

HARTFORD

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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If your phone number or address changes, please make the Guidance Office aware so the change is made in the student management system to ensure you continue to receive important information.

If you have questions regarding your child's academic programming, please feel free to contact the district.

Hartford Central School, a community of educators, students, parents, and friends, dedicates itself to developing citizens who are productive and compassionate, and who, through their creativity and responsibility, will be assets to the greater community.

Message from the Superintendent

The first few months of school always seem to fly, and this year has been no exception. While it is hard to believe, we are now in the second marking period of the school year, and activities within the district are now full throttle. Courses are beyond the introductory period, the students have settled into a routine, and our faculty and staff are working hard with our students to elicit the higher-level thinking skills that are associated, and required, with the Common Core Learning Standards.

I would like to officially welcome all our new faculty members to the Hartford Central School District. They are: High School Math Teacher Chelsea Hall, Elementary Special Education Teacher Jody Hyatt, Long-Term 4th Grade Substitute Teacher Deena Lazore, High School Special Education Teacher Edward Rodriguez, and Teacher Aide Rebecca Reynolds. You can learn more about them on pages 10 and 11.

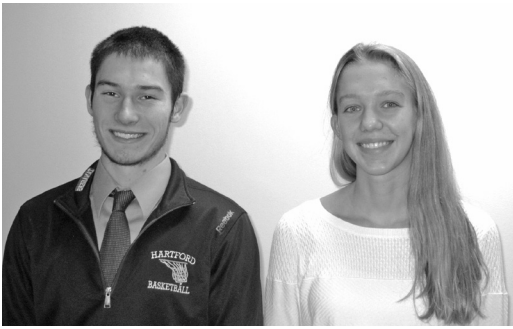
As a district, one of our goals is to develop and expand meaningful relationships between and among our faculty and staff, Board of Education members, parents, and the community of Hartford. We are currently exploring how we can improve and expand our communication strategies. Most of our parents and guardians received a request to complete a phone survey on this topic. I really appreciate the time that you devoted to this. The feedback you provided will be discussed among our Shared Decision Making Committee and used to foster, expand, and improve school-to-home communication.

The district currently implements a number of communication techniques including: publishing newsletters in the summer, fall, and early spring; posting important information to our district website; posting grades on the SchoolTool Parent Portal; and maintaining an active Twitter account (@HartfordCSD). We are also utilizing a school-wide calling system, and we are in the process of developing a full-scale Facebook page. In addition, e-mails, phone calls, and Classroom Dojo are popular tools among our faculty, staff, and administrators for direct parent contact.

Our ultimate goal is to create an atmosphere of honest and transparent communication, and we need your assistance. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our communication with you, please feel free to contact the district. Your suggestions, opinions, and thoughts are valued, and we want to make sure that we are all working in the same direction - to create the best educational experience possible for students.

Thank you!

Hartford Students Take Lead in Planning 2015 Student Leadership Conference “Be Unique & Different”



Donovan Farley & Brianna Getty

Hartford students took the lead in planning the 2015 Student Leadership Conference. This year’s theme was “Be Unique and Different” (BUD) into a unique person. Approximately 205 students participated from 25 school districts. The conference was organized by a committee of students from Hartford, Corinth, Fort Ann, Granville, Newcomb, Warrensburg. The Planning Committee members from Hartford Central School District were seniors Brianna Getty and Donovan Farley, with advisement from Middle/High School Principal Brian George.

The entire conference was planned and executed from start to finish by the students. Many of the decisions were based on student input following the previous year’s conference. Planning for the conference began in the spring with the selection of two junior classmen (one male, one female) who have demonstrated leadership, academic excellence, and are positive role model for their peers. The planning committee chose a theme for the conference and selected a keynote speaker.

The keynote speaker of the 2015 Student Leadership Conference was Kelsey Tainsh, who survived a brain tumor at age 5, and then fought it again in 10th grade. Sometime after or during the surgery, she had a stroke that left her paralyzed on the right side. She had to relearn to tie her shoes, brush her teeth, and walk again. Now she travels around the country talking to students about overcoming obstacles.

