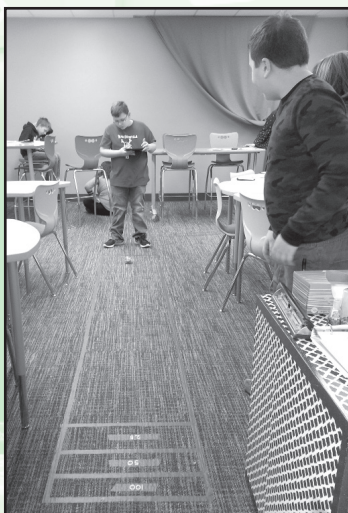
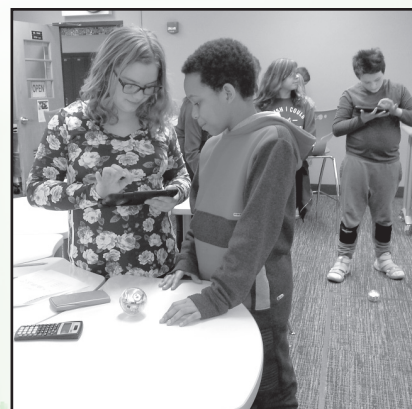




Computer aide Sarah Craig coaches Neveah Parker and Doug Oertelt-Small.



Colby Whiting starts a Sphero on its way, with Ben Ponvert looking on.



Sydney Sajdak and Dravan Rivera put their heads together.

Middle School STEM Lab expands active learning

When Middle School teacher Deborah Tuberdye wanted to prepare her students for an upcoming math unit on decimals and fractions, she turned to the resources and expertise available in the school's new technology-rich STEM Lab. There, students had the task of programming a Sphero robotic ball to roll down a lane and stop at a certain mark to earn either 25, 50 or 100 points. There was trial and error, then successes, as the sixth graders worked with partners to calculate and refine their ball's speed and accuracy to hit the target.

"This is fun!" exclaimed more than one student. The remark affirms that the district has hit its mark with the conversion of the former computer lab into more flexible, multi-use space that opens expanded learning opportunities through hands-on use of technology. The lab opened in October and is available for use by all classes in all subjects. Most days, the room buzzes with activi-

ty, from whole classes to individual students.

In a typical week, students often visit the lab during study halls to work independently on robotics projects, with engineering building kits or to edit video for the Middle School TV. Classrooms also visit to go on virtual field trips, engage in creative problem-solving by playing Breakout EDU games or work through guided lessons in block-based programming with Scratch. The Sphero robots are one of the most engaging activities, says Patrick Wirth, District Technology Integration Specialist. He works with teachers to develop experiences that align with their curriculum, then as a co-teacher to bring those activities to life.

"The Spheros are probably the best illustration of student thinking, as they allow for instant feedback after a change is made in the programming," he said. "When the students realize that the

(Please turn to page seven)



Superintendent's Column

Our many collaborations show that we are always "better together"

In December, I used this space to update all of you on the many exciting initiatives that have been taking place in the Hamburg schools over the past year. We are proud of the fact that our efforts to reach towards our District Vision of "educating modern thinkers who create, care, solve, and discover" continue to grow in scope and sophistication. Making this vision our reality, and assuring that we live our mission and core values each day, requires all of us to work together. True collaboration is the hallmark of a highly effective organization and a powerful engine of professional learning and growth. We continue to be more purposeful in our efforts to promote productive collaboration, both within our organization, as well as with our community and government partners. For example:

- Our families are our most important partners, and we continue to find new ways to engage with each family in the learning and growth of their children.
- We continue to negotiate productively with all of our employees, with every contract now current. In fact, we just completed a very amicable negotiation process with the Hamburg Teachers' Association (HTA) that resulted in a new 5-year agreement because of the mutual respect and intense focus on children that we share.
- We annually convene our Strategic Planning Committee, comprising more than 50 stakeholders from across the district to make recommendations on revisions to our HCSD Strategic Plan.
- At our Middle School, teams of teachers take Learning Walks together. This practice of determining a set of "look fors," visiting classrooms together, and meeting to discuss lessons learned and best practices afterwards, is one of the most effective collaborative activities in which teachers and administrators can engage, according to the educational research.
- Teachers at nearly every school are arranged into blended learning teams, designed to promote the sharing of best practices across grade levels and curriculum areas.

We are also thankful for the productive relationships that we enjoy with our community-based and governmental partners in leadership, including:

- We have a School Resource Officer (SRO) as a direct result of the constructive relationship we have with the Village of Hamburg.



