## STOCKBRIDGE VALLEY



#### CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Home of the Cougars

November 2019

Culture of Hope

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

#### WE EMPOWER STUDENTS THROUGH EDUCATION

The 2019-20 school year is off to a great and quick start! I hope all of you have been enjoying the beautiful fall.

October was an exciting month here at school and it is Fire Safety month! I would like to thank the Munnsville Fire Department for all they do for the school and their continued partnership.

Superintendents Conference Day was October 25. The teachers analyzed the standards and our students' assessment data. This helps us identify program gaps so that we may continually improve instruction for our students. I am thankful that we have the ability to do this again as we did in the past. It is a tool that will bring us closer to our mission.

Thank you for allowing your students to participate in the ELA and Math assessments last spring. Our participation rate in the spring was 98% on ELA and 93% on the Math assessment. The tests will continue to be two days this year. Every question has been written by a group of teachers, and most questions are released to be used for professional development. Thank you for supporting our efforts.

On October 30, 2019, our ninth grade students had a unique opportunity to attend an event hosting Erin Gruwell renowned educator and New York Times bestselling author of, *The Freedom Writers Diary*. This event will be held at the Stanley Theater in Utica.

As we move into November, we have several things planned for the community and students. On November 6 at 3:30, the school will be hosting a planning meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to establish and prioritize initiatives that will help meet the challenges that the school and community face.

We look forward to honoring our Veterans again this year at our Veterans Day Breakfast on November 7, 2019.

Extra, Extra read all about it! "Newsies" is coming to Stockbridge Valley on November 8 and 9. If all goes well with printing and mounting, the history project will be displayed at the same time. We hope you all come out to enjoy the play and view the history of our school district.

#### **TOM VARANO**

We started off the year inspired by Tom Varano. Tom lives in Rome, New York and he is an artist and speaker. Tom's message is very simple, teach students to "Dream Big". Tom will be returning to perform and speak to our students on November 15, 2019. The faculty and staff are excited to see his performance again and share the experience with the students. You can look him up on YouTube®!

I wish all of you a great fall and Happy Holiday season.



#### IN OTHER NEWS!

We have two capital projects going on at the school this fall. In the past the school has been struck by lightning. Lightning rods are being installed to safeguard against any further lightning strikes. This project is almost complete.

The school building was also damaged by hail. Specifically the canopies over the tunnels and the sky light in the cafeteria were damaged. The canopies and skylight will be replaced starting on Tuesday, October 29 and continuing throughout November.

#### **SVCS MISSION/VISION**

Mission: We empower students through education.

**Vision:** We embrace a culture of respect and support that allows every student to recognize their worth, realize their purpose, cultivate their passions and achieve their ultimate potential.

#### FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE...

The 2019 – 2020 school year at the Jr./Sr. High School has gotten off to a very positive start. We have continued to begin each morning by meeting together in the auditorium for forum. While this is not a new practice, it is one that is a very positive one, because it brings everyone together to celebrate positive accomplishments by teams, clubs and individuals. We also end each morning with a positive saying to start the day.

Our academic eligibility policy has undergone a few changes to put it more in line with our Board of Education Policy which is based on the belief that co-curricular/ interscholastic activities are an important aspect of the district's educational offering since participation provides students with the opportunity to supplement classroom learning, enhance school spirit, and develop skills. Students failing one or two courses are required to attend after school help which is offered three times a week. As long as they meet that expectation they are allowed to continue to participate in their chosen activity.

After working with our seniors, we now have established a senior lounge in the room which also houses our School Resource Officer. It is the philosophy of the senior lounge that young people do not learn how to better handle responsibility by constantly having someone else take that responsibility for them; that as seniors it is possible to place qualifying students in a situation where supervision is not all direct in the sense of having a teacher, aide or other adult present in the room with them at all times. The privilege for use of the senior lounge during cafeteria or study halls is based on academic, attendance, and behavioral guidelines. The seniors have done a great job with ownership and creating a positive space.

