



THE REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 2020 | Building the Future — One Child at a Time! | www.remsencsd.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

2-3 District News

4-5 Elementary
Principal's Message
& News

6-7 Jr./Sr. High School
Principal's Message
& News



"Like" us on Facebook
(www.facebook.com/remscsd)



"Follow" us on Twitter
(@remscsd)

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

11/25-11/27 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

12/3

Early Dismissal, ES Parent/Teacher Conference, 11:30 a.m.

12/4

Early Dismissal ES Parent/Teacher Conference, 11:30 a.m.

12/23-12/31

Winter Recess

JANUARY

1/1

Winter Recess

1/18

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
(No School)

Message from the Superintendent



It feels like just yesterday that the March 13, 2020, announcement was made, closing schools and completely turning our world upside down. All of the little things that we took for granted each day disappeared in the blink of an eye. Family devastation, job loss, struggling businesses and a tremendous social-emotional toll became all too common. Families were not allowed in hospitals or facilities to be with their dying loved ones on their last days, important medical procedures were canceled, hospitals closely monitored their capacity to handle the pandemic and the unknown characteristics of the coronavirus itself caused fear, anxiety and stress.

Fast forward eight months and we are still in the midst of the pandemic. Sadly, our positive numbers are rising again and government officials are implementing micro-cluster color zones that will likely require schools and businesses to close while labeled as such. Traveling out of the state requires a two-week quarantine upon return unless you are an essential worker. There is hopeful news of a vaccine on the horizon, but a substantial hike up the mountain remains before we reach the summit.

On top of the pandemic, New York State is facing a budget deficit well over \$14 billion that has already started to impact schools. The state has withheld 20% of our last aid payment for the 2019-2020 school year and we were recently told, without warning, that a large portion of our transportation aid from last year will not be realized. The threat of New York State reducing our state aid by 20% this school year is real. At Remsen, a 20% reduction in our state aid would mean an estimated loss of revenue in the amount of \$1.46 million.

Strength: As the saying goes, "good timber does not grow with ease. The stronger the wind, the stronger the trees." Experiences over the last eight months have tried our patience, our will and our character. We have been faced with many challenges and difficult situations that have required sacrifice and selflessness. Our sacrifices and our struggles have made us stronger as individuals and stronger together. As we continue through this pandemic, we must have the strength to understand, the strength to help one another and the strength to persevere.

Perseverance: Despite the difficult circumstances we are currently living in, we will persevere. We must continue to work like we have never worked before, in ways we have never had

to before. While we cannot control the COVID-19 guidance and restrictions placed upon us, we can control our reaction to them. We can choose to complain and give up or stand strong, overcome and take care of each other. Regardless of the challenges brought on by the pandemic, we have the ability and the strength to see our way through the adversity together.

Kindness: One thing is certain about this pandemic, we are not in this situation alone. Everyone is living it. Everyone is ready for it to be over. Everyone is ready to stop wearing masks. Businesses are ready to conduct regular business. Schools would do anything to return to "normal" and all families would like to be able to live without COVID-19 restrictions; but we are not there yet. While it is easy to become anxious or angry, it is essential to remember the importance of kindness.

We must continue to help each other, understand one another and be kind. We must be the example for our children. We must help and encourage others even if they have forgotten or disregarded the importance of kindness themselves.

Together, We Can Get Through Anything: As we approach the holiday season, knowing that it will likely be different than any holiday season we have ever experienced before, I encourage us all to shift our focus, step back from how the pandemic may negatively impact our holidays and think about the things that we can be grateful for. At RCS, we are extremely grateful for our students, staff, parents and community members. You are appreciated. Parents: your flexibility, dedication, sacrifice and support throughout this pandemic is unwavering. It has not been easy; tough decisions had to be made and things are far from normal, but we will prevail. From all of us at RCS, "thank you."

Strength, perseverance and kindness will see us through this pandemic. We will be stronger and we will be better. **WE ARE REMSEN.** We will continue to work together and together we can get through anything.