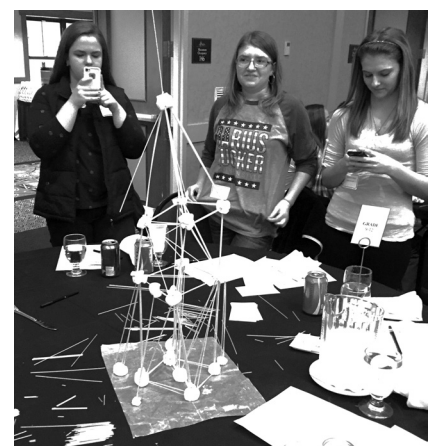
In addition to Brianna and Donovan, seven students from Hartford participated in the conference. One student from each grade (6-12) attended, including Kailey Gayton (6th grade), Hannah Lawrence (7th grade), Alexander Holcomb (8th grade), Camille Rogers (9th grade), Abigail Robbins (10th grade), Nicole Maher (11th grade), and Mykayla Mandigo (12th grade).

Students at the Leadership Conference interacted with their peers from other schools. The table seating was purposely designed to bring students from other districts together and break away from the comfort of friends and familiarity. They participated in ice breakers that included playing Heads Up and Jenga. There were team building activities such as building a tower out of uncooked spaghetti and marshmallows (see photo). They attended mini-workshops and regrouping activities that focused on internal leadership. Concepts included: keeping the goal in mind, making decisions on how to reach personal goals, the many routes a person can take in life, and how to work beyond a person’s fears (of the unknown/of rejection/of failure).

The annual Student Leadership Conference was coordinated through WSWHE BOCES and held at the Six Flags Great Escape Lodge and Indoor Waterpark.



(Back l. - r.) Donovan Farley, Nicole Maher, Abigail Robbins, Brianna Getty. (Front l. - r.) Alexander Holcomb, Mykayla Mandigo, Kailey Gayton, Hannah Lawrence, Camille Rogers.



Mykayla Mandigo (center) and team members from other districts.

Chief School Officers Recognize Elected Officials, Businesses and Reveal Legislative Priorities

Chief School Officers and Board of Education Presidents from the 31 school districts in the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES supervisory area recognized members of the NYS Legislature from both parties for their help in remedying a potentially negative fiscal situation.

“Ten school districts within the WSWHE BOCES area - including Hartford - were faced with new federal rules affecting how certain employers would be impacted by the Affordable Care Act and New York State Law. Those ten school districts would have been forced to leave the WSWHE Health Insurance Trust, an experience-rated plan, in order to join a community-rated plan,” said WSWHE BOCES District Superintendent James Dexter.



Superintendent Andrew Cook addresses attendees at legislative priorities meeting

Hartford Superintendent Andrew Cook explained, “Hartford Central School District was facing higher insurance premiums for less coverage. The increase in insurance premiums would represent a 15% increase in the district’s tax levy.”

“Overall, the changes would result in an estimated increase of \$2.2 million in Additional Health Insurance Premiums for the region,” stated Mr. Dexter.

WSWHE BOCES education leaders approached members of the New York State Legislature in June 2015 to address this item, and members from both parties worked diligently to draft and pass Bills to postpone the impact of the current law. “On behalf of the taxpayers in our region, the superintendents and Boards of Education wanted to formally thank the legislators and recognize their leadership in finding a way to implement the federal law without adversely impacting residents,” said Mr. Dexter.

Mr. Cook is the Chairman for the Affordable Care Act sub-committee within the larger WSWHE BOCES Advocacy group. Following the recognition ceremony, Mr. Cook, along with seven other school superintendents traveled to Albany to meet with Governor Cuomo’s office, to impress upon him the adverse financial consequences 28 school districts plus the BOCES would endure should the Bill not be passed by December 31, 2015. In the event the Bill is not passed, the 28 districts plus the BOCES will have to find a community rated plan effective July 1, 2016.

Chief School officers also recognized three outstanding business partners - The Adirondack Trust Company, GE Global Research, and Irving Tissue - for the positive impact they have had on students.

