



THE REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2021 | BUILDING THE FUTURE - ONE CHILD AT A TIME! | WWW.REMSENCSD.ORG

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 ES News
- 3 Jr./Sr HS News
- 4-6 New Staff Spotlight
- 7 School Lunch
- 8, 12 School News
- 9 Athletics
- 10-11 Graduation Recaps

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Remsen Community:

“Are we there yet?” This is a question that I am sure many of us have been asked by a child while traveling in a vehicle for a long period of time. When asked near the beginning of a trip, we explain that we have only been on the road for 10 minutes! Midway through the trip, we support

them by helping them to understand that we know it is a long time to be in a car and we are ready to get out as well. So, we make a stop to stretch, use the restroom and maybe share a snack. As we start to get closer to the end of our trip, we begin to tell our passengers that our destination is just around the corner. “Just around the corner” could mean a few miles or a few hundred miles. It gives the passengers a glimpse of hope that the end of the trip is closer than the start, a sense of relief knowing that at some point in the near future they will reach the desired destination. Often there comes a point in time on the trip when even the driver is thinking internally, “are we there yet?”

Together, we have been on a very challenging trip the last 18 months. This COVID road trip continues to test our patience, strength and understanding with unexpected road construction, detours and traffic jams. Just as we think we are nearing our destination, another roadblock pops up, we learn that the bridge ahead is out, and that we need to turn around and follow the detour signs.

We know every single passenger inside our vehicle is asking the same question, “are we there yet?” We know that many are beyond ready to get out of the vehicle. Although the road is winding and detours have required us to go a few miles back before continuing to safely move forward, we are getting closer.

As we continue on this COVID trip together, it is important to celebrate all of the exciting things that are happening as well. New before- and after-school programs for all students PK-12 will allow students to arrive early and/or stay late to work, read, learn, receive extra help and support, use school technology and participate in after-school activities. In addition, our new fitness center will be open for all Jr./Sr. high school students before and after school. To ensure equal access to the after-school programs for all students, a 5:30 p.m.

late bus will be available to students five days a week. In addition, a 4:00 p.m. late bus will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays to encourage and support more students staying after to participate in clubs and activities and/or to receive extra academic help and support. The 4:00 p.m. bus will be available to bring home students that don’t need to stay as late as 5:30 p.m., but need a ride home from the club, activity or extra help that they may participate in right after school.

We welcome an outstanding group of new team members to replace retirees and staff members that have moved. A new school counselor at the elementary building this year will provide social, emotional, academic and behavioral instruction and support. This will allow our social worker and Jr./Sr. high school counselor more time to support Jr./Sr. high school students. We are also very excited to introduce our new Jr./Sr. High School Principal Ms. Sanya Pelrah. Ms. Pelrah comes to us with a diverse range of leadership and teaching experiences and is eager to learn all about our students and our community. Be sure to read about our new team members in this newsletter!

We are grateful for our wonderful school community and appreciate your continued support, assistance and understanding as we work to safely provide students with all of the opportunities that they need and deserve. It will be essential for our entire community to continue to work together to ensure that we are as safe and healthy as possible while in school.

So as we ready to start out a new school year together, while still driving on the long COVID road trip, know that we are as eager as you are to know when we will be able to safely answer “yes” to the question, “are we there yet?” We are hopeful that answer is...just around the corner.

We are excited for a new school year and look forward to seeing our students once again! As always, we will do what it takes to ensure that Remsen Central School continues to *Soar to Success*.

It is an honor and a privilege to be your Superintendent. Here’s to a great school year ahead!

Sincerely,

Superintendent



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“Follow” us on Twitter
(@remsencsd)

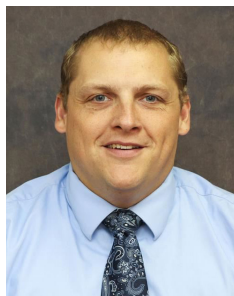
CALENDAR

For the complete District calendar, schedule of upcoming events and more District news, please visit:
www.remsencsd.org.

