

FOCUS

ADVERSITY
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Unified through sports

See how Unified Sports is changing the culture at Hamburg High School

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Issue
2023

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Learning is evolving and so are our teachers

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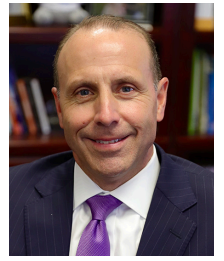


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Superintendent's Message



Michael Cornell
Superintendent

As we shift into spring, and look forward to typical end-of-year events like graduations and proms, our attention also naturally moves to preparing for the 2023-2024 school year. Among the things at the top of the list for next year is the budget. I am grateful for the partnership of the Board of Education in our budget work, as in all of our work. Ensuring that our community's priorities are reflected in the budget only happens because of the unwavering leadership of our Board of Education, which for the past eight years has been 100% focused on the learning and growth of every child.

The 2023-2024 budget:

- Totals \$83,348,173
- Maintains our commitment to the learning and growth of every child
- Requires a levy increase of 3.53%, which falls within the Allowable Levy Limit (tax cap)

As we continue to work through the challenges that remain from the COVID-19 experience, we remain laser focused on the academic needs of each child as well as the social-emotional needs of your children.

- The Hamburg Central School District's Graduation Rate of 94% remains in the top 5 of all school districts in Western New York.
- We continue to be careful stewards of the mental and emotional health of every child. Every adult is trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid, which gives them the ability to identify the signs and symptoms of mental and emotional distress so that we can connect that child and family to the resources that can help. Every adult has also participated in Suicide Prevention training.
- We have a wide array of clubs, sports, music ensembles, staged performance opportunities, student government, etc. for students in PreK - 12 to participate in the life of their school beyond the classroom.

The Hamburg Central School District is committed to educating your child according to our Vision, Mission and Core Values:

- **Vision Statement** - Educating modern thinkers who create, care, solve and discover.
- **Mission Statement** - Engaging all students in learning experiences that inspire lifelong learning and empower each for their future.
- **Core Values:**
 - Honor every learner as a unique person and adapt to the needs of each
 - Inspire the love of learning in every student
 - Ensure that our schools are places of innovative teaching and active learning
 - Are proud of our past and committed to our future
 - Ensure that our schools are safe, kind, and welcoming so that we make every day a great day to be a Hamburg Bulldog

The Hamburg Central School District has been one of the highest performing school districts in the region for nearly a decade, and we've done that while also emphasizing the social, mental and emotional well-being of each child in our care. You can count on us to continue in our commitment to ensuring that our community's children find joy, value and connection every day at school.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the school budget vote on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

Sincerely,

Michael Cornell
Superintendent of Schools

Teaching outside the box

Modern learning is a priority in ensuring kids are getting the best possible education in our schools. Our instructional coaches are working to help teachers think outside the box in order to give their students an engaging classroom experience.

These goals are being achieved through their five session series, appropriately titled, Teach Outside the Box. The sessions are held at the Seneca One tower in downtown Buffalo. They're spread out over the course of the school year, each building progressively on the last to reshape visions for planning instruction and classroom productivity.

"The teaching community is working on reimagining their roles as educators with the mindset of engaging all our students to become lifelong learners and empowering them to be our future leaders. Participants are examining the importance of building relationships, student ownership, and promoting student agency, and assessing the process along the way" said coach Mrs. Jennifer Carducci.

The coaches lead the sessions and say they are looking to expose participants to new, easy-to-implement, effective strategies and tools to better reach every learner.

Each session covers:

Day One: Forming relationships & establishing a growth mindset culture.

Day Two: Hacks, tips & tools to transfer ownership and streamline your classroom learning experiences.

Day Three: Strategies and protocols to promote student agency, inquiry & collaboration.

Day Four: Incorporating regular measures, analysis, and plans of action!

Day Five: Then and Now - Culminating recap and goal setting.

The sessions focus a lot of time on learning about the "why" behind the need to reimagine roles as educators. Coach Mrs. Kelley Mason said they don't focus on one particular program or method but rather a multitude of strategies that work for Hamburg students specifically.

"What I love most about our time together this year is that our teachers are working collaboratively with one another to reflect on the learning we do, recognize what this looks like for them, individually, as educators, and remain open to strategies and practices others have found success with to best meet our learners' needs," said Mrs. Mason.

So what do these days actually look like? Teachers sit at tables of 6-8 and engage in activities created by the coaches which show different ways to approach teaching and learning. At the January session, the group ended with a "Chopped"-style challenge, where teams build their own creative lesson from scratch.