“These businesses have donated countless hours to mentor students, provide Work-Based Learning experiences, and allow students to tour their facilities and learn about careers,” said Mr. Dexter.

Education leaders also reviewed their legislative priorities for 2015-2016:

- Fully Eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) statewide
- Permanently adjust the Building Aid Formula to eliminate the impact of the change in the Assumed Amortization Rate
- Adequately fund the Foundation Aid Formula
- Decrease the Income Wealth Index (IWI) factor in the Foundation Aid Formula
- Increase the weighting for Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL)
- Factor in the Foundation Aid Formula to accommodate increased poverty rates

2015-2016 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk

To apply for free and reduced price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and turn it to: Melanie Howe, 4704 State Route 149, Hartford, NY 12838. Call 632-5222, ext. 273 if you need help. Additional names may be listed on a separate paper.

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	No Income
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. Skip to Part 5, and sign the application.

Name: _____ CASE # _____

3. If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant or a runaway, please call this number: _____

Homeless Migrant Runaway (Homeless Liaison/Migrant Education Coordinator)

4. Household Gross Income: List all people living in your household, how much and how often they are paid (weekly, every other week, twice per month, monthly). Do not leave income blank. If no income, check box. If you have listed a foster child above, you must report their personal income.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Child Support, Alimony <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Pensions, Retirement Payments <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Other Income, Social Security <i>Amount / How Often</i>	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application and provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SS#), or mark the "I do not have a SS# box" before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all of the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school will get federal funds; the school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: ***-**-__-__

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Home Address _____

I do not have a SS#

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12

- SNAP/TANF/Foster
- Income Household: Total Household Income/How Often: _____ / _____ Household Size: _____
- Free Meals Reduced Price Meals Denied/Paid
- Signature of Reviewing Official _____ Date Notice Sent: _____

School Meal Programs 2015-2016

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Hartford Central School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$0.85**; lunch costs **\$1.60**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is **\$0.25** for breakfast and **\$0.25** for lunch. To apply for free or reduced meals, submit a Direct Certification letter from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR complete the enclosed application, sign it, and return it to the school as soon as possible. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.

- 1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. *Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.*
- 2. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or TANF, can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
- 3. CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.
- 4. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail the school homeless liaison or migrant coordinator to see if they qualify.
- 5. WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.
- 6. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call school at 632-5222, ext. 273 if you have questions.
- 7. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first 30 days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- 8. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out a FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEAL application.
- 9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.
- 10. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 11. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Andrew Cook, Superintendent of Hartford Central School, PO Box 79, Hartford, NY 12838, phone 632-5222.
- 12. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- 13. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you.
- 14. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 15. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY.** Do we include our housing allowance as income? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
- 16. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
- 17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-800-342-3009**.

How to Apply: To get free or reduced price meals for your children you may submit an Eligibility Letter for Free Meals/Milk (formerly Direct Certification Letter) received from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, OR carefully complete one application for your household and return it to the designated office. If you now receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for any children, or participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. All children should be listed on the same application. If you do not list a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number for all the children for whom you are applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult's social security number, or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number. An application that is not complete cannot be approved. Contact your local Department of Social Services for your food stamp or TANF case number or complete the income portion of the application.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, submit a Free Meals/Milk Eligibility Letter received from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR complete only one application for your household using the instructions.. Sign the application and return the application to Cafeteria Manager. If you have a foster child in your household, you may include them on your application. A separate application is no longer needed. Call the school if you need help: 632-5222, ext. 273 Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one application.
- (2) List their grade and school.
- (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, and check the box for each child with no income.

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING FOOD STAMPS, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 5.

- (1) List a current Food Stamp, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household.. Do not use the 16-digit number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 5. SKIP PART 4. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a food stamp case number, TANF or FDPIR number.

PART 3 Before completing an application for a child who may be homeless, a migrant education student, or a runaway, please call your school's homeless liaison or migrant education coordinator

PARTS 4 & 5 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 5.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.
- (3) The application must include the last four digits only of the social security number of the adult who signs **PART 5** if Part 4 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, check the box. If you listed a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR number, a social security number is not needed.

