like, you can explore the related web page at <https://www.hangupanddrive.com/>. This presentation served as a good reminder for our high school students, many of whom are just beginning to develop their driving habits.

On another note, every year I am very impressed with and grateful for all of the support HCS receives from our parents and the community. The many volunteers and community organizations that help us, with both their time and financial support, are greatly appreciated. Our successes are directly tied to our community support. The Hamilton community has a strong tradition of coming together to support our students, and as a result, we have created a school that we all can be proud of. As a former teacher, a current administrator, and a parent of two HCS students, I would like to say thank you.

*Mark Arquiett*

MS/HS Principal





## Food and Farm Experience

By: Ms. Daoust

A few months ago, I was fortunate enough to be selected to participate in the Food and Farm Experience of 2019 hosted by the New York Farm Bureau. After wrapping up the PSAT with our juniors and some sophomores, I took the beautiful drive down RT. 13 to Corning, New York treated along the way with the stunning peak foliage!

The purpose of this conference was to support and enable school counselors' and educators' efforts of bringing agricultural education to their learning environments. The diversity of what is considered agriculture was astonishing. We heard from dairy farmers and cheese makers, but we also heard from a marketing director for the Seneca Wine Trail and a Human Resources Specialist from Leprino

Cheese in Waverly, NY. If you've ever had a Pizza Hut pizza-that's Leprino's Mozzarella Cheese! A Christmas Tree Farmer, Chemung County Soil and Water, a Forester, an Apple Orchard Farmer, Fibers Carding and Spinning Mill producers, NY Turf Grass Association – truly the list goes on!

The message they all shared was the same – whatever a student's interests, skillsets and level of education, there is a seat for all at the agricultural table! We were fortunate enough to be able to tour a number of agricultural businesses: Sunset View Creamery, Stoney Ridge Winery, Upstate Niagara Cheese, and Glenview Dairy LLC. Large or small, all of these businesses have a need for individuals who can bring their expertise and

passion. Whether that be driving a milk truck, monitoring delicate pH levels, or fixing a multi-million dollar piece of machinery when a sensor is sounding.

I was proud to be able to share with the group Hamilton's outstanding agricultural program. Not only are our students exposed to the world of agriculture, they are provided hands-on learning opportunities and develop various life skills. Proudly, we are one of a handful of districts in the state who are able to utilize our in-house agricultural program as a pathway towards graduation! The message remains the same to students, follow your passion in life, but don't be surprised if that passion brings you to the world of agriculture!

## Alumni News

On January 20, 2020 eight HCS alumni participated in a panel discussion about their experiences after graduation. Graduates from the classes of '16, '17, '18 & '19 came back as guests to speak to our current junior and senior classes and HCS staff and faculty who could attend. Those that visited us are currently enrolled in a college or university and shared experiences with travel abroad, roommates, class & major selection,



collegiate sports, and extracurricular activities. Current students found that the visitation was helpful and that it was going to be useful in making decisions about dorm living, time management, and extracurriculars.

We are proud of our alumni accomplishments and are thankful that they took the time to come back and speak to our students and faculty. The event was planned and executed by Ms. Jerome who has put together alumni visits in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018 (Jan' 19), and 2019.

## MASQUERS

Masquers presented their middle school musical production, *Annie, Jr.* on December 6 and 7, 2019. The production was directed by high school students Wil Eberhardt, Molly Stahl, Dora Ammerman, Ben Coddington, and Ben Pollock.





## BAND DEPARTMENT

Several middle school and high school students were selected to participate in the annual Madison County Music Educators Association all-county music festival. These are some of the best musicians in all of Madison County! The festival will take place at Chittenango High School on January 17th and 18th. Congratulations!



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Here we come a caroling! Last December, we had students from chorus, band, and orchestra spread some holiday cheer to our school and community members. Pictured: elementary chorus students singing at the Tree Lighting Ceremony, MS/HS band students performing Jingle Bell Rock in Forum, HS orchestra students performing holiday carols for the elementary classrooms.



## MODEL UN

On January 10th, HCS students (9th through 12th grades) traveled to Syracuse University to take part in the Central New York Model United Nations, CNYMUN. Chaperoned by newly appointed MUN advisor, Ms. Jerome, 8 students researched their country's position on global issues in preparation for the conference. Our students represented their countries in the committees that discussed population & development, environmental & economic, financial and women's issues.