"I love challenging teachers to try new things and take risks, so our activity design challenges are my favorite part. It's always rewarding to watch the teachers work in teams to develop creative lesson ideas using unconventional materials and content," said coach Mr. Patrick Wirth.

This is also one of the first opportunities for teachers across all grade levels and buildings to work with and learn from each other. Their attendance at these sessions shows their efforts to grow.



"We are spending countless hours rethinking our roles, planning and challenging ourselves and our students and having them apply what they're learning in some unique and truly authentic ways! It's amazing to be part of it as a teacher and witness it first-hand as a parent," said coach Mrs. Becky Nahrebeski.

The sessions are only five individual days, but the coaches see their message is sinking in through changes in classrooms and teachers sharing their experiences with other colleagues.

The coaches are only getting started and plan to run these sessions again next year. At the end of the day, the goal is to prepare our students for life after high school in a workforce that is constantly evolving. Coach Mrs. Mindy Wolf put it best:

"It's our job as educators to recognize the evolution, reimagine our roles, and make the necessary adjustments so that we are providing a classroom environment that is conducive to empowering our students to be future leaders."



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS - Support student learning

- Maintains critical district safety positions (School Resource Officer & District Safety Training Officer)
- Maintains our current focus on the learning and growth of every child
- Expansion of the Pre-K program to Armor Elementary School, teachers (regular & special ed) supported by federal grant
- New Pre-K playground at Armor Elementary
- New reading series being purchased for all K-5 students
- Chromebook replacement cycle is funded
- A modified summer school program due to the summer construction schedule
- HS & MS musical instruments
- Maintains unified sports programs for students
- Two new school buses will be added to the fleet to alleviate the "bus looping" and to create more efficient bus schedules
- Total budget of \$83,348,173 is within the New York State tax cap
- Supports a robust Advanced Placement (AP) program and 33 Dual Enrollment classes, resulting in half of the senior class graduating with college credit
- Provides outstanding career and Technical Education opportunities
- Continues commitment to P-TECH program

2023-24 budget propositions

PROPOSITION #1

2023-2024 BUDGET

Shall the Board of Education of the Hamburg Central School District be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the proposed 2023-24 budget in the total amount of \$83,348,173 and levy the necessary tax?


PROPOSITION #2

ELECT TWO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS


Candidates: Thomas Flynn • Cameron Hall

See bios on page 9

EXPENDITURES - How the money is spent

	2023-24 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget	Change
Administration	\$6,604,710	\$6,587,364	\$17,346
Instructional Program	\$59,321,781	\$55,748,101	\$3,573,680
Capital	\$17,421,682	\$17,640,035	(\$218,353)
Total	\$83,348,173	\$79,975,500	\$3,372,673

REVENUES - Where the money comes from

	2023-24 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget	Change
Property Tax Levy	\$41,742,143	\$40,453,881	\$1,288,262
State Aid	\$30,934,066	\$29,964,958	\$969,108
County Sales Tax	\$5,300,000	\$3,975,000	\$1,325,000
Other Revenue	\$1,159,975	\$923,600	\$236,375
Reserves	\$961,989	\$1,408,061	(\$446,072)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$3,250,000	\$3,250,000	\$0
Total	\$83,348,173	\$79,975,500	\$3,372,673


BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 16, 2023
7a.m. - 9p.m.


Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr.

2023-24 component breakdown


PROGRAM COMPONENT

 2023-24 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget	Change	
Educational Services	\$44,335,086	\$42,548,572	\$1,786,514
Legal	\$72,735	\$68,835	\$3,900
Benefits	\$14,913,960	\$13,130,694	\$1,783,266
Total	\$59,321,781	\$55,748,101	\$3,573,680

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT

 2023-24 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget	Change	
School Board	\$41,225	\$37,040	\$4,185
Administrative Services	\$1,767,983	\$1,830,921	(\$62,938)
Human Resources	\$88,066	\$88,125	(\$59)
Program Improvement	\$2,272,428	\$2,298,276	(\$25,848)
Legal	\$89,520	\$84,720	\$4,800
Special Items	\$328,002	\$253,909	\$74,093
Benefits	\$2,017,486	\$1,994,373	\$23,113
Total	\$6,604,710	\$6,587,364	\$17,346