OTHER BENEFITS: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In order to determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number are not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Food Stamp, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov

**2015-2016 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR FREE MILK
REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART**

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 21,590	\$ 1,800	\$ 900	\$ 831	\$ 416
2	\$ 29,101	\$ 2,426	\$ 1,213	\$ 1,120	\$ 560
3	\$ 36,612	\$ 3,051	\$ 1,526	\$ 1,409	\$ 705
4	\$ 44,123	\$ 3,677	\$ 1,839	\$ 1,698	\$ 849
5	\$ 51,634	\$ 4,303	\$ 2,152	\$ 1,986	\$ 993
6	\$ 59,145	\$ 4,929	\$ 2,465	\$ 2,275	\$ 1,138
7	\$ 66,656	\$ 5,555	\$ 2,778	\$ 2,564	\$ 1,282
8	\$ 74,167	\$ 6,181	\$ 3,091	\$ 2,853	\$ 1,427
Each add'l person add....	\$ 7,511	\$ 626	\$ 313	\$ 289	\$ 145

Reporting Changes: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year. You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive SNAP.

Income Exclusions: The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited basis will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Meal Service to Children With Disabilities: Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are defined to include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a medical doctor. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical certification must contain.

Confidentiality: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

Reapplication: You may apply for benefits any time during the school year. Also, if you are not eligible now, but during the school year become unemployed, have a decrease in household income, or an increase in family size, you may request and complete an application at that time. The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian. We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.

Middle/High School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the temperature drops and our days become shorter, the school year is now in full swing.

Congratulations to all of our Boys and Girls Modified and Varsity Sports Programs. Both programs worked hard all season, and we are all proud of how well they performed.

Thank you to all of our parents and guardians who were able to attend our Open House on Tuesday, September 29. As we all know parental involvement is so important, and our staff greatly appreciates all of your support!

The Hartford Central School District is always looking for opportunities to increase our communication with parents and provide them with information to help each child reach his/her full potential. The School Tool Parent Portal is an internet based program that allows parents and guardians access to their child(ren)'s schedule, attendance, and academic information. To have access to this wonderful new program parents, can pick up an application at any of our school offices or download a copy from our website www.hartfordcsd.org.



Life Skills Thanksgiving Feast

Mr. Rodriguez's Life Skills class cooked and served a Thanksgiving Dinner. They learned food preparation safety, as well as the planning and timing that cooking requires. Their parents and guardians were invited to enjoy the feast.

Here are a few highlights of the year so far:

- ▶ Key Club-Members, along with Mr. Farley and Mr. Flower volunteered their time at this year's Taste of the North Country. The Key Club also organized a blood drive on October 27. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and gave blood!
- ▶ FFA- Conducted a Chicken BBQ on October 16 and sold 220 dinners (Thank you Mr. Cook). On October 27, seven members attended the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY.
- ▶ Senior Class - On Sunday October 11 members of our senior class along with Mrs. Stoddard, hosted our Annual Car Show. Also, on October 17 members of our senior class and Mr. Jessen hosted the 30th Annual SPUD Run. A special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Jessen for all of their hard work and continued support!!!

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season, and if you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Brian George
Middle/High School Principal
bgeorge@hartfordcsd.org



FFA Members (l. - r.) Ethan Tyler, Winston Getty, Brianna Getty, Gary Burch, Danielle Aubrey, Abby Boucher & Alyssa Wicks attended the National FFA Convention & Expo in Louisville, KY.

Floyd Harwood Elementary School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our first few months of school have been smooth and productive! There are a lot of great things happening in each of our classrooms. Students are working hard to be bucket fillers – making others feel good about themselves, helping each other, treating others with respect, and being a good friend. Several students recently participated in an after school Tanager Pride Party which is a celebration for students who complete all of their homework and always display positive behavior. The kids had many different activities to choose from and had a great time! Please see the article and photos below.