- MISSION -

“REMSSEN is a dynamic school community of stakeholders providing diverse, demanding and innovative educational opportunities. Our culture fosters a conscientious desire to learn and achieve to individual potential. Students learn that responsible citizenship comes from critical, determined and sustained effort.”

Elementary School Principal's Message



Dear Remsen Families:

The 2021-2022 school year is going to be another great one. I am so excited to get the school year started. We have all been through a lot and although we are still working our way through challenging times, we are able to work through it all together. Together, we will begin this school year with the goal of making it a great school year! We will work hard, learn together and find fun and excitement wherever we can.

This summer, we've kept busy with a variety of summer enrichment camps and activities. Students were able to engage in everything from outdoor activities, like biking and our fitness camp, to STEAM challenges and engaging academic summer camps. These camps were a great way to provide students with an opportunity to spend time with each other and to provide students with academic skills practice and enrichment activities.

This fall, we will be reviving our Young Rams extended school day program. In addition to the after-school program that we've had in the past, we will also be having a before-school program for students. These programs will provide students with opportunities to practice academic skills, obtain additional homework help and to have a safe, supervised place to interact with peers after school. These programs are open to students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade and are absolutely free of cost. The programs will begin the second week of school, on Monday, September 13. The before-school program will run from 6:30 to 7:20 a.m. and the after-school program will run from 2:20 until 5:30 p.m.

Our first day of school for students will be Tuesday, September 7. Before then, I look forward to seeing everyone at our Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 2. The Back-to-School Night will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary school. Come visit the school and have the opportunity to see your child's classroom and meet their teacher. We also encourage students to bring their school supplies so that they can be left in the classroom before the first day of school. Please be sure to bring a mask to this event as all visitors, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear a mask indoors.

As always, if you ever have any comments, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. It is only in working together that we will be able to provide the best for the students of Remsen Elementary School.

Gary Winghart

Elementary School Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Supt. Conf. Day
- 2 Supt. Conf. Day
Back to School Night,
ES 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
HS 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- 7 First Day of School for Students
- 11 ACT
- 14 BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 16 Booster Club Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 27-30 Spirit Week

OCTOBER

- 2 SAT
- 4 ES Band Recruitment Night
- 6 Pre-K Fire House Trip / Fire Safety
- 7 Financial Aid Planning Night,
Media Center, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Supt. Conf. Day - No School
Jr./Sr. HS 5-Week Progress Interval Ends
- 11 Columbus Day - No School
- 12 PSAT at Remsen
BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 13 PSAT
- 14 Booster Club Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Jr./Sr. HS Progress Reports Mailed
- 23 ACT
- 25 Modified Volleyball Begins
- 28 SAT at Remsen
- 29 Pre-K Halloween Gathering,
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.
ES Parade of Costumes



A Message from the Jr./Sr. High School Principal



Dear Remsen Families,

I hope that you have enjoyed your summer and that you are looking forward to a great school year.

I am honored to be joining the Remsen team as your Jr./Sr. High School Principal. For the last four years, I have enjoyed Remsen when we camp on our property; but now I am officially part of this great community. My husband and I are relocating from Rochester, NY where I held the various roles of English teacher, instructional coach, director of curriculum and instruction and associate principal. As I begin my 18th year in education, I cannot think of a better place to be than Remsen, and I am looking forward to getting to know the staff, students and families.

As we begin this year, I will be focusing on getting to know the students to ensure that they feel welcome and safe in our school. I value students' individuality and want to make sure that every student feels that they have a place in our school community. Additionally, I will be working with the staff to ensure that all students are part of an engaging and rigorous learning environment.

I truly believe that all students can achieve success, and appreciate that there are different pathways to reach this. I am dedicated to helping all students reach their full potential and believe the best way to do this is through providing high-quality educational opportunities and consistent open communication with students and families.

This is going to be an amazing school year. Please know that you can reach out to me with any questions, comments or concerns. I look forward to meeting you!