CAPITAL COMPONENT

 2023-24 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget	Change	
Debt Service	\$4,745,007	\$5,365,013	(\$620,006)
Central Services	\$5,521,278	\$4,811,439	\$709,839
Transportation	\$5,352,987	\$5,585,647	(\$232,660)
Legal	\$24,245	\$22,945	\$1,300
Transfer to Special Aid	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$0
Benefits	\$1,588,165	\$1,664,991	(\$76,826)
Total	\$17,421,682	\$17,640,035	(\$218,353)



QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE

- At least 18 years of age
- A U.S. citizen
- A legal resident of the district for 30 days prior to May 16, 2023

Things to remember:

- You do not have to own property or have children in school to vote
- Preregistration is not required to vote
- First-time Hamburg Central voters will be asked to attest to their eligibility
- A driver's license or other government-issued photo identification will help expedite the voting process

ABSENTEE BALLOT TIMELINE

Absentee ballot applications for the May Budget Vote/School Board Election are available at the District Administration Building, 5305 Abbott Road, or request an application by calling (716) 646-3200, ext. 7220.

If the ballot is mailed to the voter, the completed application must be returned to the district on or before Tuesday, May 9. If the ballot is handed personally to the voter, the completed application must be received by the district no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, May 15.

Those who prefer not to vote in-person due to COVID concerns are eligible to request an absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots are due in the District Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16.

Hamburg Central's line-by-line proposed 2023-24 budget and other budget details are available for the public to view on the district website: hamburgschools.org

In Unified Sports, eve



Unified bowling team celebrates the end of a great season.

"I really believe that unified sports have really helped to change the culture here at Hamburg High School."

Mr. Steve Chaffee is the unified sports coach, a physical education teacher at HHS, and someone who is working to give students with disabilities the same opportunities as their general education counterparts.

Mr. Chaffee has been coaching unified basketball for years, and this year the district embarked on a new journey with unified bowling. Unified sports bring together students with and

without disabilities to play on a team. The emphasis is on the students with disabilities, who may have never gotten the chance to play on a team in front of people before joining.

"I think 'unified' behind unified sports is just the meaningful participation for these students to be able to put on a Hamburg uniform and participate after school, it's so important," Mr. Chaffee said.

ryone belongs

Sophomore athlete Addison Kinderman said unified sports are important because they include people with and without disabilities.

"I liked it because of meeting people who I - meeting new friends maybe I haven't met before," she said.

Addison said she gained confidence from the experience and had a lot of fun with her helpers, like senior Connor Holmes.

"It's bigger than the team itself, when you see your teammates in the hallway you always say hi, it's great to interact with each other and just feed off of each other's energy really it's a lot of fun," Connor said.

He helped out with unified basketball last year and loved the environment so much he jumped at the chance to join unified bowling.

"With unified it doesn't matter if you win or lose it's all just about spreading the love, spreading the positivity and that's not really something you can get with the other sports like because it's always 'go go go' you gotta win, you gotta push to win, but with this it's more about building connections and building relationships," he said.

Mr. Chaffee said he gets to hand-pick the helpers, who are all really good kids like

Connor. He sees the impact of this program on the regular school day.

"The actual afterschool activity is one part of it but what it brings into the building during the school day and the relationships and you see these kids that have different disabilities that used to walk down the hallways and just talk to each other and the kids in their class, now they have a relationship with a lot of different kids and it's really nice to see," Mr. Chaffee said.

The team placed 4th in Section 6, and as exciting as it was, they were truly there to just have a great time. Addison had fun all season, but had one favorite moment.

"It was one of our last ones and I bowled 100 for the first time and I've never done that before," she said with a smile.

"Everyone was clapping and cheering," Mr. Chaffee chimed in.

Connor said the vibe was always positive but one thing stands out when he looks back on the season.

"Anytime anyone got a strike it was just electric, the place went crazy, for both teams even."

Mr. Chaffee said getting the helpers to participate was easy - the difficult part was helping the athletes understand what it would be like to play in front of people for the first time. The result was a success.

"You got people in the crowd with tears in their eyes and high fives and smiles, it's life changing."

Mr. Chaffee has coached more than 35 sports seasons in his 28 years at Hamburg including baseball, football, and volleyball. While he's enjoyed coaching all of them, he said he's never experienced a sport that has shown so much growth in the athletes as unified sports do.

He also teaches adapted P.E. and his next goal is to start unified P.E. He said while he knows unified sports isn't the sole reason students are better with the unified population, it has certainly contributed.

"I truly believe these students with different disabilities are embraced by the general education students."