Our Kindergarten through fifth graders were provided with an enriching experience when Rich Morin, from Rich Morin’s Scuba Diving, came in to talk about scuba diving and shared facts and pictures of aquatic life around the world. Mr. Morin was very enthusiastic about his profession and was a wealth of knowledge for our eager-to-learn students. Students were attentive during his presentation, asked questions, and had the opportunity to see much of the equipment that is used in rescues and dives.

We continue to recognize students every month at our Citizens’ Assemblies. We celebrate students who display the character trait of the month, ride the bus safely, have a letter published in

The Chronicle, have improved in one of more areas, etc. This is a wonderful way to congratulate students for their efforts, encourage them to keep working hard and stay motivated.

Our annual Harvest Fest provided a variety of enriching experiences for our Kindergarten through fifth graders. We had six stations organized for students to learn about solar power, participate in a Star Lab, learn about gadgets and gizmos from long ago, and learn about different animals and taxidermy. We started the day with a Harvest Breakfast at which students were served by the faculty and staff. I am thrilled that we can continue to provide these experiences for our students right in our own building!

I encourage parents to get involved, whether in the classroom or at home. We can always use help getting children to read and complete their homework. Please take the time to check your child’s backpack each night and spend quality time with them reading and learning. Together, we can make a difference!

Bethellen C. Mannix
Elementary Principal/Special Education Chairperson
bmannix@hartfordcsd.org

Tanager Pride Parties Reward Positive Behavior

The first of three Tanager Pride Parties scheduled for 2015-2016 was recently held. The parties reinforce the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) initiative which rewards appropriate behavior and maximizes time spent learning.

Students who meet and exceed the PBIS expectations are welcome to attend the party, which takes place after regular school hours. The parties are organized by 5th grade math teacher, Gwynne Cosh, and chaperoned by staff and faculty who volunteer their time.

A letter about PBIS was sent home at the beginning of the school year so parents and guardians can assist their child in working toward the goal. Goals range from being respectful with riding the bus to not missing more than two homework

assignments within a specified time. The behavior goals vary per the grade and are based on age appropriate expectations.

The Tanager Pride Party had four fun activity stations that consisted of writing and drawing Christmas cards for nursing home residents, games on the playground, time on the ball field and indoor fun in the gymnasium. Each station was consistent with a seasonal/holiday theme.

The remaining Tanager Pride Parties are scheduled for January and April. Students who attain the PBIS goals will be recognized at the end of school year assembly.



Students create Christmas cards



Indoor fun in the gymnasium

Hartford Central School District Welcomes New Staff

Chelsea Hall - High School Math



Miss Hall earned her Bachelor of Arts in secondary mathematics education (music minor) at SUNY Cortland and her master's degree in educational technology from the College of St. Rose. Prior to joining the Hartford team full-time, she worked for the district in the after school programs. She also worked part-time in Middleburgh Central School District last school year.

Miss Hall likes being in a smaller school district and stated, "Hartford allows me to be part of a close-knit community." Miss Hall appreciates that the students come to her classroom on their free time and seek help. Her goal is for all of her students to have a successful school year and for them to be satisfied. Miss Hall enjoys baking, watching movies, playing games and playing the piano.

Jody Hyatt - Elementary Special Education



Miss Hyatt graduated from SUNY Potsdam with a Bachelor in Arts in childhood education and received her master's degree in special education from SUNY Plattsburgh. In 2008, she left the area to begin her teaching career in central North Carolina. She taught general education, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade, and one year of special education co-teaching in 4th and 5th grade. Four years later she moved to eastern North Carolina to a small, historic town called New Bern. There she taught in the Exceptional Children's Program 3rd-5th grade. Miss Hyatt enjoys having the opportunity to work with students in various grade levels (Grades 1-6). Her goal is to see all students make strides towards reaching their goals whether it's academically, socially, or personally. She is glad to be back in the area, close to family and friends.

