

the FOCUS



Our new look



Middle School LMC

Modern learning spaces have been created in key areas at the High School and Middle School as a result of the district's most recent capital project, which is substantially complete. The centerpieces of the project are the fully-renovated Library Media Centers (LMC) at both buildings, as well as the Family & Consumer Sciences rooms at the Middle School. Bright and sleek, with better functionality, the rooms reflect a shift to creating spaces that are learner-centered. These spaces are flexible, provide areas for movement, and promote collaboration and inquiry.



Middle School Family & Consumer Sciences kitchen and sewing room



High School LMC





Superintendent's Column

Upgrades solidify building blocks of modern learning experiences

Over the past year or so, I have updated you in this space on our efforts to assure that every student has the opportunity to engage in modern learning experiences throughout their day at school. We know what when students are regularly required to think creatively and critically, collaborate productively, and communicate effectively, they are more likely to be successful in whatever path they choose to pursue after high school.

The purpose of this column is to share with you the ways in which the school district is supporting our educators as they work to fulfill our vision on behalf of our students each day. Through upgrades to our facilities, programs, technology and safety, we are solidifying the building blocks upon which modern learning experiences are designed by our educators. Please also know that we continue to accomplish our goals with careful attention to our budget and to the impact that our decisions have on your household budget.

FACILITIES:

As you know, we are in the final stages of completing a \$9 million Capital Project, which also included renovations funded by Assemblyman Sean Ryan (\$168,000), Sen. Chris Jacobs (\$100,000) and Sen. Patrick Gallivan (\$100,000). The results of this project include completely new Library Media Centers at the Middle School and High School and modernized Library Media Centers at Armor, Boston Valley and Charlotte Avenue Elementary Schools. Other highlights include a state-of-the-art maker space at the Middle School and a technology-rich learning space at Union Pleasant Elementary School. Importantly, we are in the planning stages of the next Capital Project, which will bring more exciting improvements to the learning spaces in our schools.



Assemblyman Sean Ryan visited Charlotte Avenue Elementary in November to see the progress of the LMC and cafeteria renovations funded by a state grant.

TECHNOLOGY:

We are also in the midst of our technology implementation plan that is gradually introducing 1:1 access to Chromebooks for our students, which began this September for 5th and 6th graders. Critical to our plan is the fact that each teacher will have the device, and access to professional learning in how to effectively incorporate the device into their instruction, at least six months before their students get their devices. By September 2020, all students in grades 5-12 will have 1:1 access to a Chromebook. Students in grades PreK-4 will also have significantly increased access to developmentally appropriate devices.

CURRICULUM:

Since 2015, we have also worked hard to modernize our curriculum. At the High School, we have added nearly a dozen new courses, including AP Computer Science, Introduction to Python, Cyber Security, and Human Rights and Literature. At the elementary and Middle schools, our students are regularly engaged in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities through coding, maker spaces, maker kits and robotics.

SAFETY:

Finally, we continue to analyze our physical plant and safety protocols designed to keep our students, staff and visitors safe at school. While these strategies "harden" the shell of our school to try to keep danger out, we also continue to pursue ways to "soften" our schools through Mental Health First Aid, our Culture of Kindness, boys' and girls' empowerment days, and suicide prevention programs. The research clearly tells us that when students feel comfortable and safe in school through an emphasis of kindness, understanding and open dialogue, schools are safer, more productive, places for everyone.

Modern learning is research based, and economically and culturally relevant. It is imperative that we buttress our efforts so they can be sustained. By increasing access to technology, modernizing our instructional spaces, upgrading our curriculum, and adding sophistication to our efforts to keep students safe and well at school, our schools will continue to be places of innovative teaching and learning. They'll also remain safe, kind and welcoming, so that every day is a great day to be a Hamburg Bulldog.



Michael Cornell
Superintendent

Armor celebrating 50-year milestone

The celebration of Armor Elementary School's 50th anniversary begins in March with nostalgia and activities to connect past to present. The pop culture of the decades since the 1969-70 school year, when the first students and staff occupied the newly-built school, will be a central theme for the celebration. And, it's hoped that memories of some of the original students can be gathered and compiled to preserve a slice of the past.