Michael Cornell
Superintendent

- Nicole Dayka serves both the Town of Hamburg and the Hamburg School District as Youth At-Risk Coordinator, supporting children and families as they navigate the challenges associated with mental illness, substance use, poverty or contact with the criminal justice system.
- The school district receives tens of thousands of dollars in donations each year from our Alumni Foundation, Booster Club and PTSA.
- We have received nearly \$1 million in additional financial support from New York State because of our close relationship with State Assemblyman Sean Ryan and State Senators Chris Jacobs and Patrick Gallivan.

Charles Darwin said that, "Those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed." The work of educating children is rewarding and important, but it can also be difficult. The rising tide of youth mental illness, the negative impact that substance abuse, social media and gaming has on our young people, the increasing emphasis on school safety, and the pervasive lack of state funding for public schools continue to challenge us. However, through collaboration and innovation, the Hamburg Central School District will continue to thrive in the face of these challenges. We are always better together and we remain thankful for the role that every one of our partners plays in preparing our students to shape their lives after high school.

“ True collaboration is the hallmark of a highly effective organization and a powerful engine of professional learning and growth. ”

“Goo Goo” bonds daily with Armor students

12-year volunteer shares wealth of knowledge

There’s no place that volunteer Joyce Nowadly would rather be than with students at Armor Elementary School. In fact, she’s been there with them every day for the past 12 years – sometimes even twice a day.

What started as a way to fill the hours after her retirement from the Buffalo Zoo has become a way of life that she wouldn’t miss for the world. She’s had two grandsons pass through the school and yet she’s still at it.

“I loved it so much, I didn’t want to leave,” she said. “These kids are just so heart-warming. I go home with a smile every day.”

Mrs. Nowadly started volunteering at Armor when her grandson, Michael Conklin, entered kindergarten. He’s now a senior at Hamburg High School. He’s credited with giving her the nickname “Goo Goo,” by which she’s still known at school today. Grandson David Conklin also attended Armor and is now an eighth grader at the Middle School.

At the time she joined Armor, Mrs. Nowadly had just retired from the Education Department at the zoo. That background was made to order for the school environment, said Principal Leslie Bennett.

“She knows kids and she knows education,” Mrs. Bennett said.

The zoo career still comes in handy. Mrs. Nowadly takes every opportunity to bring in animal artifacts that tie into the students’ studies. Her husband, Peter, a sculptor, made replica shark jaws to show the students and she plans to bring in freeze-dried elephant skin. She’s escorted classes on zoo field trips and given them behind-the-scenes tours.



Joyce Nowadly with third grade friends, from left: Arianna Baez, Brooke Reese, Violet Clinton, Gabby Herder, Connor Glenn.

She often draws on outside resources to supplement something students are learning about. When James Mason’s third graders were reading about the Titanic, for example, she brought in authentic photos.

Mr. Mason said she provides a “wealth of knowledge.”

“The kids absolutely love working with her,” Mr. Mason said.

Mrs. Nowadly works primarily with kindergarten and third grade students these days. A typical activity with the younger students might be playing a card game to reinforce math skills. With the older students, it’s small group reading activities.

Mrs. Bennett said that students have a comfort level with Mrs. Nowadly, and although she’s soft spoken, she commands good behavior. Mrs. Nowadly, in turn, praises the students for being well-behaved, and the principal and teachers for their professionalism and interactions with the children.

“The teachers inspire them so,” she said.

Mrs. Nowadly is known for stepping forward whenever there’s a need.

“She’s always asking how she can help,” Mrs. Bennett said. “She’s a ‘can do’ type of person.”

This includes serving as the Armor PTSA co-vice president and taking the lead to run the school’s annual back-to-school picnic. The Sponge Bob toilet paper throwing game that she and her husband created for that event are legendary.

In recognition of her volunteer service, Mrs. Nowadly was honored by the Hamburg School Board in February, where Superintendent Michael Cornell commended her “uncommon commitment” to students and the school district.

Food Service Director recognized for building Farm to School connections

Her work building community connections to bring more local food products into schools throughout the region has won recognition for Hamburg Central’s Food Service Director Anne Rich. Mrs. Rich was presented with the 2019 Farm to School (F2S) Partnership Award at the New York School Nutrition Association Legislative Action Conference in January in Albany. Hamburg was cited in the category of “Distribution: Finding Creative Ways to Get or Receive Local Farm Products.”