Most sincerely,

Sanya Pelrah

Jr./Sr. High School Principal

High School Fuel Tank Project Update

Phase II of our Capital Project is nearing completion. A new 10,000 gallon fiber-reinforced plastic (FRP) fuel tank has been installed at the high school to replace the steel tank that was well over 30 years old. The location of the tank was moved from the main driveway to just off of the driveway. Paving is scheduled to take place the week before school begins. If paving is delayed due to the weather, we will be sure to share an alternate traffic pattern with high school parents and students.



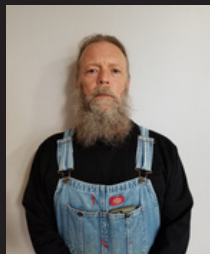
NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Welcome new ELA and math intervention teacher, Ms. Rachael Cook!

Ms. Cook is very excited to join the Remsen Elementary team! She grew up in the neighboring village of Poland and has always admired the Remsen community. Prior to her graduation from Poland in 2017, she volunteered in numerous elementary classrooms. These experiences helped her realize her passion for teaching. Following high school, Ms. Cook attended Mohawk Valley Community College and graduated in 2019 with her associate degree in childhood education. In May of 2021, she obtained her bachelor's degree in childhood education from SUNY Oneonta. During her final semester as an Oneonta student, she conducted her student-teaching at Remsen Elementary School. Outside of school, Ms. Cook enjoys hiking, skiing, relaxing with family and spending time at Hinkley Lake. She cannot wait to begin her career in education as a Remsen Ram!

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Welcome new groundskeeper, Mr. Craig Gallant!

Mr. Craig Gallant joins us in the position of groundskeeper. Mr. Gallant has many years of experience and has quickly become familiar with the facilities and grounds. He is enthusiastic about motorcycles, German shepherds and his service as a U.S. Army paratrooper.

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Welcome new senior account clerk, Ms. Deborah Geci!

Ms. Geci, born and raised in North Staffordshire, England, came to the U.S. in 1997 and has been a permanent resident ever since. Prior to arriving, she attended the University of Middlesex, London; and the Comillas Pontifical University ICADE in Madrid, Spain; graduating with a bachelor's degree in European business and is fluent in Spanish. She started her career in Madrid with small businesses that had strong commercial ties with the United States, and made use of her language and business skills, culminating in a brand marketing position in the Gillette Company's Oral-B division.

Soon after the birth of her son, Ms. Geci worked towards establishing a registered daycare in Cherry Valley, to provide a developmentally sound environment during those early years. In 2007, she was hired as the office assistant to start a school-based health center within the Cooperstown School District, and managed the busy medical clinic for five years. More recently, she's held the position of deputy treasurer for the Schenevus CSD.

In her non-work time, she enjoys reading, gardening, playing the piano and quilting.

Having been a resident of New Hartford for the past four years, Ms. Geci is thrilled to be able to continue her contribution to the public education sphere and to be part of a community closer to home. She looks forward to joining the Remsen Rams family, serving and supporting all staff members.



NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Welcome new elementary school counselor, Ms. Erika Kistowski!

Ms. Kistowski, known as Miss K by her students, has recently joined the Remsen team as a school counselor for pre-K through grade six. She has been a school counselor for three years working with elementary, middle and high school students. Prior to that, she was a career exploration specialist. Ms. Kistowski absolutely loves her career and strives to help children become successful. She has her B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from SUNY Polytechnic Institute and her M.A. and C.A.S. in Professional School Counseling from Russell Sage College. She is from Marcy and enjoys going hiking with her puppy, kayaking and relaxing at the beach. Ms. Kistowski is so excited to work with all of the students and families at Remsen!

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Welcome new kindergarten teacher, Ms. Kate Runniger!