As always, it is an honor and privilege to be your superintendent. I wish everyone health and happiness throughout the holidays and as we bring in a new year.

Sincerely,

Timothy Jenny
Superintendent

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION WEEK: OCTOBER 19-23, 2020

Thank you to our board of education members for their contributions and commitment to quality education for our students.



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."

— SOAR TO SUCCESS —

Remsen Receives Beautiful New Scoreboard

Thank you Eversan for the beautiful scoreboard!

Thank you Power Line Constructors for setting the I-Beams.

Thank you Edwin J. Wadas Foundation for making it all possible.

Thank you to Mr. Denning for applying for the grant.



Nurse Notification Reminders

Please be sure to notify the school nurse if:

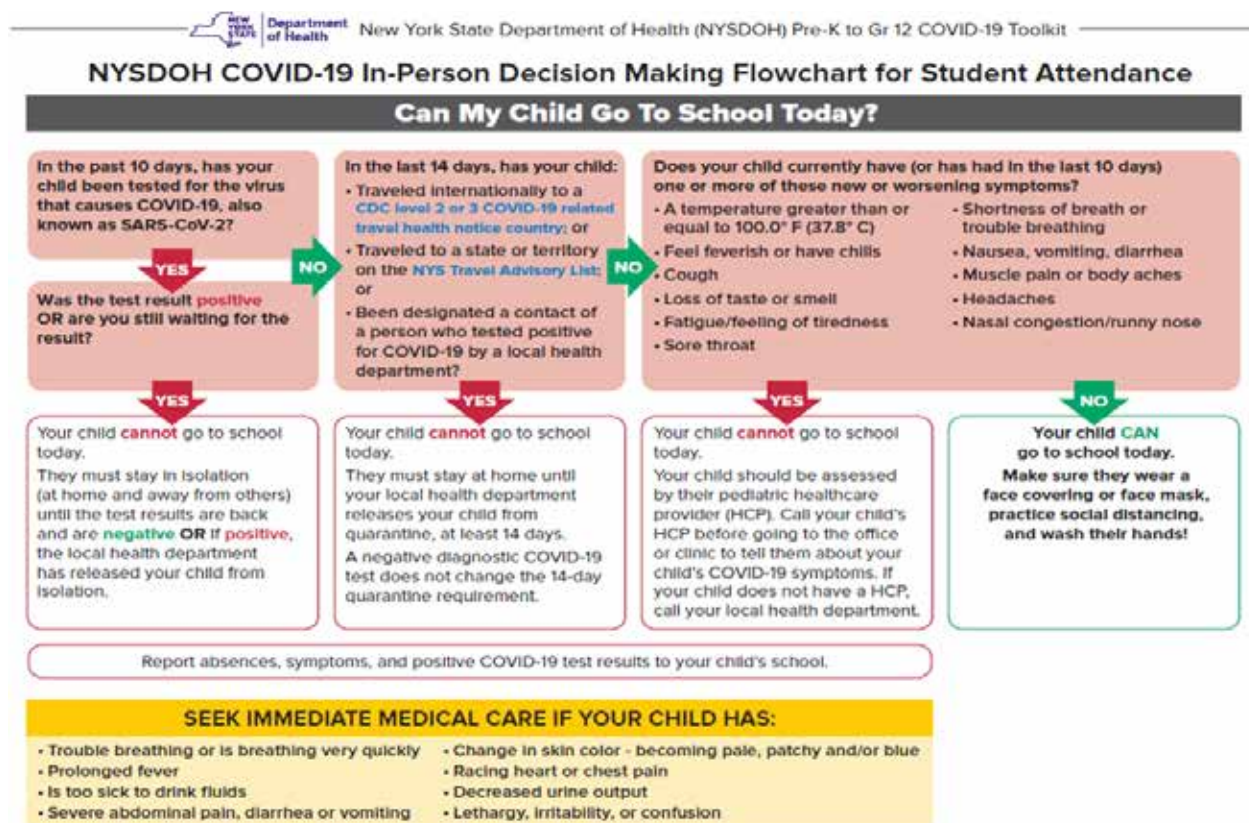
- your child is sick
- your child takes a COVID-19 test
- your child is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms
- you think your child may have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 person
- you are planning on traveling with your child to a location on the "NYS Travel Advisory List" as students are required to quarantine upon their return.