Last year, a district F2S team was created and its members attended the Northeast F2S Institute in Vermont. That was a catalyst for making connections with farmers/distributors and sharing information on New York State product procurement with school food directors in the region. This includes informational meetings, sharing recipes and tastings. Mrs. Rich said the more food service directors who work together to put local products on their menus, the better the buying power and the greater the impact on communities.

DONATION TO HEALTH SCIENCE — Kaleida Health recently donated a dual head compound microscope to Hamburg High School’s Health Science Academy (HSA) to be used in anatomy and physiology classes.

Pictured: Kaleida microbiologist Susan Young presenting the microscope to senior Mike VanOrder. Mike toured Kaleida labs last year with the HSA and was instrumental in securing the donation.





STUDENT AVIATOR — The U.S. Army brought its aviation semi to Hamburg High School in January for students to experience interactive simulations and learn about military careers. On the simulation systems, students tried their hand at flying an Apache helicopter and an unmanned aerial craft. Using virtual reality goggles, they could determine their leadership trait based on decisions to scenarios. *Pictured:* Austin Hubert, a senior, piloted a simulated drone. The tractor-trailer travels the country to raise awareness of Army job opportunities.

AOF networking builds career skills

Sophomore students in Hamburg High School's Academy of Finance (AOF) networked with members of the AOF Advisory Board in January to build essential career-ready skills. In preparation, students made business cards, wrote "elevator speeches," practiced a handshake and role-played with their peers. Approximately 50 students networked with more than 40 business professionals. *Pictured:* Participants in the meet and greet included Josh Haeick, left, Village of Hamburg Recreation Supervisor, and sophomore Anthony VonWrycza.



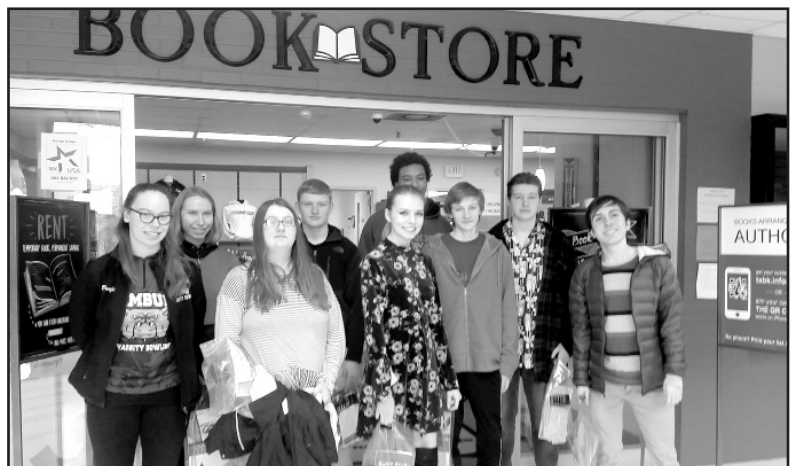
Travel award goes to Hamburg junior

Annika Smith, a Hamburg High School junior, is winner of this year's Charles Zimmerman Memorial Travel Award of \$500 for being an enthusiastic language learner who takes advantage of opportunities to develop language proficiency and cultural knowledge. The award is presented by the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers Inc. She will be recognized at the organization's annual conference in November in Saratoga Springs, NY.

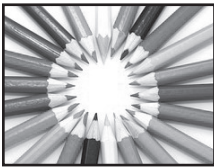


Southtowns Regional Chamber spotlights Stars of character

Nine Hamburg High School students were among the honorees at the 2019 Student Star Awards dinner sponsored in February by the Southtowns Regional Chamber of Commerce. The event celebrated students from five local high schools who actively demonstrate some of the following qualities: citizenship, communication, courage, fairness, generosity, honesty, leadership, respect, responsibility, patriotism and volunteerism. Hamburg's honorees, *seated from left:* Beth Eberhardt, Grace Zdrojewski, Ellie DeLucia, Madison Ross, Margaret Beiter. *Standing:* Superintendent Michael Cornell, Michael Skora, Nicholas Hafner, Ethan Pohlman, Lauren Nikiel, High School Assistant Principal John Crangle.



PREVIEW OF CAMPUS LIFE — Hamburg High School's Work Readiness class took a field trip to the Erie Community College South Campus in February to see first-hand what the college has to offer. They sat in on a college class, heard about available academic programs, learned how to apply and register for classes, and took a walking tour of the campus. *Pictured in front, from left:* Elizabeth Dunford, Destinee Munro, Rebecca Ryan, Colby Heft, Nate Jones and Mark O'Dell. *Back:* Nora Dunford, Jordan Lewis, Jorden Wloch.