Ms. Runniger is a 2015 graduate of Remsen Central School. After graduating from Remsen, she attended SUNY Oneonta and graduated in 2019 with her bachelor's degree in early childhood education. For the last two years, she has taught kindergarten at the Town of Webb UFSD. Ms. Runniger is excited to be teaching kindergarten as a Remsen Ram! She also coached Remsen cheerleading last season, and is looking forward to another fun-filled season this year. In her free time, she enjoys crocheting, skiing, photography and spending time with her family.

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Welcome new special education teacher, Ms. Amy Sears!

Ms. Sears grew up near Remsen, in Boonville, and enjoys the small town and family-oriented environment that Remsen has. In her free time, she enjoys going on day trips with her little family, baking, reading mystery books and hiking in the Adirondack mountains. Ms. Sears went to Utica College where she majored in child psychology and received her childhood and special education certification. She completed her student teaching here at Remsen elementary and is so excited to be welcomed as a new special education teacher this year!



NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Welcome new English teacher, Mrs. Carleen Taylor!

Prior to joining the 'Remsen Rams,' Mrs. Taylor started her career as an educator in Grenada as a remedial math and English teacher. She moved to Remsen in 2006, and served the community and school district as the parent/teacher group president before becoming a substitute teacher. To better understand the culture and nuances of the American education system, Mrs. Taylor went back to college and ultimately received her New York State Teaching Certification. Mrs. Taylor has recently received a master's in learning and emerging technology from Empire SUNY. She will be starting her doctoral degree in educational leadership & change in the fall of 2021. For the last five years, Mrs. Taylor taught seventh and eighth grade English at New York Mills School District.

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Welcome new bus driver, Mr. Thomas Willis!

Mr. Willis was a 17-year employee of Clinton Central Schools where he worked on their grounds and maintenance crew and was a bus driver. Most recently, he and his wife opened Spring Creek Lavender Farm where they enjoy hosting weddings, bridal showers and many other events. The father of three and grandfather of five, Mr. Willis is excited to serve the students of Remsen Central School.

CSEA School Bus Rodeo

The CSEA School Bus Rodeo took place on August 24 at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central School District. The Bus Rodeo served as a method to raise awareness and encourage recruitment and retention of bus drivers and substitute bus drivers. Bus drivers from Remsen, New York Mills, Holland Patent, Camden and VVS participated in the school bus obstacle course.

Our Remsen drivers included Adam DeGrace, Dean Lachut, Rainer Beers, Brenda Rogers and Brad Smith. Our very own Rainer earned second place. Congratulations to all and thank you to all of our bus drivers for the amazing job they do every day!



We want to make lunch time a pleasant time for the students as well as keeping them interested in staying in school.



ALL STUDENTS EAT FOR FREE!

ALL STUDENTS
CAN RECEIVE FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
DURING THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

*Please complete free/reduced meal applications when they become available.
For more information, please contact the Food Service Department at 315.738.0848.*

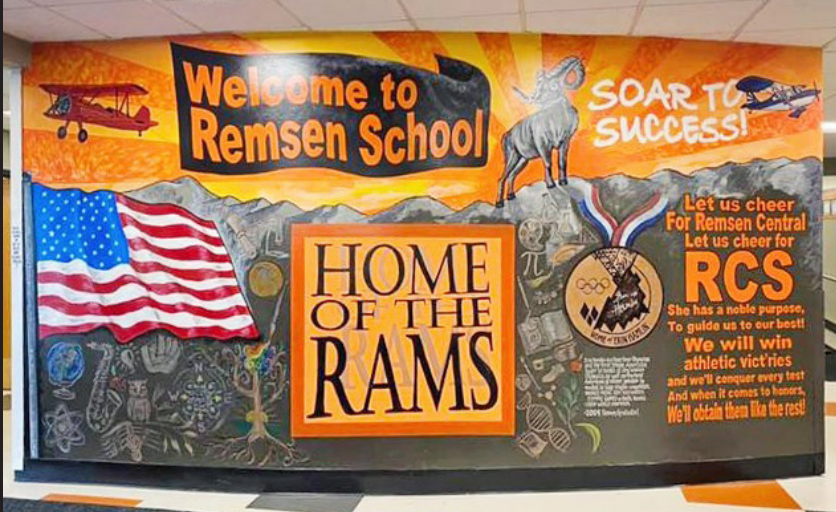
ICE CREAM - \$.75 | CHIPS - \$.75

We look forward to a great year!