A school committee has been researching Armor's origins and brainstorming ways to commemorate the anniversary. A search through the school's history has turned up memorabilia from its early days that is being showcased. Among the finds was a logo featuring Arthur E. Armor,



the school's gnome-like mascot from 1969, designed by a first grader. It was also learned that students helped mix cement for the school's cornerstone, leaving a permanent legacy. There are plans to leave items from today for future students to discover through both a traditional time capsule and a digital "e-capsule."

The anniversary theme will be woven into Armor's normal activities and events. For example, students will read two books from the era, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and the Nancy Drew Mystery "The Invisible Intruder," for Read Across America, an annual reading motivation and awareness program. The school's upcoming musical, "The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley, Jr.," revolves around a children's book character that originated in the 1960's.

Music and dress of the decades will also be featured for six weeks leading up to the conclusion of this school year's activities in May.



LEARNING ABOUT FIRE SAFETY — Armor Elementary School's kindergarten to grade 4 students recently visited Armor Volunteer Fire Company for fire safety demonstrations, in cooperation with Windom Fire Company. They rotated through learning stations on the topics of 911, rescue vehicles and equipment, and what to do in event of a fire. The firefighters also donned their gear so students would be familiar with how they look and not be afraid of them in an actual fire.

PTSA HONORS SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER — Hamburg School Board member David Yoviene (*pictured*) was recognized by the NYS PTA and Hamburg Central PTSA at the November board meeting for his long-standing partnership and support of the organization. Presenting the Advocate in Action award, HC PTSA President Dana Lamb (*pictured*) praised Mr. Yoviene for his work toward education policies and laws benefitting children and for his involvement in the organization's activities.



Enrollment opens Feb. 1 for full and half-day PreKindergarten



Enrollment begins Feb. 1 for the district's PreKindergarten (PreK) 2019-20 program at Charlotte Avenue Elementary School. The program is available to children who will be four years old on or before Dec. 1, 2019. There is no cost to families who reside in the Hamburg Central School District. There also are no income eligibility restrictions for families.

There are both full-day and half-day PreK class options. The full-day class offers before and after-school extended hours on-site at the participant's expense. The program provides meals and transportation to students Monday-Friday (one-way transportation for full-day).

PreK provides children with opportunities for experimentation, exploration, discovery, challenge and interaction. It helps them become independent, self-confident, enthusiastic learners through spontaneous activity, play, carefully prepared materials and guided experiences. For more information on the program, call the PreK office at 646-3370, ext. 3410.

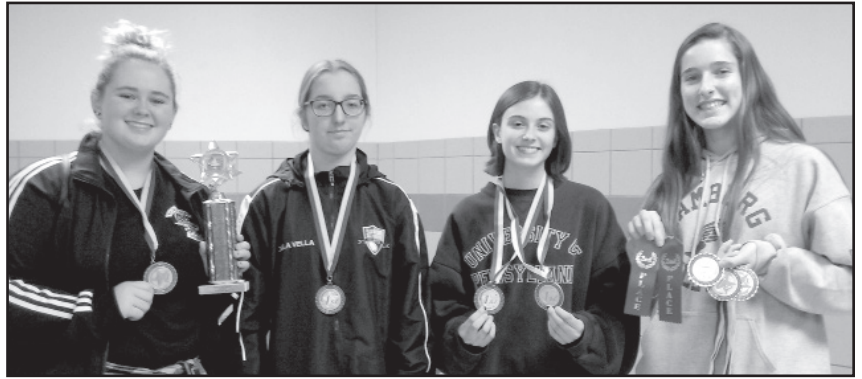
The PreK registration form will be available at the end of January in the student registration section of the school district website: hamburgschools.org. To enroll a child, contact the Central Registration Office for an appointment at 646-3200, ext. 7217 or email centralreg@hcsdk12.org.



From left, Hamburg students Madison Blesy, Alyssa Reardon and Abby Beres prepared to practice suturing on pigs' feet.