March/April Calendar

Check hamburgschools.org
for the most up-to-date information.

Friday, March 1

Union Pleasant Elementary Learning Fair

Monday, March 4

6:30 p.m. — PTSA Executive Board in High School LMC

Tuesday, March 5

6:30 p.m. — National Honor Society induction at High School

Wednesday, March 6

Elementary report cards issued

Thursday, March 7

6 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary PTSA

7 p.m. — "Preventing Youth Suicide" featuring Kevin Hines at High School

7 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary Mother/Son Movie Night

Friday, March 8

Superintendent Conference Day/

No student attendance

Saturday, March 9

8:30-10:30 a.m. — Bottle/can drive for athletics at High School

Tuesday, March 12

5:30 p.m. — Armor Elementary PTSA

6:30 p.m. — Middle School PTSA

6:30 p.m. — School Board at Charlotte Avenue Elementary LMC

Wednesday, March 13

3:15 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary PTSA

3:15 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary PTSA

7 p.m. — Grades 7/8 Bands & Jazz Ensemble Concert at High School

Thursday, March 14

6:30 p.m. — College Information & Financial Aid Night at High School

Friday, March 15

7 a.m. — High School Student of the Year Breakfast/math & social studies

Tuesday, March 19

7 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary musical

7 p.m. — Spring sports parent meeting at High School

Wednesday, March 20

7 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary Grade 5 musical

7 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary musical

Friday, March 22

7 a.m. — High School Student of the Year Breakfast/science & English

Tuesday, March 26

6 p.m. — School Board budget work session at Administration Building

Wednesday, March 27

6:30-8:30 p.m. — Family Food & Fitness Fair at Middle School

Thursday, March 28

1 p.m. — National Junior Honor Society celebration at Middle School

Friday, March 29

7 a.m. — High School Student of the Year Breakfast/world languages

Thursday, April 4

7:45 a.m. — Boston Valley Elementary PTSA

Friday, April 5

7 a.m. — High School Student of the Year Breakfast/art & business/technology

6:30 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary PTSA Learning Fair

Saturday, April 6

8:30-10:30 a.m. — Bottle/can drive for athletics at High School

Tuesday, April 9

6:30 p.m. — School Board at Boston Valley Elementary LMC

7 p.m. — Armor Elementary PTSA

Wednesday, April 10

Middle School Grade 5 orientation

7 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary PTSA

7 p.m. — World Language Honor Societies induction at High School

Friday, April 12

Middle School Grade 5 orientation

7 a.m. — High School Student of the Year Breakfast/health, phys. ed & EMT

10:30 a.m. — Early dismissal for Grades 6-12

11:30 a.m. — Early dismissal for Grades K-5

Saturday, April 13

8 a.m. — ACT exam at High School

Monday, April 15

Middle School Grade 5 orientation
6:30 p.m. — PTSA Executive Board in High School LMC

7 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary musical

Thursday, April 16

5:30 p.m. — Middle School PTSA

6 p.m. — School Board budget work session/community forum at Administration Building

7 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary musical

Wednesday, April 17

Middle School Grade 5 orientation

6 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary Grade 3 band & orchestra information meeting for parents

7 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary Grade 3 chorus & recorders concert

Friday, April 19

through Friday, April 26

Spring recess/ School closed



family food & fitness fair

HAMBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Healthy food tastings,
fitness activities
on March 27

Healthy food tastings and fitness opportunities will be featured when Hamburg Middle School hosts its fifth Family Food & Fitness Fair on Wednesday, March 27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This event is open to the entire school community. Admission is free.

The event will include about a dozen local businesses and organizations exhibiting in the cafeteria, as well as such fitness activities as Zumba. A grant from the Wesleyan Church will go towards the healthy foods and door prizes. Handouts, tips, recipes and new ideas for health living will be offered.

Quick action by Middle School aide saves choking student

Sometimes you're in the right place at the right time. That was the case for Camille McDonnell, a Hamburg Middle School teacher aide who saved a student from choking by performing the Heimlich maneuver.

Mrs. McDonnell, who works in Carolyn Durni's academic life skills class, credits the professional development she received from the district with giving her the knowledge and confidence to react and avert a tragedy.

"I was glad I was there and knew what to do, thanks to the in-service I received," said Mrs. McDonnell, a 16-year Hamburg employee.

"She just went into action," added Mrs. Durni, who is in her second year working alongside Mrs. McDonnell. "Because she knew what to do, everything happened just the right way."