Addison participated in unified basketball in the spring also and plans to do bowling again next year, and she encourages anyone to join her.

"I would recommend unified sports because it's a lot of fun and you don't have to have a disability to do unified sports."



Around the district



Middle School musical, Aladdin Jr.



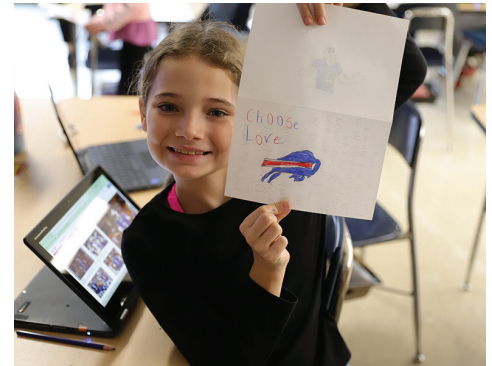
Boston Valley musical, The Best Little Theater in Town



High school students visit with Ken Nwadike Jr.



Boston Valley students make toys during a Fisher Price visit



Armor students make cards for Damar Hamlin



Armor students show off village replica to mayor Tom Tallman



Union Pleasant Music class



Charlotte Avenue PreK parent engagement trip to Explore and More

Board of Education candidates

Thomas Flynn

Address: 6842 Liebler Rd., Boston, NY

Family: Wife, Linda; son Sean (16) 10th grade at Hamburg High School

Occupation: VP Portfolio Manager for KeyBank Dealer Services

Community Involvement:

- HCSD board member since 2011, current board president
- Hamburg Academy of Finance board member since 2012
- Churchill Child Center board member 2011-2018
- Buffalo Ski Center Freestyle Coach since 2019

Reasons for seeking a board seat: From the start of my board service in 2011, I strongly believe that a school district is the cornerstone of a community. I believe that here in Hamburg, we have a strong school district and feel that our school board has been an interlacial part of the strength of our district. I have enjoyed working with my fellow board members, staff and administration and look forward to continuing that work for an additional three years. I have been honored and humbled by the Hamburg community to put their trust in us and will continue my hard work for the community going forward.



Charlotte Avenue musical Aristocats



Middle School FACS club makes pies for St. Luke's Mission



Union Pleasant art club students



Girls varsity basketball celebrates win at sectional crossover game

Cameron Hall

Address: 6815 Castle Ridge, Hamburg, NY

Family: Wife, Amy; children - Colin (12) in 6th grade at Hamburg Middle School, Owen (10) in 5th grade at UPES

Occupation: Co-Founder, Chief Operating Officer of VineMeds, a software, data management and analytics company for the pharmaceutical industry

Community Involvement:

- Current Vice President of the Hamburg School Board
- Hamburg Industrial Development Agency and Hamburg Land Development Corporation Board Member
- Hamburg Finance Academy Board Member
- LaunchNY Entrepreneur-in-Residence, Mentor
- Hamburg Policy Committee and Building Visitation Committee Member

Reasons for seeking a board seat:

It has been a privilege to serve on the school board for the last nine years. Together with the administration, we have worked diligently to create a nurturing environment for our students and staff to learn and grow while building lasting collaborations with numerous community stakeholder organizations. In my role as a board member, I continue to learn and experience new challenges which makes the work very rewarding. I would be honored for the opportunity to continue serving the community.



BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 • 7a.m. - 9p.m.

Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr.

IBREATHWORKS: Teaching kids to breathe through stress



"Don't forget to breathe."

We've all heard it. Maybe someone gave you this advice before a big test, a game, or a performance onstage.

Speech pathologist Casey Kelly is helping the Boston Valley community remember to breathe all the time – and she's giving them fun, new ways to do it.

Ms. Kelly took a children's yoga class last summer where she learned breath techniques specifically designed for kids. She said the exercises help kids tune into

their breath and coordinate it with body movements. She also learned how to teach kids to utilize their breath to reduce stress.

The class got Ms. Kelly thinking, and asked principal Nicole Lauer if it could somehow be incorporated into the school day. Mrs. Lauer agreed, and so Breathworks was born.

"Well, you know breath is our most basic function, right and it's often overlooked, but it's a great tool to have to reduce anxiety, reduce stress. Kind of moves us from a knee-jerk reaction in a stressful situation to a thoughtful response. It helps throughout our life and we're never really taught how to breathe, so these are great tools and teaching kids how to take a nice deep breath that can actually take us from the fight-or-flight mode to a thoughtful mode," Ms. Kelly said.