7

STUDENTS REPAINT GYM WALL MURAL



The mural wall located near the Remsen Jr./Sr. High School gymnasium received a fresh new look this year courtesy of Remsen CSD art students and teacher Ms. Richard!

Ms. Richard and the students aimed to show their love of our country and respect for Remsen's heritage. The mural prominently features the school's colors of orange and black to blend nicely with the colors of the lobby area. The images depicted within the mountains symbolize the diverse opportunities and experiences that the Remsen CSD provides to its amazing young Rams. The group also thought it was important to continue to honor former student and Olympian, Erin Hamlin.

Congratulations

to the following students who were inducted into the

OHM BOCES CTEC Honor Society:

**Amber Decker
Randell Dolly
Zachary Flint
Denise Fox
Hailey Jenkins
Amy Kelly
Daniel Lehman
Evelyn Morgan
Hunter Prosser
Jessica Rimmer
James Roberts
Julia Woolheater**



Zoo Mobile



On June 21, the Utica Zoo ZooMobile visited the Remsen Elementary School. Students in grade K-6 were able to participate in the presentations. Utica Zoo educators brought along four exciting animals to present to the students. They learned about the Sumatran Chicken, the Four-Toed Hedgehog, the Blue Tongued Skink, and the Everglades Rat Snake.

The Utica Zoo educators provided students with information about the animals natural habitat, their typical diet, average size, life expectancy, and much more. Students were then able to see the animals up close and ask any questions that they might have. Students enjoyed seeing the animals and learning a great deal about them.

We'd like to thank the Utica Zoo for visiting and for the wonderful presentations!



**FEMALE VOLLEYBALL
PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Madelyn McCormack

Remsen



VARSITY TRACK & FIELD

Varsity boys and girls track & field ended their season competing at sectionals on June 10. For the first time in school history, both boys and girls captured sectional titles.

Both teams scored 171 in their victories. The boys were victorious by 96 points and the girls by 49. Coach Bunker and Coach Nelson are very proud of the hard work and dedication that the team showed throughout the shortened season!

GIRLS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

Jade Dening won the 800, 1500, 3000 and steeplechase

Maddy McCormack won the long and triple jump

Julia Dening won the 100 and 200

Isabella Layler won the pole vault

Kendall Decker, Paige Loveric, Grace Hajdasz

& Grace Shufelt won the 4x800

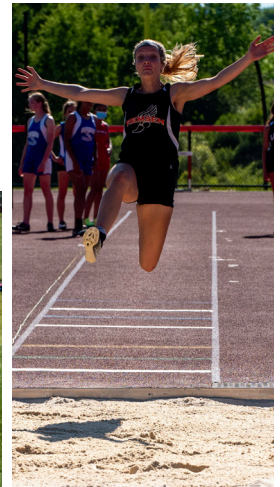
BOYS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

Matt Murphy won the 100, 200, triple jump and high jump

Mason Natalini won the 800, 1600, 3200 and steeplechase

Dakota Darling won the 400 hurdles

Griffin Klossner won the pole vault



Boys and girls track & field teams have both been named CSC Division IV League Champions by defeating the other five schools in their division.

BOYS SCORED 208 POINTS

Matt Murphy won the 100, 200 and triple jump

Mason Natalini won the 800 and 1600

Griffin Klossner won the 3200 and pole vault

Ben Becker won the 110 hurdles

Dakota Darling won the 400 hurdles

GIRLS SCORED 183 POINTS

Julia Dening won the 100 and 200

Jade Dening won the 800, 1600 and 3000

Kendall Decker, Paige Loveric, Grace Hajdasz and Tayler Nelson won the 4x400 relay

Kendall Decker, Paige Loveric, Grace Shufelt and Jade Dening won the 4x800 relay

Isabella Layler won the pole vault

Maddy McCormack won long and triple jump

Jade Dening and Mason Natalini were named MVP of the track by the other coaches in the CSC.