The scenario unfolded when Mrs. McDonnell was monitoring three students who were eating lunch in late December. While as-



Aide Camille McDonnell with student Zachary Kwasnik

sisting one student cut his pizza, she saw that seventh grader Zachary Kwasnik was in distress and showed signs of choking. She said she immediately knew what was happening and she performed the abdominal thrusts to dislodge a piece of popcorn chicken.

As quickly as the episode began, it was over, with Zachary providing reassurance that all was well. This was confirmed when he was checked by school nurse Sue Kruszynski.

"He patted me on the back and said, 'You're my friend. You saved my life,'" said Mrs. McDonnell. "That made my day."

She describes Zachary as an upbeat, very polite young man, with "great one-liners."

"He's such a joy to work with. I love that kid."

The happy outcome came as no surprise to Mrs. Durni, who praised the dedication of the aides in her classroom.

"They're there 100% for the kids," Mrs. Durni said.

Kindergarten & PreK registering for 2019-20

Enrollment is underway for Hamburg Central's Kindergarten and PreKindergarten (PreK) programs for the 2019-20 school year.

The district offers full-day kindergarten for children who are legal residents on the opening day of school and who are or will be five years old on or before Dec. 1, 2019.

The PreK program, housed at Charlotte Avenue Elementary School, is for children who will be four years old on or before Dec. 1, 2019. There is no cost to families who reside in the school district and no income eligibility restrictions. There are both full-day and half-day PreK class options. For more information on the program, see the PreK section of the school district website (hamburgschools.org).

Registration forms for both Kindergarten and PreK are also available on the district website. Registration is by appointment only. Contact the Central Registration Office for an appointment at 646-3200, ext. 7217 or email centralreg@hcsdk12.org.

Suicide survivor to be featured at March 7 community night

As a teen, he survived jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge in an attempt to die by suicide. Now a best-selling author, global public speaker and award-winning documentary filmmaker, Kevin Hines will share his story of hope, healing and recovery at a community presentation hosted by the Hamburg Central School District in March. His presentation, sponsored by the Parent-Child Connection and fully funded by grant money and community partners, dovetails with the district's efforts to proactively address the issue of mental and emotional wellness.

The "Preventing Youth Suicide" community night will be on Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m. in the Hamburg High School auditorium, 4111 Legion Dr. Mental health informational tables will be available as of 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Hines will also speak to Hamburg High School and Middle School students at assemblies earlier in the day and to all district staff the following day.

Music teacher's composition to premiere at Tutti Festival



Kurt Ebsary

Music teacher Kurt Ebsary has been selected as one of 34 composers, out of more than 350, to have his orchestral piece performed at the Tutti New Music Festival in March at Denison University in Ohio. The Denison Symphony Orchestra will premiere his composition, "Sultan of Strut," in concert.

Mr. Ebsary, who is in his first year with the district, teaches string students at Boston Valley Elementary and general music at Union Pleasant Elementary. As a composer, he has also written arrangements for the Boston Valley string musicians.

"Kurt has proven himself to be a fantastic addition to our district and I am not at all surprised by this accomplishment," said Boston Valley Principal Nicole Lauer. "I am excited to hear about the ideas Kurt comes home with and how he incorporates his learning into his work with students."

The festival brings together composers from across the country for a four-day festival filled with performances, roundtable discussions, open rehearsals, workshops and networking with some of the most active new music composers in the field.



Something new in High School pool

There was something new in the High School pool when juniors and seniors recently had the opportunity to try paddleboards during phys. ed. classes. With support from Gear for Adventure in Hamburg, students received instruction on how to use the boards. As pictured, juniors Georgia Farry and Dana Bach stayed afloat.

Key Club hosts forum on service; raises awareness of trafficking

A December half-day at Hamburg High School was full of information for students on two fronts, thanks to speakers arranged by the new Key Club, a student service organization. A panel with representatives of service organizations spoke to students about the value of community service, while a separate presentation raised awareness of human trafficking. Julie Palmer of PATH (People Against Trafficking Humans), a Hamburg grad, told students that exploitation of vulnerable persons is happening in WNY, as well as across the country. She talked about what puts certain people at risk, how traffickers find their victims, and how to recognize and help someone in this situation. The service panel included representatives of Kiwanis International, Jericho Road Community Health Center, Erie County Legislature, Make-A-Wish and SPCA Paws for Love. *Pictured:* Key Club President TyeRyan Burke with Ms. Palmer. Key Club editor Michael Skora arranged the day's presentations.