Another new privilege available to our Jr./Sr. High students is that we now provide an opportunity for them to have some recreational time once they have finished their lunch. Rather than having to sit in the cafeteria for the entire time, students are allowed to go outside when the weather is nice or go to the gymnasium and shoot baskets, practice volleyball skills, or just run around. Student behavior during lunch time is expected to be appropriate and if it is not, then that student or group of students lose the privilege of the recreational time. Overall this has been a very positively received change.

#### Mike Drahos

Mike Drahos Interim 7-12 Principal



@SVCS\_Drahos

#### **AUTHORS IN OUR MIDST!**

Congratulations to Abby Fisher and Peyton Graham for becoming published authors through the Young Writer's writing contest! Both girls submitted stories last year and their pieces were chosen from over 7,500 entries. This is Peyton's first time as a published author and Abby's second published work. Their mini sagas can be found in "Mission Catastrophe Tales from New York" this November.

#### **CLAY TARGET CLUB**

The Deb Reed Memorial Shoot was held September 29, 2019 at Vernon National Shooting Preserve. The proceeds received were donated to the Clay Target Club. All participants had a great time. We are looking forward to next year!





#### JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

#### **NOTEWORTHY NEWS...**

The SVCS Music and Drama Departments are in full swing this fall! We are very excited to present "*Newsies*" on November 8 & 9 at 7:00 p.m. Order your tickets from Pam Mennig in the District Office!

Mark your calendars now for the winter concerts. The Elementary Concert will include songs from all your favorite holiday movies. We hope to see you there on December 11 at 6:30 p.m. This concert will feature students in grades first-fifth! The High School Concert will be on December 18 at 7:00 p.m. and will feature Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir. These groups will be competing at the Darien Lake Music Fest in May again this year!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the library from November 18-26. Stop by during Parent Teacher Conferences and help support the music department!

Erin Belanger & Sarah Matteson

Music Teachers

#### JUNIOR CLASS

The Junior Class has been working very hard already this year strengthening their treasury for their junior prom and senior trip. They have completed their first fundraiser, selling concessions at home varsity soccer games. Thanks to our custodial staff, we have an improved concession stand at the Cougar Snack Shack on the lower athletic fields and this will allow us to also provide concessions at varsity baseball and softball games.

Juniors sold Cougar Fan Shop gear at the annual tailgate send-off this year. We currently have "Crush Madison" t-shirts, foam cougar paws, knit hats and scarves, cougar sunglasses, and #1 glitter tattoos for sale as cash and carry items. Students will be selling these at designated times during lunch periods and at some of the varsity basketball and volleyball games. You are welcome to contact Karen Byron or any junior to purchase these items

anytime. If you are looking for more variety, please visit our online Cougar Fan Shop at https://apparelnow.com/cougar-fan-shop-apparel. Items will ship directly to you, there is no minimum to buy and you will receive free shipping on any order over \$50. We carry accessories,

t-shirts, sweatshirts, blankets, hats, and more for women, men and children! There are tons of personalization options for all items!

Juniors are currently selling Gertrude Hawk chocolate bars in both offices at school. The students are responsible for inventory, restocking items, and counting and depositing their funds. They have taken this responsibility very seriously and are doing a great job. The chocolate bars are selling fast, get yours today!

If you're thinking about the holiday season, and gift giving, any junior class member can be your one-stop shop! Juniors are currently selling Yankee Candles and gifts. This fundraiser is through a catalog order and all orders will be in before Christmas. The students also earn prizes the more items they sell. So far, the students have been doing very well!

Coming up fast is the PTSO Holiday Bazaar. The Junior Class has been notorious in the past for selling the best lunches at the bazaar and this year will not disappoint! The students will be selling subs, chips, drinks, and homemade macaroni and cheese. Come see us in the cafeteria. If you are a vendor at the 2019 Bazaar, no worries, the Junior Class will deliver your lunch directly to your space!



You should all be very proud of the hard work your students have put forth already. I'm looking forward to a very exciting junior year for this great group of kids!

Karen Byron • Junior Class Advisor

#### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS**

#### FROM THE ELEMENTARY OFFICE...

We have been so busy in Pre K-6 already this year! Students are busy learning and having fun at Stockbridge Valley.