Ms. Kelly launched the idea on the morning announcements, which are shown live in all Boston Valley classes each morning. She led a breathing

exercise for classes to follow along. From there, she taught fifth grade volunteers some exercises in small groups. Amy Forrest then filmed the students performing each exercise as Ms. Kelly narrated. These videos have been distributed to all classes to use at their leisure.

"They seem to really like it. You know, the different things, the different breaths that we do are fun and engaging and the kids report that they use them when they're nervous or even before a test or to calm their body down after either an exciting or stressful event, so I think they really like it," Ms. Kelly said.

Nathan Rogers and Olivia Duffy are two of the students featured in the videos. They both agree: breathing is actually fun this way.

"It helps me [be] calm and it relaxes me. I like all of them," Olivia said.

Ms. Kelly said she's hoping this will help the students make good decisions, be calm and collected, and just breathe.

The heart of Hamburg Middle School

"We would like to think we're the hub of the building, the heart."

Library Media Specialist Mrs. Megan Moelbert didn't plan to be a middle school librarian. Her love of reading led her into this role and she's never looked back.

"I feel like I have the best job in the whole district. And being here at the middle school you just love the kids. They're a little quirky, but they have their own personalities and the kids that love reading, they just make my day."

Mrs. Moelbert has worked in the Library Media Center for 20 years and seen its function evolve over those years. At the beginning of her career, the internet started the shift away from library reference sections.

This gave her the chance to focus on what



she loves most: the literature. Recreational reading books previously only made up one third of the library. Now, they make up at least half.

Mrs. Moelbert runs Library Club and Harry Potter Club, both dedicated to recreational reading. She also makes it a priority to keep the shelves stocked with student requests.

A lot of her ability to make these things happen is thanks to the 2015 LMC renovation. Mrs. Moelbert requested a separate room to teach her classes in order to keep the library open all the time. She said the use of the LMC has exploded since the renovation.

She also asked for a Makerspace, an interactive area for kids to use. "You come in here 7th period on any given day



and there's three tables with chess and checkers and Battleship and Uno, they love Uno."

Mrs. Moelbert also runs the book fair, Family Reading Night – which has grown into a district-wide extravaganza and welcomed 800 people last year – , Harry Potter trivia competition, poetry contest, Family, Food, and Fitness Fair, and her pride and joy, Battle of the Books. The

continued on page 12

What does joy, value, and connection have to do with learning?

By Kaitlin Sylvester, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Joy, value, and connection are more than just nice, feel-good words. In fact, there is a growing body of research to support their importance in school.

Most of us have heard of the fight, flight, or freeze response, the three most basic stress responses. Our bodies go into survival mode when threatened by something or someone. We either get ready to fight, take off running, or freeze. Learners often signal these responses when they feel threatened by an overwhelming task or confusing text, or when they are called on and don't know the answer.

If we take a step back and define engagement in learning as a state of being willing to do difficult things, taking risks, thinking deeply about issues and developing new solutions, it goes without saying to achieve this, to really stretch learners' thinking, there is a certain vulnerability needed. Before we can challenge learners with high-level cognitive demands like problem solving, we need to cultivate learning environments that are safe and invite vulnerability and genuine curiosity.

To help alleviate stress responses, as a district we are being more intentional and purposeful about finding joy, value, and connection throughout the day, in our hallways and classrooms for all learners.

- **Dedicated time for social-emotional learning at the elementary level.** This time provides students guided opportunities to connect not only with adults in their classrooms but with their peers, to learn more about one another and hone their own social-emotional skills - like problem solving, self-discipline and empathy.
- **Including students in the design of classroom spaces.** At all levels, teachers have had students help design what the learning environment looks and sounds like from the classroom rules, to what is displayed on the walls and in the hallways, to where the desks and tables are situated.
- **Creating meaningful and relevant learning experiences.** At the secondary level, teachers have integrated technology into the curriculum to simulate real world problems, challenging students to collaborate with limited resources, while creating viable solutions.

On any given day, walking through our schools, there are hundreds of other examples of purposeful experiences staff have developed to help students discover the joy, find the value, and appreciate the connections they have in school. Consequently ensuring that all students are engaged in lifelong learning experiences that empower each student for their future, and truly making every day a great day to be a **Hamburg Bulldog!**

Universal Pre-K expanding

Children are most successful when parents, teachers, and the community work together to meet the needs of each child. Hamburg CSD's PreK program embraces this idea. Universal Pre-Kindergarten is designed to help children discover a true love of learning, learn skills they need to be successful in school, and prepare for kindergarten. In addition, the experiences of our youngest learners are designed with purpose and intent, with Hamburg CSD's vision, mission, and core values in mind.