Reflections arts program announces Award of Excellence winners

“Heroes Around Me” was the theme that Hamburg Central students interpreted through the arts for the Hamburg Central PTSA’s 2018 Reflections program.

Award of Excellence winners were:

Dance choreography: Clare Connolly, Armor Elementary; Mikayla Mason, Union Pleasant Elementary

Film production: Darren Stry, Armor Elementary

Literature: Hannah Cunningham, Union Pleasant Elementary; Anna Lillie, Boston Valley Elementary; Clare Connolly and Ava Kull, Armor Elementary; Maya Simon, Middle School; Madeline Jurusik, High School

Photography: Kennedy Calvert, Union Pleasant Elementary; Zosia Reynolds, Boston Valley Elementary; Flynn Harper and Maya Simon, Middle School; Alec Pitillo, High School

Visual arts: Charlie Lyle and Kayla Sawyer, Boston Valley Elementary; Christian Jurusik and Willow Lewis, Armor Elementary; Gwyneth Huson and Layla Lewis, Middle School; Evan Johnson and Vivian Nguyen, Boston Valley Elementary

STEM Lab *(Continued from page one)*

code they are using impacts the behavior of the robot — that’s a very cool thing to see.”

Mrs. Tuberdyke said that the STEM Lab has provided her students with the opportunity to learn in a different way and she wants to continue to incorporate more modern technology into her lessons.

“The kids loved being able to hypothesize, think out of the box, engage in movement and work with others, all while they were using robotic spheres to convert decimals to fractions,” she said. “This was a great way to introduce the next unit in math.”

Mr. Wirth is often found in the STEM Lab, where his expertise is shared with teachers and students. Also assisting is Sarah Craig, a computer aide who’s become familiar with some of the new features and technology so she can be a resource as well. The lab is the first of its kind in the district. It features a 75” touchscreen display and many whiteboard surfaces, including whiteboard desktops, mobile whiteboard dividers and large whiteboards on most walls to encourage small-group work and collaboration. There is a green screen for creative video projects and flexible seating options, including tall-top tables and stools.



Technology Integration Specialist Patrick Wirth works with a seventh grader using Scratch to program an animated element from the periodic table.

As lab users can attest, this transformed space and the instructional technology that goes along with it are opening new doors to the world for Middle School learners.



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Charlotte Avenue Elementary 646-3370
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Alumni Foundation seeks nominations for Wall of Fame

The Hamburg Alumni Foundation is accepting Wall of Fame nominations for its Sports Legends, Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Teacher awards. Nominations must be received by Wednesday, May 1 for candidates to be considered for the Class of 2019. This year's ceremony honoring all three sections will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28 at Michael's Catering and Banquets, 4885 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg.



Sports Legends

Any former Hamburg athlete (should have been graduated from Hamburg for at least 10 years), coach or athletic director is eligible for nomination. In addition to individual inductees, the Foundation will honor a "Team of Distinction." Teams eligible for this honor should have at least 10 years after the completion of their season. Teams considered for the award have won a conference, sectional or state championship; been undefeated over the course of their season; or considered to be one of the "very best Hamburg teams ever" in their respective sports.

Distinguished Alumni

The Distinguished Alumni Award honors Hamburg High School alumni who have achieved outstanding success in their chosen careers, have made outstanding contributions to the community, country or society, and who have a reputation that serves as a positive example to Hamburg High School students.

Distinguished Teacher/Educator

The Distinguished Alumni Teacher Award will honor educators who have a history of outstanding contributions to the Hamburg Central School District, which includes the ability to inspire, promote and sustain the intellectual development of students, demonstrate scholarly/professional contributions that foster critical thinking and challenge students to independent inquiry, and have

advised/mentored students both in and outside the classroom.

Nomination forms can be submitted online at the Foundation website (hamburgalumnifoundation.org) or printed out and submitted in writing to Hamburg Alumni Foundation, P.O. Box 174, Hamburg, NY 14075. Nomination forms are also available at the HPER office at Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr.



DAY OF SERVICE — Despite double-digit windchill, more than 200 volunteers came out to support January's Hamburg MLK Day of Service Food Drive, including approximately 100 students from Hamburg High School. More than 13,000 pounds of food was collected to benefit the WNY Food Bank. This is the third year that Hamburg High School's Academy of Finance (AOF) has been a partner of this event. This was also the first event in which the Conor J. Long Foundation participated. *Pictured:* Hamburg AOF members and volunteers from the foundation.