Department of Health Updates

The New York State Department of Health recently released their "NYSDOH COVID-19 Toolkit" for schools. This document contains flow charts to help parents and schools determine if students or staff should report to school and also details when they may return. This document may be found on our webpage under "Announcements" and is titled "NYSDOH COVID-19 Guidelines for Coming to School."

Towards that end, the screening questions for parents to use each morning before sending their child to school have been updated to align with the updated flow charts. The screening questions may be found on our webpage under "Daily Health Screenings." The updated screening questions are listed below:

- Has your child tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days, OR are you still waiting for the result of a COVID-19 test?
- In the last 14 days, has your child traveled internationally to a CDC level 2 or 3 COVID-19 related travel health notice country; or traveled to a state or territory on the NYS Travel Advisory List?
- Has your child been designated a contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 by a local health department?
- Does your child currently have (or has had in the last 10 days) one or more of these new or worsening symptoms?
 - A temperature greater than or equal to 100° F
 - Feel feverish or have chills
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
 - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
 - Cough
 - Headaches
 - Nasal congestion/runny nose
 - Muscle pain or body aches
 - Fatigue/feeling of tiredness



Tips from the Health Offices



Crispy cold weather is upon us. Seeing your breath and feeling the shivers in frigid air is a norm of the north country and so are germs during the cold and flu season. Although our masks may make it more difficult to see our breath and will hopefully help reduce the spread of respiratory illness, germs

do make their way into our lives. Here are some important points to help take the chill and the ill out of our winter:

Recess is an important part of your child's growth and development and should be experienced each day when they go outside. Rest assured, the air temperature and wind chill are calculated each day to make sure it is not too cold for outdoor recess. Dig out those hats, mittens, snow pants and boots to make sure your child/children are ready for outdoor fun.

At the high school level, take note of what your tweens and teens are heading out the door in. If they walk to school, are they wearing outdoor clothing that will keep them warm? If they ride a bus or in a car and the vehicle breaks down, will they have warm clothing to put on if needed? You may be surprised at what they aren't wearing.

During this pandemic, it's more important than ever to assess your child every morning to make sure they are well enough for school. If in doubt, feel free to reach out to either one of the nurses at Remsen Central School District to help guide you to a decision. Information on when to keep your child home is available on our website and in our reopening plan. The flu vaccine is available to help keep Influenza at bay. Talk with your child's healthcare provider to see if the vaccine should be made available for your child.

The forecast may bring snow but let's dodge a few flakes by staying warm, safe and healthy while playing in winter's wonderland. Your support makes it possible for the students of Remsen School District to learn and grow in a safe and engaging environment.

Remsen Depot Train Car Art

The Remsen Depot, a stop along the Adirondack Railroad, was re-built in 1999 to replicate the station that existed on the site in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Remsen CSD's very own art teacher, Ms. Richard, painted all of the silhouettes that you see in the windows of one of the train cars! Do you recognize any?



New Remsen CSD Staff



Welcome new science teacher, Mrs. Dana Percia!

Mrs. Percia is certified to teach both chemistry and mathematics in New York State. Prior to accepting the teaching position at RCSD, Mrs. Percia taught AP calculus and algebra 1 at Mount Markham Central School District. She enjoys both subjects equally, and believes to be successful in science, students need to understand mathematics. Mrs. Percia incorporates her understanding of mathematics into her science lessons whenever possible, and believes that her work as a professional tutor and her knowledge of mathematics is a great asset to her students. Mrs. Percia resides in Marcy, NY, with her husband Dave, son Dominick and their two Italian greyhounds Luna and Velvet.