#### CHARACTER EDUCATION

We kicked off our C.O.U.G.A.R. character traits on October 24 at our first Character Education Assembly. Sixth grade introduced what it means to be Courageous. Faculty and Staff will be looking for students exhibiting courage during the month of November. Students will have a chance to earn a cougar paw and shining star awards!

#### **INTRAMURALS**

We have started our first session of intramurals. Intramurals are a wonderful opportunity for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to learn teamwork and sportsmanship and begin to prepare for modified sports in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There are four 5-week sessions of intramurals throughout the year. Please encourage your child to sign up.

## ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL

Student representatives in grades 4 - 6 meet monthly to discuss how they contribute to the school

community! Officers were elected at their first meeting: Secretary Evan Ellerbruch, Reporter Paislee Stevens, Vice-President Scott Rood, and President Nevaeh Bingel. Grade level representatives include Jasmine Springer, Liam Plasse, Aven Hofmeyer, Anna Baker, Marisa Maiura, Lyla Cross, Gabby Davis, and Esther Claxton.

#### SPELLING BEE

The annual spelling bee is scheduled for December 6 at 1:00. Practice for our elementary participants has begun and will continue every Wednesday through November 20 from 2:45 – 3:15 in room 105. Elementary participants must attend at least 4 of the 6 practices.

#### STUDENT PICK-UP, DROP-OFF AND SCHOOL VISITS

If you are dropping off your child after 8:00 a.m. or visiting the school for any reason, please enter through the elementary tunnel and sign yourself in at the business office. The business office staff will contact the

person you are here to see. If you are bringing your child to school late or picking them up early, staff will call either the elementary or high school office and you will meet your child in the appropriate office to sign them in and/or out. If you are picking your child up at the regular dismissal time, you may sign them out in the cafeteria at the end of the school day.

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on November 25 and 26. If you have not signed up yet, please go to: stockbridgevalley.org click on the Elementary Office page and the Parent Teacher Conference link and schedule a conference time with your child's teacher.

#### Julie Suber

Julie Suber • K-6 Principal



#### FIRST GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

First grade has been very busy this fall! In the beginning of October we saw an amazing production of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" performed by the Merry Go Round players and learned all about fire safety from the Munnsville Volunteer Fire Department. On October 3, we visited Morrisville State College for Ag Days where we learned about farm animals, planted lettuce, saw how maple syrup was made, and got to eat their homemade ice cream!

First grade is also excited to introduce the newest member of our SVCS family, Rasheed! Rasheed is a lion who helps us learn about phonics. He has taught us to study words by looking at syllables, vowels, digraphs, and much more. Rasheed roams around the room while we read and write to see how we

are applying everything he has taught us. Our favorite was when he dressed up as the Flash to encourage us to read our snap words in a flash. Just like Rasheed as the Flash, first grade has really hit the ground running and had an excellent start of the year!

Lindsey Taylor • First Grade Teacher

#### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS**

### 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS KNOW THAT IT'S "COOL TO BE KIND"



When I heard on the radio that 97.9/KISS-FM and WKTV News Channel 2 were teaming up to present a "Cool to be Kind" contest to teachers in grades Kindergarten through fifth, I knew that my class this year would be the perfect candidates! They prove to me each and every day that they genuinely are a kindhearted, respectful, and



caring class. Doing these random acts of kindness come easy on a daily basis to my students and I knew this task was perfect for them! They are very deserving of this special recognition.

People keep asking me what I had to do... Well once I

heard the radio advertisement, I went to CNYkiss.com and downloaded a playing board which looked like a pizza. Each slice of pizza corresponded to a different act of kindness. A few examples were to give a classmate a compliment, discuss as a class what harm bullying can do, and ask someone new to sit with you at lunch. Once the board was completed, I took a picture of my class holding the completed pizza board and uploaded it to the website. Then I patiently waited for the awesome news!

On Friday, October 18, my students were surprised and recognized for spreading kindness to others by having a pizza party with a few of the KISS-FM radio DJ's as well as the sponsors of the contest. This was an event that the kids and I will never forget! There were tears of joy, treats, music and dancing, and most of all... smiles on everyone's faces. Overall, we had a great celebration and we look forward to continuing to spread our kindness to others.