Health Science students partner for symposium

Hamburg High School's Health Science Academy partnered with the UB Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and UB Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Science in November to present a symposium for area high school health science programs. Students started the day with a presentation by Dr. Gale Burstein, Erie County Commissioner of Health, then participated in hands-on workshops, including DNA extraction, suturing, brain anatomy and laparoscopic surgery skills.



First place winners in the main team competition of the event, from left, were 10th graders Anna Ellis, Madeline Della Vella, Katherine Hennessy and Claire Danyluk.

High School & Middle School students sweep the board at Latin competition

Hamburg High School and Middle School Latin students "swept the board" on all levels at the New York State Junior Classical League Fall Fest Certamen (competition) in November at East Aurora High School. Results follow.

Oratory — Stella Pelkey, third for Level I; Claire Danyluk, second, Level III

Chess Tournament — Jaden Troiano, second, High School level

Olympica Sports — Volleyball: Grace Hafner, Jocelyn Smith, Sarah Waite, Michael Sawulak, Brooks Lamm, first; Bed Sheet Chariot Races: Michael Sawulak, Brooks Lamm, Evan Herbst, third

Academic Testings — Madeline Hoak, third, Derivatives & third, Vocabulary Level I/II; Logan Kaminski, second, Vocabulary Level I/II; Lily Cooke, third, Derivatives, Latin I; Zephyr Brown, third, Roman Civilization Level II; Claire Danyluk, first, Roman Civilization, second, Vocabulary & first, Pentathlon Level II; Katherine Hennessy, first, Pentathlon Level II; Anthony Zogaib, second, Mythology & second, Roman Civilization Latin IV; Thomas Grasso, second, Roman Civilization, third, Derivative & third, Vocabulary Latin IV

Competitive Certamen (main team competition for the event) — Logan Kaminski, Andrew Donner, Liam Tillou, Madeline Hoak, third, Level I/II; Derek Moelbert, Jacob Walters, Ruby Brehm, third, Level II; Charissa Schultz, Jaden Troiano, second, Level II; Katherine Hennessy, Anna Ellis, Madeline Della Vella, Claire Danyluk, first, Level III; Thomas Grasso, Anthony Zogaib, third, Level IV



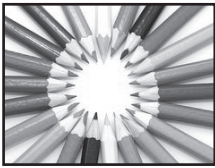
Helping on food distribution day: Madison Blesy, Chloe Lindstrom, Grace Piatko and Quinn Bonney.

Food drive serves 271 families in need

After weeks of collecting, sorting and assembling food, Hamburg High School's Thanksgiving Dinner Drive culminated in November with distribution of meals to 271 families in need. Families received food for a holiday feast, as well as several additional meals. This annual drive is run by the student Character Committee under school counselor Kathy Battin.



Turkeys and all the fixings for a holiday meal stood ready for distribution on the Monday before Thanksgiving.



January/February Calendar

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

Tuesday, Jan. 1

Winter recess/School closed

Thursday, Jan. 3

7 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary PTSA

Saturday, Jan. 5

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

Tuesday, Jan. 8

6:30 p.m. — School Board at Union Pleasant Elementary

Wednesday, Jan. 9

7 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary PTSA

Thursday, Jan. 10

7 p.m. — Armor Elementary PTSA

Monday, Jan. 14

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

Wednesday, Jan. 16

6:30 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary PTSA

Monday, Jan. 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Day/School closed

