



# THE REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 2019 | Building the Future — One Child at a Time! | [www.remsencsd.org](http://www.remsencsd.org)

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## CALENDAR

For the complete District calendar, schedule of upcoming events and more District news, please visit [www.remsencsd.org](http://www.remsencsd.org).

## Message from the Superintendent

### — THANK YOU REMSEN COMMUNITY —

As the last leaves fall from our beautiful deciduous trees, contractors work on final checklist items and clean-up, signifying the end of our large capital project. It has been exciting to see all of the work come together to make long-needed improvements and repairs.

The tremendous amount of updates, renovations and improvements in all of our buildings and on the grounds is amazing. A simple drive around the campus puts a smile on your face, appreciating the hidden gem that we call Remsen Central School. Many of the infrastructure improvements that are not easily visible, but equally as important, ensure that our school operates efficiently and safely to provide our students optimal learning conditions.

Teamwork is paramount for a project of this magnitude to have a successful outcome. Students, staff, parents and community members were extremely flexible as major construction required many changes to our normal routines and procedures. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

On Tuesday, October 15, we celebrated the completion of our brand new track with a small ribbon-cutting ceremony. The message shared with students and staff

was about the importance of saying thank you to the Remsen Community. Without you, the community members, Remsen Central School would not be the beautiful campus that it continues to be. All of the improvements made in our recent capital project would not have been possible without your support.

Workers will still be on site finishing up final details from the capital project as well as continued work for the Smart Bond Project which will provide enhanced security cameras, card access readers at entrances, new emergency notification systems in both buildings and new fiber lines, switches and servers to update our entire technology infrastructure. Remsen Central School District is on the move!

On behalf of the Remsen Central School District students and staff, THANK YOU for helping us continue to SOAR TO SUCCESS. We could not do it without you.

Sincerely,

Superintendent



### GO HOME EARLY DRILL • NOVEMBER 26, 2019 • ALL STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED 15 MINUTES EARLY

- **Bus Riders:** Please expect your child to be dropped off 15 minutes earlier than a normal school day.
- **Walkers:** Please expect your child to be home 15 minutes earlier than a normal school day.
- **Parent Pick Up:** Please plan on picking up your child 15 minutes earlier than a normal school day.

**Mission:** "REMSEN 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 Students and Staff Celebrate New Track with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



We would like to thank the Remsen community for our beautiful new track! The students and staff are all very excited to begin utilizing and enjoying the track now, and for many years to come.

It would not have been possible without the support of the people of Remsen, therefore we are very grateful and excited to enjoy and share this improvement with our great community.

## Welcome to our New School Patrol Officers



Remsen is pleased to announce that we will now have an armed School Patrol Officer on campus daily. We are excited to welcome Officer John Schroth and Officer Rob Smith to the district. The primary purpose of this position is to ensure safety on our campus for our students, staff and visitors. One officer

will be present daily, shared between the Jr./Sr. High School and the Elementary School.

SPOs are coordinated through the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, with funding paid in part by Oneida County. The two officers assigned to our district are familiar with the area and are eager to be here.

When on duty, the officers will be in uniform, circulating halls and lunchrooms and present at entrances and events. Please join us in welcoming Officer Schroth and Officer Smith!

## Genesis Group Recognizes Remsen Faculty



Congratulations Dan O'Bryan and Eileen Hamlin for being recognized as honorees at the Genesis Group Outstanding Educator and Program Awards, which will be held on November 21 at Harts Hill Inn in Whitesboro, New York.

## Upcoming District Events

### NOVEMBER

**11/27-11/29** Thanksgiving Recess

### DECEMBER

**12/5** Early Dismissal - ES Parent/Teacher Conf., 11:30 a.m.  
**12/6** Early Dismissal - ES Parent/Teacher Conf., 11:30 a.m.  
**12/11** Grades K-4 Christmas Concert, 6:30 p.m.  
**12/16** Elementary School 1st Trimester Evening of Excellence  
**12/18** Grades 5-12 Band & Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.  
**12/19** Grades 5-12 Band & Chorus Concert SNOW DATE  
**12/19** Pre-K Holiday Celebration, 1:15-2:00 p.m.  
**12/23-12/31** Winter Recess

### JANUARY

**1/1-1/3** Winter Recess  
**1/20** Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School  
**1/21-1/24** Regents Exams  
**1/29** 3rd Grade Recorder & Beginning Band Recital, 6:30 p.m.

## THE TRACK IS OPEN!

Community members may come to walk or run on the track any time it is not in use by students. Please help keep our track beautiful - no pets, bikes or strollers.

## Snow Closing Information

The Remsen Central School District may have to make a decision to delay or close school due to weather 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.

Occasionally, it is necessary to close school early due to rapidly deteriorating weather conditions or an adverse condition within a particular school. When this situation occurs, the district's automated phone system will be activated to let you know of the need for an early dismissal. Local radio/TV stations will also be notified. This information will also appear on the school district website ([www.remsenscd.org](http://www.remsenscd.org)).