NYSPHSAA HONORS

At the end of each sports season, the NYSPHSAA honors those teams and individuals that excelled in the classroom. These student-athletes, teams and schools work very hard throughout the year and deserve to be recognized for their academic success. To receive Scholar-Athlete team recognition with a certificate, the team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00. Congratulations to the following teams for this award during the 2020-21 winter and fall (2) seasons: varsity girls soccer, varsity girls cross country, varsity boys cross country, varsity volleyball and varsity basketball.

The following individuals have earned pins for having a GPA of above 90.00 while participating on these teams:

Imagin Aiken, Taylor Anderson, Chelsea Barnhart, Ben Becker, Wyatt Broadbent, Jade Dening, Sabrina Gates, Grace Hajdasz, Marissa Hefner, Zachary Helmer, McKenna Jones, Josh Jordan, Isabella Lalyer, Madelyn McCormack, Evelyn Morgan, Mason Natalini, Tayler Nelson, Michael Sacco, Brian Secor, Grace Shufelt, Kylie Singer, Noah Skermont, Ben Staskoski, Ryan Staskoski, Chris Tavenner

Congratulations to our track & field team on setting three
NEW SCHOOL RECORDS!

GIRLS

4x100; 53.8

Grace Hajdasz, Jade Dening,
Maddy McCormack & Julia Dening

GIRLS

2000 steeplechase; 7:29

Jade Dening

BOYS

1600; 4:35.9

Mason Natalini



9



Remsen Holds Pre-K Graduation Celebration

On June 24, Remsen pre-K students participated in a “drive-by” style graduation ceremony. Students were excited to see their teachers one last time and give them a big hug before heading off to enjoy the summer. We wish our students the best of luck as they move on to kindergarten this fall!



SIXTH GRADE GRADUATION CEREMONY

On June 23, sixth graders gathered for an outdoor graduation ceremony.

We wish these students the best of luck as they begin their high school journey this fall!



Congratulations **CLASS OF 2021**

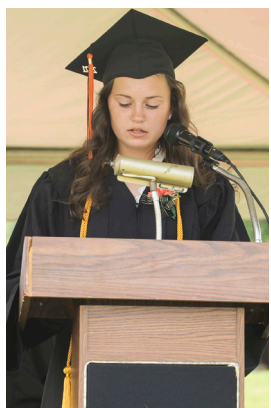
Remsen Holds Outdoor Graduation Ceremony

On June 27, Remsen High School seniors came together for one last time to celebrate their graduation.

The ceremony was held outside on the athletic field, and seniors were recognized with awards, scholarships and their high school diplomas.

Valedictorian Morgan Jones and Salutatorian Jade Dening delivered remarks to their families and fellow classmates; wishing them well as they continue on.

We wish our graduated seniors the very best of luck in all that they do!





REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 406, 9733 Main St.
Remsen, New York 13438

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— SOAR TO SUCCESS —

Summer Enrichment At RCSD

Over the summer, several summer enrichment camps were held at Remsen CSD. These camps focused on academics, technology, art and physical fitness as well as a Kindergarten Kickstart for incoming kindergarten students to prepare for the upcoming school year.

These opportunities allowed students to stay busy and keep learning all throughout the summer.



Remsen FFA is proud to share...

2021 G4G \$5000 GRANT RECIPIENT!

Funds will be used to purchase updated tools and equipment for Agriculture, Power & Technology courses & projects



The nationwide program, sponsored by Tractor Supply Company, provides grant funds to local FFA chapters to support the development or improvement of agricultural education projects that enhance the classroom experiences for students through chapter engagement activities.

Remsen FFA Advisor
Rayne Ives
rives@remsencsd.org