Welcome new bus mechanic, Mr. Rainer Beers!

Mr. Beers was born in Rome, NY and raised in McConnellsville. Following his high school graduation, he joined the Army. Following his deployment to Iraq, he returned to the local area and accepted a job with Birnie Bus in Rome, where he was employed for 10 years. Most recently, he was employed at Rome Memorial Hospital, where he served as a boiler mechanic and energy center operator for the past year. Mr. Beers is looking forward to working with and making new friends in Remsen!



Welcome new teacher aide, Ms. Leian DiNitto!

Ms. DiNitto started her journey of working with children 19 years ago as the Executive Director of a preschool and school age child care program. The mother of two children, she has recently returned to her hometown of Barneveld, NY, and loves the sense of community. Ms. DiNitto is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the children and families at RCSD.

Snow Closing Information

The Remsen Central School District may have to make a decision to delay, close or go home early, due to weather and/or road conditions. When the weather requires closing or a delay, the district's automated phone system will be activated to let you know as soon as possible. The major radio stations in the Utica-Rome area; WBRV, Boonville, WIBX, Oldies 96, Big Frog 104.3, and Lite 98.7 and TV Channels 2-Utica, 3, 5, and 9-Syracuse, will also be notified to broadcast the information. This information will also appear on the school district website (www.remsencsd.org). We recommend making proactive plans for the supervision of your children on "snow days" or in the event of an early dismissal as soon as possible to be prepared for our upcoming winter months.

When Remsen schools are closed, all scheduled activities, events and programs for that day and evening are cancelled. If there is a two-hour delay in the morning, there will be no a.m. BOCES. The school closing information applies to all students receiving transportation on Remsen Central School District buses, including out-of-district programs, BOCES students and all others.

The State Education Department has granted schools a pilot program for this year, providing districts with the option to switch to remote learning instead of calling an emergency day for inclement weather. Remsen plans to use all snow days first, before resorting to remote learning emergency days. If all snow days have been used and there is a need for an additional emergency day, Remsen will switch to remote learning for that day.

Please know that extreme weather conditions are trying for all of us and there is no clear cut answer as to when schools should be closed and/or delayed. We will always do what we think is best for all students. The ultimate decision, however, remains with you, the parents. If schools are open and you feel as though the conditions are too severe to send your children, please exercise your right to keep them home.



Elementary Principal's Message



Dear Remsen Families,

I want to start off by saying thank you. Thank you for your support, your trust, your patience and your cooperation. We have all been through unprecedented challenges as we have faced this pandemic together. The very important and very challenging task of reopening schools has weighed heavily on all of us. We started the school year with a whole new set of procedures and highly-modified routines; put in place to keep our students safe and to allow us to provide our students with an all day, every day, educational experience. We were not quite sure how everything would work out or how students would respond to the new routines and procedures, but together we pressed forward, making adjustments along the way. At this point, we are already almost three months into the school year and overall, things are running smoothly. We have had a few "bumps in the road" and we are sure to encounter a few more as we move forward. Together, we have been able to successfully begin the school year providing in-person learning for all students that is as safe as possible, in a positive and enjoyable environment. Thank you for your tremendous part in making that possible.

The past few weeks have been very busy in the elementary school. October ended with our annual Parade of Costumes, followed by Veterans Day. This year, our entire costume parade was presented through Zoom in all of our classrooms and recorded so that the video could be shared with families and friends. If you have not had a chance to view the video, it is posted on our school website and on social media. Everyone had a great time displaying school spirit with their black and orange attire and their costumes. This year, in lieu of our traditional Veterans Day ceremony, all classes were asked to contribute to our school-wide tribute with artwork, poetry, musical performances and more. Each class participated and did a wonderful job. Our tribute video was shared on our website and on social media for all veterans to see and enjoy. Over the next few weeks, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, ending our first trimester of the school year and finishing off 2020 with Christmas and New Years celebrations.