Parents should make arrangements for the supervision of their children on "snow days" or in the event of an early dismissal. We recommend that such arrangements be made as soon as possible to be prepared for our upcoming winter months.

When Remsen schools are closed, all scheduled activities, events and programs in the schools for that day are cancelled. If there is a two-hour delay in the morning there will be no A.M. BOCES for that day. 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.



## Extremely Cold Temperatures

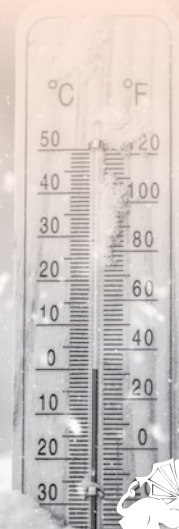
In Remsen we are very fortunate in that we have a facility that houses most of our buses. Normal route buses are parked in the bus garage and therefore the cold weather isn't often a factor in getting them started in the morning. Buses are started early and allowed to warm-up before beginning the routes. Please note that students who normally walk to school are encouraged to ride the bus on extremely cold days. If your child normally walks to school, they may wait with other students at a regular stop. If our drivers see a student walking to school on an extremely cold day, they will also stop and offer them a ride.

### Specific to the cold temperatures and wind chill:

- Frostbite can occur on exposed skin in about 30 minutes in adults at -25 degrees F and in as little as 10 minutes in adults at -40 degrees F. It takes less time for children.
- Frostbite can occur in children even before temperatures reach this low; it just takes a little longer.
- No one should be outside with unprotected skin with wind-chill factors -40 degrees F or lower.
- When wind-chills are -20 degrees F or below outdoor activities should be reviewed and possibly suspended.

Parents are ultimately responsible for ensuring that their children are properly clothed and not allowed to remain outdoors in extreme weather conditions. However, sometimes weather conditions change quickly and parents are caught off-guard. Please talk with your child and remind them about how to best care for themselves in adverse conditions.

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.



## Remsen Transportation Reminders

School buses are the safest mode of motorized transportation for getting children to and from school, but injuries can occur if students are not careful and aware when getting on and off the bus.

### Top Tips

- Students must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting on or off and should never walk behind the bus.
- If your child needs to cross the street after exiting the bus, they should take 10 giant steps in front of the bus, make eye contact with the bus driver and cross ONLY when the driver uses the universal crossing signal to indicate that it's safe! Students should still look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
- It is helpful for younger students to use handrails when boarding or exiting the bus. Be careful of straps or drawstrings that could get caught in the door. If your child drops something, they should tell the bus driver and make sure the bus driver is able to see them before they pick it up.
- Slow down and stop if you're driving near a school bus that is flashing yellow or red lights. This means the bus is either preparing to stop (yellow) or already stopped (red), and children are getting on or off.

### Winter Safety Tips

- Allow extra time in the morning to get to your bus on time.
- Stand away from where the bus stops. Buses need extra room to stop when there is snow and ice.
- Dress properly. Winter clothing, hats, mittens and boots will help keep you warm.
- Don't play in the snow while waiting for the bus.
- Don't throw snowballs at the bus or anyone else.
- Don't slide on the snow or ice patches in driveways or on the street. You could slide underneath the bus.

We look forward to another safe school year transporting our students!

## COMMUNITY WALKERS:

The elementary school will be open for community walkers from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. each night starting on November 1. Please be sure to sign in and out in the registration log that will be located in the lobby.



## Elementary Principal's Message

Dear Remsen Families,

"You're Special, We're Special, People Matter." That motto is how we started off the school year and it will remain our focus. Our opening assembly in the elementary school focused on the unique traits and abilities that each member of the Remsen School District community possesses. We talked about how each member of our team, from our youngest in Pre-Kindergarten to our most seasoned staff, is special and unique in their own ways and that we should take the time to recognize the special gifts and talents that others have. We also talked about how we fit together as a team and how each of our individual strengths fit together to make Remsen School District a special place. Finally, we talked about the importance of treating the people around us with respect and recognizing that they matter a great deal. Students and staff spent the first few weeks of school working on an identity web project. Our webs are being displayed around the Elementary School and a handful are showcased each week to help remind us of our school-wide focus. If you get a chance, stop by the school to see the creative identity webs that are on display.

In addition to the positive start to the school year, there has been a great deal of excitement throughout the school with the completion of many of the projects that were started over the summer. It has been exciting to see the improvements and enhancements that have been made in the last few months. All of the new lighting,

new flooring in the gym and cafeteria, the new PA system and many other improvements have made a big difference and really add to the excitement of being a Remsen Ram. Without the support of the community, this would not be possible. Thank you very much for your support!

The purchase of our book vending machine has been another very exciting addition this school year. Made possible by donations from the PTG, the Remsen Teacher Association, School Store Funds, as well as funds collected through Boxtops for Education and Hannaford Helps Schools, the vending machine provides students with the opportunity to earn certificates that can be redeemed for book tokens. Each book token is good for the purchase of one book from the machine. Students have been very excited to earn a token and to have the opportunity to choose a book from the machine.