Tuesday Jan. 22

3 p.m. — Middle School PTSA

Friday, Jan. 25

PreK parent conferences

10:30 a.m. — Early dismissal for Grades 6-8

Tuesday, Jan. 29

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

Wednesday, Jan. 30

7 p.m. — Hamburg/Frontier Middle jazz concert at Frontier Middle School

Thursday, Jan. 31

7:30 p.m. — Middle School musical

Friday, Feb. 1

PreK parent conferences

6 p.m. — Armor Elementary Family Fun Night

7 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary PTSA Bingo Night

7:30 p.m. — High School Drama Club play

7:30 p.m. — Middle School musical

Saturday, Feb. 2

1 p.m. — Middle School musical

7:30 p.m. — High School Drama Club play

Sunday, Feb. 3

2 p.m. — High School Drama Club play

Wednesday, Feb. 6

6:30 p.m. — Grade 8 to 9 Parent/Student Transition Night at High School

7 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary PTSA

Thursday, Feb. 7

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

6:30-7:30 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary Science Fair

7 p.m. — Armor Elementary musical

Friday, Feb. 8

PreK parent conferences

7 p.m. — Armor Elementary musical

Saturday, Feb. 9

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

Monday, Feb. 11

7 p.m. — Grades 5 & 6 Showcase Concert at Middle School

Tuesday, Feb. 12

6:30 p.m. — School Board at Armor Elementary

Wednesday, Feb. 13

7 p.m. — Grades 4-12 District Fiddle Festival at High School

Friday, Feb. 15

7-9 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary father/daughter dance

Monday, Feb. 18

through Friday, Feb. 22

Mid-winter recess/No school

Tuesday, Feb. 26

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

Thursday, Feb. 28

7 p.m. — Guest Artist Concert at High School (*snow date: 3/1*)

Workplace skills are focus for students in High School class

Hamburg High School's Work Readiness class is up and running this school year, overseen by teacher Lynn Sajdak. Students in this class are focusing on skills that will prepare them for the workplace.

For one of their learning experiences, the students took a field trip to Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Research Center in October for a day

of mentoring. They chose two areas of interest, then shadowed an individual from that department. The departments included Assessment and Treatment Center, Facilities Management, Nursing, Safety, and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

When they built a scarecrow for the Village of Hamburg contest, the students improved their teamwork skills including organization, decision-making, problem-solving, communication, persuasion and conflict resolution.

Thanks to a grant secured by teacher Rachel Kent, the students also learned and practiced industry skills applicable to assembly line (packer) employment. In assembling personal care kits donated to a local shelter, they practiced active listening, cooperation, coordination, speaking, independence, dependability, critical thinking and quality control.



Shown at the Roswell Park mentoring experience, *from left:* Nora Dunford, Destinee Munro, Christopher Rammacher, Mark O'Dell.

William Shakespeare's



The Hamburg High School Drama Club presents

Twelfth Night

Hamburg High School will present William Shakespeare's comedy "Twelfth Night" on Friday, Feb. 1 & Saturday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium, 4111 Legion Dr.

"Twelfth Night" revolves around twins, Viola and her brother Sebastian, each of whom, when separated after a shipwreck, believes the other to be dead. Viola finds herself in Illyria and assumes the identity of Cesario, a male page in the household of Orsino, the Duke of Illyria. The Duke is enamored with the Countess Olivia, who spurns him for the newly arrived Cesario (Viola). All the while, Viola falls in love with Duke Orsino, creating an interesting love triangle. Comedy ensues when several characters conspire to make Olivia's pompous steward, Malvolio, think that she is in love with him. These characters are Olivia's drunkard uncle, Sir Toby; her maids, Maria and Fabia; her fool, Feste; and her ridiculous suitor, Sir Andrew. Meanwhile, Sebastian finds himself in Illyria after being rescued by Antonio, a sea captain, and because of his resemblance to Cesario (Viola), is mistaken for him. Ultimately, the play is resolved when Viola and Sebastian meet once again, but in all the confusion just who will end up with whom?

If you would like to be a patron of this production, please fill out the form below with your name as you would like it to appear in the program. All patron/mail orders must be received by Friday, Jan. 25.

Tickets will be sold in the High School main foyer as of Jan. 21 from 3-6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tickets will be sold at the door on the nights of the play at no additional charge. Or, tickets can be ordered by mail, using the form below. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5, students.

Friday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 3 at 2 p.m.

High School auditorium
 4111 Legion Dr.

Ticket orders by mail

Name/Business _____ Street _____
 Town _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

| | Feb. 1 | Feb. 2 | Feb. 3 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Gold patron \$50 <i>includes 4 tickets</i> | | | |
| Silver patron \$40 <i>includes 3 tickets</i> | | | |
| Bronze patron \$30 <i>includes 2 tickets</i> | | | |
| Adult tickets @ \$10 each | | | |
| Student tickets @ \$5 each | | | |

Total # tickets: _____

Total \$ enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to:
 Hamburg HS Drama Club
Return ticket order form to:
 Marc Ruffino
 Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr.
 Hamburg, NY 14075

Ticket mail order and patron order deadline: Friday, Jan. 25.