Safely providing students with in-person and remote learning is of utmost importance. In order to make this possible, communication between school and home is essential. As we progress through this school year, we will be continually adjusting to changes in DOH and NYS guidance, constantly looking for ways to improve what we do, all while attempting to keep school as "normal" and enjoyable as possible for our students. In order to keep everyone up-to-date on the frequent changes and updates, there are many letters, videos, phone calls, emails and social media posts that are being sent out and shared regularly. Please be sure that you are connected and have current contact information on file here at the school so that you receive the most recent information. Also, please be sure to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns at any time. Again, thank you for your support and partnership in working together for the students of Remsen.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Winghart Jr.

Elementary School Principal

Substitute Teachers and Bus Drivers Needed!

The Remsen Central School District is seeking per diem substitute teachers for grades K-12 and substitute bus drivers for the 2020-21 school year.

The Remsen Central School District maintains an active list of substitute teachers who are utilized on an as-needed basis, to cover the classroom in the absence of the regular (full-time) teachers. The primary role of the substitute teacher is to continue student learning along the continuum, established by the teacher for whom he/she is substituting.

Substitute teachers, providing day-to-day service, are paid at the per diem rate, for the actual days worked. They do not receive any benefits. The Remsen Central School District substitute teacher rates are \$90.00 per day for non-certified teachers and \$100.00 per day for certified teachers. Substitute bus drivers earn \$18.22 per hour.

Interested candidates may submit their completed application and a letter of interest to:

Timothy Jenny, Superintendent of Schools

Remsen Central School District

P.O. Box 406

Remsen, NY 13438

Applications can be found on the district's website at www.remsencsd.org/jobs.

The Remsen Central School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**ALL
STUDENTS
EAT
FREE**

All students 18 and under will receive meals free of charge through June 2021. Please continue to fill out your Free/Reduced meal price applications.



On October 30, elementary students dressed in costume and paraded around the school in celebration of the season! The classes took turns parading and the event was streamed for the whole school to see from their classrooms as their fellow superheroes, princesses and more made their rounds through the halls. Students were excited to celebrate the season together safely.



Jr./Sr. High School Principal's Message



Remsen Community,

I hope this message finds you all well and enjoying the fall season. Although we find ourselves following a unique school schedule this autumn, there is still much to be excited about here at the Remsen Junior/Senior High School.

We have just wrapped up several events. Students and staff of the high school participated in a Spirit Week that saw a themed day of "Cowboys vs.

Lumberjacks" to determine, deep-down, which of these two groups the school identified with most. Remsen Pride Day encouraged students to dress in the school colors of orange and black. For the first time this fall, we offered students the opportunity to take both the SAT and PSAT exams here at Remsen. Students shared that they felt more relaxed being able to take the exams in a familiar setting and we are eagerly awaiting their results. We also just completed the external program review for our Agriculture CTE pathway. The event led by Mrs. Ives and Mrs. Smith displayed the immense amount of work put into the program offered in the school and highlighted many of the exciting opportunities that the program will be able to provide students as we move forward, such as agricultural technology utilizing drones and FarmBots.

We have some tremendous opportunities to look forward to in the upcoming weeks. Students will be able to participate in some amazing activities through virtual platforms. As an example, Mr. Dangler has arranged for students to be able to participate in a percussion clinic with the US Marine Corps. Band through Zoom. Students will have increased opportunities such as these as we fulfill our technology initiative to provide all students the opportunity to sign out a Chromebook computer for the duration of their high school career.

As we wrap up the first marking period, please remember to encourage our Remsen students to take advantage of all of the opportunities provided during these times, both in school and while learning remotely. It is the consistency of student engagement with their learning experiences that will provide them the best education they can possibly receive. As always, please reach out to the school and our staff with any questions, concerns or for more information about all of the exciting opportunities happening here at Remsen CSD.