There is a great deal of good and exciting activity going on at Remsen Elementary School. I want to thank you for your continued support. Your support makes it possible for the students of Remsen School District to learn and grow in a safe and engaging environment.

Sincerely,

*Gary M. Winghart Jr.*

*Elementary School Principal*



## Remsen Elementary School Treats Students and Families to a "Sweet" Open House Night

On September 4, students and their families were invited to a Back to School Open House Night at Remsen Elementary School. Principal Gary Winghart served sweet treats such as popcorn and cotton candy, while students and their families toured the school, met with their new teachers and spent one final night preparing for an early first day of school morning.

Students were eager as they walked through the halls, reuniting with familiar faces and getting to know new ones. The open house was a sweet start to what has so far been a successful 2019-20 school year!

## RCSD Book Vending Machine Gives Students Opportunity to Earn Educational Prizes



Remsen Central School District has purchased a book vending machine through School Store Funds, PTG donation, Box Top for Education, Hannaford and Remsen Teacher Association donation.

The book vending machine lives in the Elementary School and is available for use by students who have earned token certificates. Classroom teachers have a few token certificates each month that they are able to give out to students for excellent behavior and/or great academic work. Principal Winghart also gives away two token certificates each week during announcements as well as upon witnessing excellent behavior or good citizenship. Token certificates can be redeemed at the end of each week for tokens to use in the machine. Each book costs one token.

## Remsen Pre-K Takes Part in Fire Safety Activities

Remsen CSD Pre-K, led by Ms. Spatto, spent two weeks learning about fire safety and what firefighters do. They discussed escape routes, stop/drop/roll, what's too hot to touch at home and what they should do if there is ever a fire.

The two week long learning adventure finished with a trip to the Remsen firehouse where Brad Tyson showed the kids different fire trucks, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, as well as his uniform.





## Reminders from the High School Principal

In this newsletter, I'd like to highlight and remind families of the graduation requirements.

	Regents Diploma		Advanced Regents Diploma	
	# Credits	# Regents	#Credits	# Regents
English	4	1	4	1
Social Studies	4	2	4	2
Math	3	1	3	3
Science	3	1	3	2
Art/Music	1	n/a	1	n/a
Health	1/2	n/a	1/2	n/a
Phys. Ed.	2	n/a	2	n/a
Electives	1	n/a	3	n/a

\* **4 + 1 Options are also available to earn a Regents Diploma**

\* **Safety Net Options are Available for Special Education Students**

- **Regents Diploma with Honors** - Average of 90 on all Regents Examinations that are required
- **Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors** - Average of 90 on all Regents Examinations that are required

**WORK HARD • ASK QUESTIONS • HAVE FUN**

Sincerely,

*Kristy McGrath*

High School Principal

## Excelsior Scholarship Information

The Excelsior Scholarship in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free.

### Eligibility

**An applicant must:**

- be a resident of NYS and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the term;
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- have either graduated from high school in the United States, earned a high school equivalency diploma, or passed a federally approved "Ability to Benefit" test, as defined by the Commissioner of the State Education Department;
- have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less;
- be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges and the statutory colleges at Cornell University and Alfred University;
- be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program;
- if attended college prior to the 2019-20 academic year, have earned at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program prior to applying for an Excelsior Scholarship;
- be in a non-default status on a student loan made under any NYS or federal education loan program or on the repayment of any NYS award;
- be in compliance with the terms of the service condition(s) imposed by a NYS award that you have previously received; and time the award was received, and, if employed during such time, be employed in NYS.

**To apply and learn more, visit: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/>.**

## Upcoming High School Events

### November

11/15 - Marking Period 1 Report Cards are Mailed

11.18 - JV and Varsity Winter Sports Begin

11/26 - Go Home Early Day - Students will be released 15 minutes earlier than normal.

11/27-11/29 - Thanksgiving Recess

### December

12/18 - Gr. 5-12 Holiday Concert - 7:00 p.m.

12/23-1/3 - Christmas Recess

## Remsen Jr./Sr. High School Hosts Students & Families During Open House Night

On September 4, students and their families were invited to a Back to School Open House Night at Remsen Jr./Sr. High School. Principal Kristy McGrath welcomed guests to the cafeteria for a cookout, complete with hot dogs, hamburgers and plenty of toppings. Students and their families toured the school, met with their teachers and spent the night exploring the halls and meeting new people as well as reuniting with familiar faces.

Students took advantage of the evening, filling their lockers with their belongings, in preparation for the first day of what has been a successful 2019-20 school year!



# Remsen CSD Honors Senior Athletes

This fall, Remsen CSD honored several senior athletes as they wrapped up their final seasons as a "Ram."



Cross Country - Mike Roberts, Jack Rivet and Emily Rudolph



Girls Soccer - Kirsten Waterbury



Boys Soccer - Isiah Furman-Houck, Thomas Natalini, Brandon Murphy, Andy Paige, Ian Long and Jon Lawlor

## REMINDER FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS:

Although we also love animals, please remember that they are not permitted at athletic events at the schools.







## REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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## SPIRIT WEEK and PEP RALLY PHOTOS



— SOAR TO SUCCESS —