My class and I would like to sincerely thank 97.9/KISS-FM, WKTV News Channel 2, Compassion Coalition, Rockin' Jump and The Pizza Box for the overwhelming

supply of treats and goodies. And another big thank you to SVCS for allowing this opportunity to take place!

Remember, being kind is FREE... lead by example and spread kindness wherever you go!

Mrs. Laraby • 4th Grade Teacher

## MRS. WRIGHT'S CLASS ENHANCES READING SKILLS THROUGH BOOK CLUBS

Mrs. Wright's students are busy growing their reading skills in their Book Clubs. They are discovering that the best part of reading with others is that it changes





you. You end up viewing the text through the eyes of others, and therefore seeing more than you might have otherwise seen.

#### A NEW PET FOR MS. STEDMAN'S CLASS

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Stockbridge Valley have a new class pet! This year we have an albino leopard spotted gecko. In previous years, our leopard gecko has been



bright yellow with black spots. This year he/she looks a little different. It has dull colors of white and light brown. This would be perfect camouflage for the desert. He/she has been adapting to his/her environment inside the classroom. We have to keep his/her tank at a controlled temperature, so we use heating pads that stick to the sides and bottom of the tank. He/she eats live crickets and mealworms.

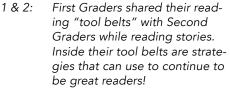
Currently we are voting and

deciding on our new leopard gecko's name!

#### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS**









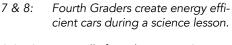


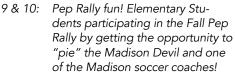
We have created a new movement path in the elementary to provide students with movement throughout the day both as a class and individually. Movement breaks throughout the day help students focus and concentrate on the important task of learning.



Munnsville Volunteer Fire Department presented fire safety to Pre-K through 6th grade students. Students learned important safety tips in case of a fire and were able to explore fire trucks!

4, 5, & 6: On Friday, October 11, the















#### **WELLNESS NEWS**

#### FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

The district's School Health Services program supports your student's academic success by promoting health in the school setting. One way that we provide care for your student is by performing the health screenings as mandated by the State of New York.

During this school year, the following screenings will be required or completed at school:

#### VISION

- Distance and near acuity for all newly entering students and students in Pre-K or Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 11.
- ◆ Color perception screening for all newly entering students.

#### **HEARING**

✦ Hearing screening for all newly entering students and students in Pre-K or Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 11.

#### **SCOLIOSIS**

 Scoliosis (spinal curvature) screening for all girls in grades 5 and 7, and boys in grade 9.

Health Examinations are also required for all newly entering students and students in Pre-K or Kindergarten, and Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11.

A letter will be sent home if there are any findings on the screening done at school that would cause concern or need medical follow-up. Please call the school's Health Office if you have any questions or concerns at 315-495-4500.

Mrs. Mattie Shea, RN . School Nurse

#### VAPING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Vaping is a form of inhaling nicotine or other substances with the use of an electronic cigarette or other vaping device.
- The vapor consists of several harmful chemicals and particles that are inhaled and then released into the environment.
- There are an increasing amount of reports of serious illnesses and death related to vaping.
- Nicotine affects brain development in kids and teens making it harder for them to learn, more difficulty concentrating, as well as causing permanent changes in mood and impulse control later on in life.
- People who vape are more likely to become addicted to other substances or cigarettes.

#### **VAPING: HOW TO STOP**

- Come up with a list of reasons as to why you should not vape. Use these as reminders when you get the urge to
  do so.
- Pick a date to quit and get rid of all your vaping supplies. Rally some family and friends to help support you in this decision.
- Understand the signs of withdrawal and know that after a few days, these symptoms will go away. Signs may include headache, restlessness, trouble sleeping, trouble concentrating, hunger, or feeling tired, cranky, depressed or angry.
- Talk to your healthcare provider or school counselor if you need anything or have any concerns!
- Resources are available in the main office, stop down and see Mrs. Gleason.