Most Sincerely,

Daniel O'Bryan

Jr./Sr. High School Principal



High school students completing drone obstacle courses as part of their coursework.



Images of our elementary and high school buildings as taken by a school drone.

Remsen Agriculture Program



Meet Mrs. Ives, Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor.

Rayne Ives grew up in Remsen and is a member of the RCSD Class of 2011. Her family owns and operates Groeslon Farm in Remsen. After graduating from RCSD, she earned her AAS in Agricultural Business from SUNY Cobleskill and her BS in Animal Science from Cornell University. Mrs. Ives completed her MSED in Agricultural Education from SUNY Oswego in 2019.

After graduating from Cornell University, she worked as a loan officer for Farm Credit East for two years and then became the Remsen agriculture teacher and FFA advisor in 2017.

Bringing agriculture to Remsen is a unique opportunity for our students to learn about agriculture and growing career opportunities in the field. Whether students enter into a career in agriculture or not, they will always be consumers of agricultural products, which is why it is important to be agriculturally literate! In October, Remsen agriculture submitted an application for the program to obtain approval and become recognized as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program by NYSED. CTE students are more engaged, make connections to other academic courses and develop creative and technical skills. Students perform better academically, graduate at higher rates and are prepared for higher education and careers. Students in the CTE pathways available at Remsen (agriculture, business and human development) will take the core courses for their area, take a written industry standard exam, a performance exam, develop a portfolio, complete a research project and participate in an internship.

Remsen students begin taking agriculture classes in seventh grade as part of their CTE requirement. They will take ten weeks of class in seventh grade

and ten weeks of class in eighth grade. Once they move to the high school level, they are able to choose from a variety of classes. Presently, we offer the following courses:

Core Courses (3 credits total):

- Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
 - 9th-10th Grade
- Agricultural Business (Articulated Credit through SUNY Cobleskill-3 college credits)
 - 10th-12th grade
- Animal Science
 - 10th-12th grade
- Plant Science
 - 10th-12th grade

Electives:

- Drone and Agricultural Technology
- Natural Resources
- Introduction to Dairy Science

Since its inception, Remsen agriculture has received nearly \$50,000 in grants. Some exciting opportunities happening in the agriculture program thanks to these grants are:

- Drone Program
- Grow Carts
- FarmBots
- Floral Cooler
- Aquaponics
- Chick Incubation
- Outdoor Plastic Collection Bin





Food and Nutrition Students Create Cheesecake Masterpiece

Food and nutrition students at Remsen CSD were tasked with researching an apple of choice among varieties they recently learned about. They discovered where the varieties originated, what year, if they were a cross between other kinds of apples, a description of the apple's qualities, what they are used best for and when they are available. After that, the students did a taste test of each variety of apple, rating them based on appearance, taste and texture. They then found recipes requiring apples as one of the main ingredients. These included apple cobbler, apple turnovers, apple cake and apple cheesecake. Ultimately, the students made a delicious apple cheesecake, fit for fall.

The recipe: <https://www.lifeloveandsugar.com/apple-cinnamon-cheesecake/>

College Credit Offerings at RCSD

Remsen Jr./Sr. High School currently offers a total of 15 classes through which students can earn college credit. These courses include: sociology, psychology, human development, food and nutrition, English, foreign languages, business, agriculture business, history and math.

We are happy to announce that Remsen Jr./Sr. High School students are currently on track to earn a total of 453 credits through SUNY Cobleskill and MVCC. Credits earned through MVCC are completely free, while credits through SUNY Cobleskill are either free or offered at minimal cost. As a result, the tuition costs of these credits equals a savings of \$97,638 to students and the community.

Family and Consumer Science Program Awarded Mini Grants

Remsen CSD's family and consumer science program has been approved for a \$100 "Beef for the Classroom" grant from the New York Beef Council, to be used on any beef purchases for the food and nutrition class.