Starting in the 2023-2024 school year Hamburg will be adding an additional full day classroom to our already robust program. This expansion means that we will now house our Pre-Kindergarten program between two of our elementary schools, Charlotte Avenue and Armor Elementary.

While it is still only spring, before we know it, September will be here. One of the best ways to prepare your child for school is to read, read, read and then read some more. Few things are better for kids than reading, so it goes without saying that cozying up and reading lots of books is solid pre-k prep! With warmer months approaching, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries are wonderful resources to visit. If you don't already have a library card, you can learn more about how to get one at: buffalolib.org/library-cards. For those rainy summer days,

Storyline Online is a great resource that streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations. This free resource can be accessed at: storyonline.net.



SCAN ME

Another way to prepare your child for school this spring and summer is to get outside and play! Playing outside gives your child the chance to explore the natural environment and have adventures. Your child can play games, test their physical limits, express themselves and build their self-confidence.

Each of our PreK sites will be reaching out to the families attending their schools in the coming months with information to help with the start of the school year. Be on the look out for those communications and reach out to your school if you have any questions. We certainly do not want to wish away the warmest months of the year, but we cannot wait to welcome our PreK friends in September!!

For more information on registering students and Hamburg Central School District's Pre-Kindergarten Program, scan the QR code or visit www.hamburgschools.org > Enrolling Students.



Administration Building
5305 Abbott Rd.
Hamburg, N.Y. 14075

Published by the Board of Education
Thomas F. Flynn III, Board President
Michael Cornell, Superintendent

Armor Elementary..... 716-646-3350
Boston Valley Elementary..... 716-646-3240
Charlotte Avenue Elementary.. 716-646-3370
Union Pleasant Elementary..... 716-646-3280
Hamburg Middle School..... 716-646-3250
Hamburg High School..... 716-646-3300
General Information..... 716-646-3200

hamburgschools.org

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The heart of Hamburg Middle School *Cont'd. from page 10*

latter has been going on for six years and has grown into not only a school-wide contest, but also a regional event with 12 other districts, which Hamburg is hosting this month.

She doesn't do it alone. Mrs. Moelbert gives enormous credit to her library aide, MaryBeth Rosiek, who is the creativity behind all the displays and just helping get things done. "You gotta have a good partner, she's just incredible. To be able to do everything I wanna do and it's her - without her these things wouldn't be able to happen."

When she looks back on her career thus far, she said the internet has not only changed her job, but the publishing world in general. "They're doing a much better job of publishing books about and by other nationalities, other races, LGBTQ characters. Not every book is about caucasians."

So what's the best part of being the hub and heart of Hamburg Middle School?

"I think just experiencing the joy of anything related to books, characters, with kids... But all these other things they're just little ways to bring some joy into our lives, some connection especially when it comes to literature because we're still reading, you know?"

Seeking nominations for 2023 Wall Of Fame Event

The Hamburg Alumni Foundation's Wall of Fame Award Ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at Michael's Catering and Banquets, 4885 Southwestern Boulevard in Hamburg. This event honors Hamburg's standout alumni and educators in different categories that include:

- Sports Wall of Fame
- Team of Distinction
- Coach of Distinction
- Distinguished Alumni
- Distinguished Educators

The Wall of Fame Committee is once again seeking nominations. The nomination forms can be found at hamburgalumnifoundation.org under Events at the top of the home page. Please attach with the form any additional information or details you have about the honoree. Sports nominations can be emailed to scottobensain@yahoo.com and distinguished educators/alumni to Roberta Bemiller at roberta@rlbcoaching.com. You can also mail any information to Hamburg Alumni Foundation, P.O. Box 174, Hamburg, NY 14075.

All nominations should be received by May 21 in order to be considered for the 2023 class.

Sports Legends: Any former Hamburg Athlete graduated from Hamburg at least 10 years, a coach or an athletic director. Teams of Distinction are eligible for this honor at least 10 years after the completion of their season.

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 whose reputation can or does serve as a positive example to Hamburg High School students.

Distinguished Teacher/Educator: The Distinguished Teacher/Educator Award honors educators who have a history of outstanding contributions to the Hamburg Central Schools; can include their ability to have inspired intellectual development of students, foster critical thinking and independent inquiry; may have mentored students both in and outside of the classroom.