#### **DISTRICT NEWS**

## BRIDGING PRIDE & TRADITION

In a season that has not seen sustained success throughout the history of SVCS, our soccer teams have risen to the challenge this year and are poised to continue the trend in our future. Both teams lived up to the challenge in qualifying for sectionals. The Boys Varsity team qualified as a 12 seed and took on 5 seed Cincinnatus in the first round.

The Girls Varsity team qualified as the 16 seed and took the bus up to 1 seed Poland. Both modified teams have seen recent success and showed tremendous growth throughout the year, and both teams are now set to continue the tradition left behind by the seven seniors who will move on from our programs. Congratulations to all of our fall

teams for the accomplishments of this year's season.

Our athletes are now moving on to their next opportunity to bridge school pride with our tradition of success. The winter sports season is underway with modified boys basketball and modified volleyball beginning practice on October 28. The JV and Varsity season is quickly approaching with practice beginning on November 18. Please make sure that we have an up to date physical on file and that you and your athlete have filled out all of the necessary paperwork. All of this paperwork will be available at the parent/coaches meeting which will be held on Thursday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m. Also available at the parent meeting will be game and practice schedules. Please be aware that the winter brings many challenges with scheduling and that times of practice and games are all subject to change. Thank you in advance for being flexible and supporting our student athletes this upcoming season.

Mr. Jay Lehmann Athletic Director

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR WINTER SPORTS:

#### November 7:

Parent Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

#### November 18:

First Day of Practice for JV/Varsity Sports

#### February 1:

Volleyball Senior Night

#### February 4:

Boys Basketball Senior Night

#### February 10:

Girls Basketball Senior Night

#### CLASS OF 2020 PARENTS/FAMILY/FRIENDS:

#### ATTENTION!!!

All Yearbook Ads Due by: January 24, 2020

Get your yearbook ad for your senior today!

- 1. Go to: www.balfour.com
- 2. Click: Yearbooks
- 3. Type: Stockbridge Valley Central School District
- 4. Click: Stockbridge Valley Central School District Munnsville, NY
- 5. Put in your student's information and create an account
- 6. Scroll down to the three choices for ads
- 7. Pic and design your ad.
- 8. Check out and pay!

#### VIDEO HELP: HTTP://BAL4.TV/ E0EE9966

If you need help designing your ad, our team can help!

Send your pics and what you want it to say to:

#### mrs-raz.svcs.yearbookstockbridgevalley.org

We will design and get your approval before submitting.

#### ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK ASAP TO SAVE!

By Nov 1: Cost \$45.00

Nov 2 – Jan 1: Cost \$50.00

Ian 2 – March 1: Cost \$60.00

NO orders after March 1

Elementary Yearbooks: Cost \$15.00

#### **ONLINE STORE!**

- 1. www.balfour.com
- 2. Click yearbooks
- 3. Type: Stockbridge Valley Central School District
- 4. Choose Stockbridge Valley or Stockbridge Elementary
- 5. Choose Yearbook Package, and add ons
- 6. Checkout and pay!

You can request an order form instead and send in check to school to Mrs. Raz. Yearbook Advisor

Make checks payable to : SVCS Yearbook

Email yearbook questions to: mrs-raz. svcs.yearbook@stockbridgevalley.org.

#### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CORNER**



## **Peterson Farm Brothers**

**Presents** 

I'm Farming and I Grow It
Thursday, November 21, 2019 @ 7pm
Stockbridge Valley Central School
Charles E. Stratton Auditorium



**Sponsored By:** 







ORRISVILLE



Tickets Go On Sale 9/1 Advance Sale Tickets \$10

At The Door \$15 Tickets can be purchase at https://www.facebook.com/ SVCSFFAAlumni/



# Ruritan Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, November 10 8:00 AM-Noon SVCS Cafeteria

All you can eat Pancakes, SVCS FFA Maple Syrup, Sausage, Home Fries, Eggs Coffee, OJ, Milk & Ice Cream

Adults \$8.00
Students \$ 5.00
Children Under 5 free

\*Bring in your Drama program for \$1.00 off your meal\*

Proceeds to be Donated to the Stockbridge Valley Youth Sports to upgrade the fields!