The program was also awarded a \$100 mini grant from the New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Educators to be used on the purchase of any new equipment for the kitchen.

Remsen Drone Program

Drones are officially flying at Remsen Jr./Sr. High School for the 2020-21 school year! As the recipient of the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Grant (sponsored by Bayer) and National FFA Grants for Growing (sponsored by TSC), Remsen was able to purchase equipment, curriculum and professional development training for Mrs. Ives and Mrs. Smith to implement the drone program at school.

Why bring drones to Remsen? Small unmanned aircraft systems, otherwise known as drones, are a dynamic, emerging technology that can transform how industries function. This course will teach students to use drones safely and legally. They will learn how to fly, understand which type of flight systems are available, know the system capabilities, understand how drones are used in industry and learn what to look for when choosing their own drones.

Those who take the new class will learn how to use the DJI Phantom 4 V2.0 Drone with a Sentera NDVI sensor to help local farmers create maps of their fields for analysis and GPS planning and potentially participate in local drone competitions. Additionally, the program purchased a DJI Mavic 2 Pro, which is used in many industries due to its portability and high quality camera.

Seven students are currently enrolled in the program which is facilitated through SkyOp in Canandaigua. Remsen Jr./Sr. High School students are taught a rigorous and relevant curriculum about recreational and commercial use of drones, use drone flight simulation software, hands-on drone flight training and FAA Part 107 test prep. Upon completion of the program, students who are 16 or older will be eligible to take the 60 question FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Knowledge Test and, upon passing the test, apply for their Remote Pilot Certificate.

Students who have earned their Remote Pilot Certificate will be able to use their drones commercially or may incorporate it into future employment. Some current uses for drones include: capturing videos of homes and properties for real estate sales, checking fields in agriculture, inspecting damages for insurance companies, inspecting towers for energy companies, surveying, checking job sites in construction, delivering packages and filming during movie production. Additionally, the agriculture industry is one of the largest users of drone technology.

During the hands-on component of this course, students began learning how to fly the drone using Ryze Tello. These drones have auto-hover capabilities, which allows them to focus on the directional component of flight. Once they master the Tello, students will receive a SYMA X5C Quadcopter which they will first learn to navigate through obstacle courses indoors. This style of indoor flight training allows students to focus solely on controlling the aircraft without outdoor factors such as wind or weather. After completing a series of increasingly difficult exercises, they will then train outside. This approach develops the primary skills needed to create the safest, most proficient remote pilots anywhere!

Students have recently finished the Tello training component of the program, where they ended with a face-off contest. Students were allowed a practice flight through the obstacle course and three time trials. The fastest two times were recorded.



Group A Students: Ryan Staskoski, Anthony Vacarelli, Ben Staskoski, Dylan Taylor, and Lyle Pett (Missing: Group B Students: Toby Sklarz and Alexis Wheeler)



Tello Face-Off Winners: Anthony Vaccarelli-Fastest; Dylan Taylor-Most Consistent



Program Drones





REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mary Lou Allen, President

Brian Parent, Vice President

Stephanie Karis

Mark Williams

Patrick Nolan

Timothy Jenny,
Superintendent

www.remsencsd.org

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
P.O. Box 406, Main St.
Remsen, NY 13438
PERMIT NO. 7

Remsen Students Show School Pride

During the first week of October, students at both Remsen Elementary and Jr./Sr. High School showed their school spirit from near and far.

Elementary students, both at school and those learning remotely, wore yellow to show kindness, shared their favorite books with their peers, got silly on wacky Wednesday, came together against bullying by wearing blue and showed their Remsen school spirit by wearing their black and orange on Friday!

At the Jr./Sr. high school, students chose between cowboys or lumberjacks and finished off the week by representing Remsen in their orange and black. Students were able to come together, whether learning remotely or in school, to show their Remsen pride and have a little fun.



— SOAR TO SUCCESS —