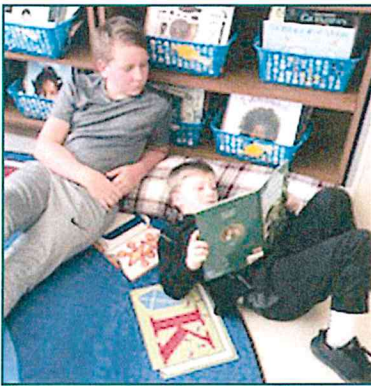




## 6th Grade Info



These are photos from our trip to the Longyear Museum at Colgate. We visited the museum in preparation for our museum project. The second photo is Gavin Hames interviewing the current curator of the museum with questions he had prepared.



Sixth grade students gave back to their school community by returning to the reading program that they participated in during their own elementary school years. This time around, their role was as a volunteer. They helped second graders to practice and prepare a readers' theater that would eventually be performed for the sixth grade class. This is just one of the many ways our students build their citizenship skills in a small school!



## Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Hello Hamilton Families,

As most of you know, I am serving a dual role this year as both the Elementary Principal and the Director of Pupil Personnel Services. PPS includes all services that students receive here at school. This includes Special Education, Response to Intervention Services, English Language Learners, Homeless Students, 504 Plans, and Migrant Family Services. I am writing to provide families with a sense of direction that this department is going and to inform you of an upcoming event with families.

My goal is to provide the most appropriate education, in the least restrictive environment, that maximizes the independence of each student. Over the next couple of months, I will be hosting evening events to help Hamilton families to better understand what that means for their children who receive services. My first event will take place on Thursday, February 27 at 6:30 PM in the Elementary Library. This event will focus on helping parents understand Special Education. What is an IEP? How is it developed and maintained? How is the IEP managed and what kind of programs and services are students offered? Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions that will help grow their understanding of Special Education and the services we provide. Flyers advertising this event will be sent out in the beginning of February. If you have specific topics you would like addressed at this meeting, please do not hesitate to email or stop by to see me. I am truly looking forward to this event.

*Kevin Ellis*

Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
CSE Co-Chair



ELEMENTARY NEWS

Hello HCS Families,

It is hard to imagine that we have reached the year 2020. When I began teaching, in 1993, I could never have imagined how instruction in schools would evolve. What was taught in the classroom used to center around the content of the subject area. We now focus on the processes of learning itself. In other words, we don't hold students accountable for memorizing information like naming the five tribes of the Iroquois. Instead, we might ask students to study the culture of the five Iroquois tribes and then communicate the impact of their culture on our lives today. This involves teaching students to ask questions, determine what is most important, make inferences, and synthesize information so that they become independent thinkers and learners. We want our students to be life-long learners that think deeply.

Another way in which teaching has

changed is that schools are more responsible for providing social and emotional learning, and character education. Last year, The HCS Elementary Character Education Team studied the many different programs and practices that are designed to support social/emotional learning and character education in schools. This committee decided unanimously to buy into the "Positivity Project." The Positivity Project is designed to help children build positive relationships by seeing the good in themselves and others. The central belief is that by building strong character-based relationships, students themselves will be healthier, happier, and more resilient. Each week, a different character trait is introduced to students and each day, students in every classroom are exposed to 10-15 minute lessons on this trait. The Positivity Project provides the resources teachers need to deliver grade level specific instruction. In the coming weeks, we will begin to

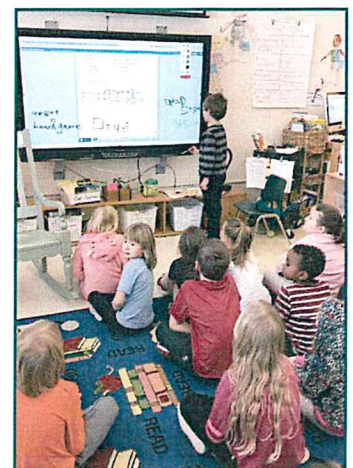
include families at home in the activities we are doing here at school. Look for a letter each week that outlines the character strengths we will be studying. Please take the time to ask your children about the lessons they participated in each day. The purpose of providing this type of instruction is that we will produce students that are more well-rounded and ready for the challenges that today's colleges and workplaces require. By helping our students build positive relationships and develop an understanding of their "best selves," we create a more complete student. I encourage you to explore the "Positivity Project" web-site to learn more about this resource.

