

New assistant principal joins Union Pleasant

The school year started with a new assistant principal on the leadership team at Union Pleasant Elementary School. Merrie Maxon joined Hamburg Central in August, becoming a partner in leadership with Union Pleasant Principal Jacqueline Peffer.



M. Maxon

Mrs. Maxon was a special education teacher with the Salamanca City Central School District since 2003, serving first at Salamanca Middle School, then Prospect Elementary.

In recommending her for approval by the School Board, Superintendent Michael Cornell cited Mrs. Maxon's significant classroom teacher experience at the elementary level in both regular education and special education, her effectiveness as a teacher leader and her accomplishments in administrative internships.

Mrs. Maxon has a masters degree in educational leadership (school building leader and school district leader) from St. Bonaventure University; masters degree in early reading and literacy from Walden University; and bachelors degree in elementary and special education from St. Bonaventure. She has certification as a school building leader and school district leader, and dual certification in elementary education (PreK, K-6) and special education (K-12).

CAREER MILESTONE
25

The Hamburg Central School District extends congratulations to two additional staff members who have achieved 25 years of service:

- **Robin Bartoo**, consultant teacher, Boston Valley Elementary
- **Linda Gegenfurtner**, speech/language pathologist, Union Pleasant Elementary

Best wishes to both on reaching this career milestone!



Superintendent's Column

Strategic plan guides us in excellence

I am writing the draft of this article using a tiger-striped pencil given to me this morning as a gift from a young lady in a 3rd grade class at Boston Valley Elementary School. While her gift reflects the kind hearts of the students, teachers and families of the Hamburg Schools community, writing with the pencil she gave me also serves as a strong reminder of the work that lies ahead. We must continue to move forward as a school district to offer our children excellent learning opportunities so that the kind-hearted and giving young people of Hamburg also become critical thinkers, effective communicators and productive collaborators.

The path we'll travel together in helping our young people grow and develop is paved by the Hamburg Central School District Strategic Plan, which comprises three priorities established by our Board of Education and the associated action plans designed in a collective effort by our stakeholders. Assuring that all of our students gradu-



Michael Cornell
Superintendent

ate with the knowledge and skills they need to continue learning after they've left Hamburg High School, financially support themselves and a family, and lead fulfilling lives requires coordinated, thoughtful and sustained planning. We are excited about the foundation that our Hamburg Central School District Strategic Plan provides for future progress, and are always thankful for the efforts and support we can count on from our students, school staff and our families.

As we settle into another school year, please know how much pride all of us who work in our schools take in each child's learning. Our team plans and carries out our work thoughtfully and collaboratively so that every student enjoys a great learning experience every day, through our commitment to excellence in teaching and leadership. In this issue of *the Focus*, and throughout our schools every day, you'll find more than a few examples of that commitment to excellence.

District automates student absence calls

Hamburg Central is now using SchoolMessenger (district's automated notification system) to call/text/email parents regarding student absences. SchoolMessenger will contact parents/guardians when a student is absent and the Attendance Office/Health Office has not been notified of the reason for that absence. Parents/guardians will need to send in a note when their child returns to school. This measure is part of

the district's progression toward enhanced communication with parents/guardians.

SchoolMessenger operates from contact information supplied to the schools by parents/guardians. Parents/guardians who have not provided the district with a cell phone number and/or email address but who would like to receive messages through these means should call their child's school to update their information.