



Kathy Battin, *right*, and Elaine Barkowski of the Zonta Club.

School counselor lauded by Zonta

Hamburg High School counselor Kathy Battin received a Yellow Rose Award from the Zonta Club of Hamburg-Orchard Park in March in honor of her service to the community. Mrs. Battin has organized the school's annual holiday food drive for many years. She was cited for setting an example of caring and compassion for students as they share with the less fortunate, and for her counseling work in guiding students on life paths and careers.

The award was presented on International Women's Day, a day on which Zonta Clubs honor women who have made extraordinary contributions to their communities.

View Middle School musical performances online in April

After rehearsals with masks and social distancing, the cast of this year's musical at Hamburg Middle School will come together on stage thanks to filming and video editing for performances of "Guys and Dolls, Jr." in April. The pay-for-view recorded performances will be streamed April 15-17 at 7 p.m. and April 18 at 1 p.m.

Tickets are available for online purchase at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/48228>

Students are under the direction of Rhonda Wieder and Lindsay DiBartolomeo. Jeremy Cooper served as technical director.

Cast leads are: Margaret Graffius as Sarah Brown; William Streicher as Sky Master-son; Adrian Grey as Nathan Detroit; Elise Boettcher as Adelaide; Liam Davis as Nicely, Nicely Johnson; Sean Flynn as Rusty Charlie; Abigail Veatch as Benny Southstreet.



Superintendent's Column

Schools ready to pivot as circumstances allow

I want to start by thanking everyone for all they have done to help us keep the Hamburg Central Schools open and safe, and for their contributions to making sure that the school experience still inspires and empowers despite the challenging circumstances. It is impossible to overstate the importance of the professionalism and expertise of every one of our employees. They have been critical to ensuring that our children continue to

learn and grow in school in the midst of a global pandemic. We are also incredibly grateful for our families, who, as their child's first teachers, have sometimes been called upon to reprise that role during the past year.

Much has been said in the media about the revised U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated guidance for schools, and what impact that it may have on the direction that school districts receive from the New York State Department of Health returning students to in-person learning five days a week. The Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association recently wrote a letter to Governor Cuomo, asking him to direct his state agencies to update guidance to schools. Despite our efforts, and their statements of assurance that they are reviewing their guidance, we still have the same rules we've had since July of 2020.

While we can't control the pace of New York State's review process, we can control our ability to be ready when change happens. You may recall that in the summer of 2020, we convened Operations, Social and Emotional Learning, and Instructional Services working groups in advance of the issuance of the initial state reopening guidance in an effort to be as prepared as possible to comply with those rules. We have done the same in

this instance, convening the exact same working groups recently so that we can discuss the challenges and opportunities that would most likely be presented to us in the event that state guidance to school districts changes. Our building-based shared decision-making groups also took up that exact same conversation.

Importantly, the Hamburg Central School District will be sure to give students, families and staff as much notice as possible regarding any changes because we know that everyone will need time to adjust.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the learning and growth of your children. I will continue to keep you updated as events require. The last 12 months has been very hard on us all, bringing hardships and anxiety in all forms upon our families and friends. I know we all hope that better days lie ahead.



Michael Cornell
Superintendent