Regards,

Mr. Kevin Ellis  
Hamilton Elementary Principal

First Grade

The last image is a photograph of the writing my class did about our new Promethean board. The class was pretty excited to think that they might have a part in the district newsletter!





## ELEMENTARY NEWS

### SECOND GRADE

There has been a lot going on in second grade. In our economics unit, we learned about goods and services. Mrs. Farrar's class toured Fojo Beans and Mrs. White's class went to the Rye Berry. The owners showed us how they make the products they sell. Then we became producers and made goods to sell. We held an open market at the school and raised money for the Rescue Mission. With the money we raised, we were able to buy hygiene products to make kits to give to the Rescue Mission. Not only did we work hard to learn about economics, we were also able to show a mindset of other people matter. We built on our character trait of gratitude.



### 2020-21 UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The Hamilton Central School Universal Pre-Kindergarten/Targeted Pre-K program is currently accepting applications for our 2020-21 school year.

The UPK program is FREE to children who live in the Hamilton Central School District and will be age 4 by 12/1/20. Applications must be submitted by March 30, 2020. A lottery will be held as per UPK guidelines, for all students who have registered by the deadline. Students that are not accepted into the UPK program, may then be eligible for our Targeted Pre-K program, if their families meet the entrance criteria. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of openings within our Pre-K program, acceptance will be based on eligibility and Pre-K guidelines.

Applications may be found on-line on the HCS website ([hamiltoncentral.org](http://hamiltoncentral.org)) or picked up at the school. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kevin Ellis at (315) 824-6330.

### 2020-21 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration has begun for the 2020-21 school year. To apply, parents of children who will be five (5) years old by December 1, 2020 are invited to visit the Hamilton Central School website under "Parents," "Forms" (application form and health forms) or call or stop by the elementary office. Your child's birth certificate, official immunization record and proof of residency will be required for registration. If you are a new family to the district, please contact the District Office, Debbie Kirley (315) 824-6310, in order to establish proof of residency first.

Please submit Kindergarten applications by Monday, May 4, 2020 in order to be scheduled for a screening. Screenings for incoming kindergarten students will take place in May. An appointment letter will be sent to you in May, with a time and date to bring your child in for screening.

For more information call Lynda O'Keeffe, Elementary Secretary, at 824-6330.

## ***Hamilton Central School***

47 West Kendrick Avenue  
Hamilton, NY 13346

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## **2020-21 BUDGET CALENDAR of EVENTS**

February 13	Regular BOE Meeting - 6:00 p.m. Preliminary Budget Review
February 24-28	Budget Coffees - exact dates/times TBD
March 1	Petition forms available (online or at District Office) for Board of Education Candidates
March 1	Deadline for Tax Levy Limit to be submitted to NYS Comptroller's Office
March 12	Regular Board of Education Meeting - 6:00 p.m. Budget Review
March 20	Deadline for submission of petition to be placed on ballot
March 23-27	Budget Coffees - exact dates/times TBD
April 14-17	Budget Coffees - exact dates/times TBD
April 14-17	Preliminary Budget Hearing - 6:00 p.m. - Possible adoption of 2020-21 Budget
April 20	Petitions for Board of Education candidates are due by 4:00 p.m.
April 21	Regular Board of Education Meeting 6:00 p.m.
April 27	Property Tax Report Card to be submitted to SED and local press
May 1	Budget statement and attachments available
May 6	Mail Budget Newsletter to district residents
May 12	Public Budget Hearing - 6:00 p.m.
May 19	Budget Vote and School Board Elections - Noon to 8:00 p.m. - Bus Garage
May 19	Regular Board of Education Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

### **IMPORTANT DEADLINE TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS**

Transportation requests for children attending private and parochial schools or places other than their home, for the purpose of day care, in 2020-21 are due to the District Office by April 1st.