One of the featured artists was Boston Valley Elementary student Thomas Zawada, shown with art teacher Roseline Dufresne, *left*, and Principal Nicole Laurer.

Student artists in spotlight at School Board meeting

Artwork created by students at each of Hamburg's schools was featured at the November School Board meeting as board members were honored for statewide School Board Recognition Week 2018. Principals and art teachers accompanied the contributing students as their art techniques were explained and their talents commended.

The featured artists were: Raelynn Cory, Gia Massucci, Armor Elementary; Thomas Zawada, Ryan Yager, Boston Valley Elementary; Heather Wall, Christina Dixon, Charlotte Avenue Elementary; Viera Sentman, Garrett Herman, Union Pleasant Elementary; Samantha Engel, Lily Darling, Middle School; Sydney Gartley, Dakota Reynolds, Madelyn Kruszka, High School.

Each board member selected a copy of one of the artworks; the remaining pieces will be displayed in the Administration Building conference room. Superintendent Michael Cornell thanked board members for their efforts on behalf of children in what is sometimes a difficult job.

DEDICATED TO PROFESSION — Hamburg High School/Middle School French teacher JoAnn Thomasson (*left, in photo*) has received recognition from the NYS Association of Foreign Language Teachers for her dedication to the profession. As a recipient of the 2018 Dorothy S. Ludwig Memorial Award for Service to the Profession, she was commended for her involvement in local, state and national language organizations. In these organizations, she has held office, organized events, coordinated professional development opportunities and presented on various topics for her colleagues. Mrs.



Thomasson developed the High School's exchange program with Thérèse d'Avila in Lille, France. She is also a National Board Certified teacher. Mrs. Thomasson was nominated for the award by Middle School Spanish teacher Kristina Strauss (*right, in photo*).



AUTHOR'S INSIGHT — Union Pleasant Elementary students had questions about the writing process, inspirations and characters when *New York Times* best-selling author Toni Buzzeo (*pictured, seated*) spent a day at the school in November. She was featured at assemblies for all grade levels, a book signing and small group question & answer session. In the small group session for about 30 select grades 3-5 students, Mrs. Buzzeo said she became an author because she had a story to tell. Her day in Hamburg was in conjunction with the 4th annual WNY Children's Book Expo, through which authors visited area schools.



Hamburg has strong finish at Academic WorldQuest

Four students from Hamburg High School's Model United Nations Club participated in the local Academic WorldQuest competition, finishing second out of 18 teams. Representing Hamburg, *from left*: Annika Smith, Anthony Zogaib, Michael Skora and Thomas Grasso. Hamburg was the only public school at the competition, which tests players' knowledge of current international politics, geography, global economics, history and world cultures.



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Charlotte Avenue Elementary 646-3370
Union Pleasant Elementary..... 646-3280
Hamburg Middle School..... 646-3250
Hamburg High School 646-3300
General Information..... 646-3200

hamburgschools.org

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More than 1,000 participants braved the rain to support the third annual Bulldog Dash 5K fun run in October. It raised nearly \$30,000 for the Hamburg High School Health Science Academy, Hamburg Bulldogs Booster Club and Unyts. This year's race celebrated the life of the late Conor Long, a Hamburg graduate whose enthusiasm and love of helping others inspired the race's inception three years ago. The race overall winners were Kevin Smith and Julia Smith.

Middle School's Career Fair



Students listened attentively to Joe Rivera, an electronic games technician.



Tim Kirst represented the construction industry.

More than 30 professions were represented at the 4th annual Career Fair at Hamburg Middle School in November, giving seventh graders an opportunity to think about their futures. Students listened to and interacted with four professionals for about 10 minutes each, providing them with insight into their fields of interest and workforce readiness. The Fair was arranged by Middle School counselors Sean Vittum, Jill Crossetta and Kelly Mulvey.



Arlene Kaye spoke on fashion design.