Saturday, November 16 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Stockbridge Valley Central School** 

6011 Williams Rd. Munnsville

Free Admission, Crafts, Food and Fun

One stop shopping for the holidays!

2 Gyms full of vendors!

Support the students at stations in the cafeteria. Grab breakfast and lunch!



#### EXTRA-CURRICULAR CORNER



The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Village of Munnsville

FIRE TRUCK

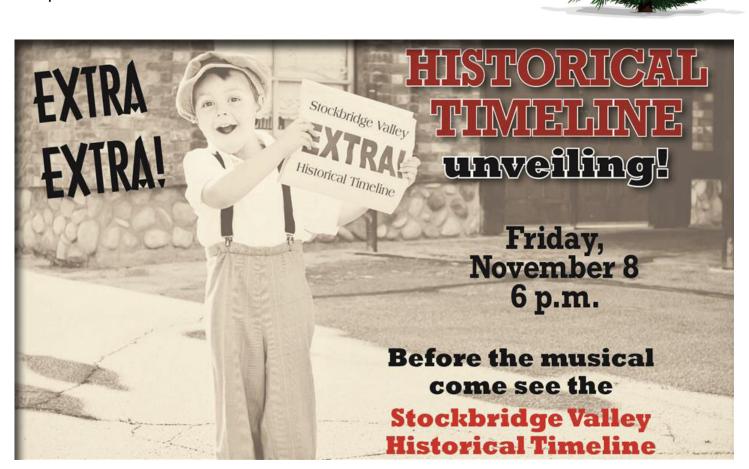
PARADE AND TREE LIGHTING

Hosted by the Munnsville Volunteer Fire Department

Saturday, December 7, 2019 Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Tree Lighting with Santa 7:00 p.m. (across from the Fire Hall)

Santa will be at the Fire Hall immediately following for pictures!



Presented by the

## Stockbridge Valley Drama Club November 8 & 9, 2019

7:00pm

in the Charles E. Stratton Auditorium





# TICKETS

Adults—\$7 Students/Children under 10—\$5

Family Plan: Two Adults w/ Three or More Children \$25

Contact Pam Mennig in the District Office 315-495-4400

#### STOCKBRIDGE VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

6011 Williams Road • P.O. Box 732 Munnsville, NY 13409

Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** Morrisville, NY 13408 Permit #1

#### LOCAL BOX HOLDER **RURAL & STAR ROUTES**

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Barbary Reaves, President Doug Reed, Vice President Michael Gough Kristin Guinto Niki Maiura Jaime Renner Jonathan Strain



#### **ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

Cynthia Stocker, Superintendent Beth Lamb, Business Administrator Julie Suber, K-6 Principal Michael Drahos, Interim 7-12 Principal

#### **CONTACTS**

Superintendent Cindy Stocker Secretary	<b>Treasurer</b> Kelly Johnson 315-495-4445	Interim 7-12 Principal Michael Drahos	Head Custodian J.T. Mann 315-495-4495	Head Bus Driver Pam Mitchell 315-495-4599
District Clerk Pam Mennig 315-495-4400	K-6 Principal Julie Suber K-6 Secretary	<b>7-12 Secretary</b> Sandy Wagner <i>315-495-4450</i>	Cafeteria Manager Kathy Carney 315-495-1909	School Nurse Mattie Shea 315-495-4500
Business Administrator Beth Lamb 315-495-4446	Karen Byron 315-495-4550	Guidance Counselor Cassandra Gleason 315-495-1908	CSE Office Terry McInerney 315-495-1905	

#### **SUBSTITUTES**

Stockbridge Valley C. S. is seeking Substitutes for the following positions:

Teacher Substitutes, Bus Driver Substitutes, School Nurse Substitutes

Contact Pam Mennig, District Clerk @ 315-495-4400 for an application.

Bus Driver Substitutes: must possess current CDL License

Contact Pam Mitchell @ 315-495-4599

Fingerprinting Required for All Positions