Deena Lazore - Long Term 4th Grade Substitute



Miss Lazore earned her master's degree in literacy from SUNY Potsdam. In 2013, she taught English in Argentina for five months and in previous years was a substitute teacher, 1:1 aide, and director of an after school program. She stated that the district's dedication to students and community is what attracted her to the district. "Not only does the district promote student growth and performance through academics, but through character and enrichment opportunities." She commends her students in consistently striving to achieve goals set forth for them and showing their Tanager Pride. Her goal is to help students build positive relationships with learning and each other. Miss Lazore enjoys the outdoors, hiking, reading, traveling and participating in and watching various sports including softball and basketball.

Hartford Central School District Welcomes New Staff (con't)



Edward Rodriguez - Special Education

Prior to forging a career in education, Mr. Rodriguez served with the U.S. Army from 1991-1996. He then went on to earn an Associate's Degree in applied science from Georgia Military College, a Bachelor's Degree in world history from SUNY Albany, and master's degree in secondary education from Sage Graduate School. His experience includes teaching at Rensselaer City School District for six years with one year as district tutor and five years as a Global 9 teacher; long term substitute at Saratoga Springs CSD/Maple Ave Middle School - one year: 8th Grade USH; long term substitute at Queensbury UFSD - one and a half years: Special Education; various substituting from Capital Region BOCES and WSHWE BOCES. He prefers the setting of a smaller school district that Hartford offers, "The setting is more personal and beneficial to the students."

One of his goals for his students is to write an original story. Another goal is to prepare an entire meal at home. His class has practiced some cooking skills in his Life Skills Class (see page 8). Mr. Rodriguez is the proud father of a six year old daughter and infant daughter.



Rebecca Reynolds - Teacher Aide

Miss Reynolds has children who have been attending Hartford CSD since October 2014. "Soon after they began here, I recognized the pride and sense of community that the school district offered," she stated. After many years working for Social Services, and never having the opportunity to fully dedicate time to her children's education, she decided the timing was right. "Hartford's kindness, compassion and strong dedication to the parent, teacher, student relationship really encouraged me to take that step. Coming here has shown me that nothing is as rewarding as seeing a child grasp new concepts or a student's smile from hearing words of encouragement," said Miss Reynolds.

Her goals include starting college in January to advance in her new career. She enjoys spending time with her family and doing activities together such as baking, watching movies, traveling, arts and crafts, shopping, watching football and trying new restaurant

Winter School Bus Safety Tips

1. Allow extra time to get to your bus stop.
2. Wear bright clothing so the bus driver can see you in the early morning and late evening.
3. Stand away from where the bus stops. Buses need extra room to stop when there is snow and ice.
4. Dress properly. Winter clothing, hats, and boots will keep you warm.

Waiting at the Bus Stop

1. Don't play in the snow while waiting for the bus. Don't throw snowballs at the bus or anyone else.
2. Don't slide on the snow or ice patches in driveways or on the street.
3. Don't push or shove around the bus. Someone could fall down on the ice and get hurt.

Please be advised that the Hartford Central School District Transportation Policy 705.04 prohibits our drivers from releasing a student in grades K-3 without a parent/guardian or appropriate sitter visible. If you would like a Request for Exception form for this policy, please contact Mrs. Getty at 632-5222 x101. Thank you for your cooperation and for understanding that this policy was designed for the safety of your child/children.

HARTFORD

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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@HartfordCSD

Administration

Andrew Cook, Superintendent
Brian George, Middle/High School Principal
Bethellen Mannix, Elementary Principal

Board of Education

Brian Getty, President
Janine Thomas, Vice-President
Philip Jessen
Adam Fish
Ron Smith

Scholar Athletes!

Congratulations to our Varsity Volleyball and Varsity Soccer Teams in achieving a team average of 90% or above!

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Mattison Baker
Alexandria Boucher
Leah Bowen
Jessica Getty
Cailyn Harrington
Bailey Haserman
Julia Howard
Timerra Lamouroux
Camille Rogers
Raegan Thorpe
Alyssa Wicks

VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

Tristina Baker
Dillon Battease
Mykaela Braunsdorf
Xavier Dufour
Donovan Farley
Chad Jackson
Ryan Kibling
Jay Lawrence
Nathan Leise
Nicole Maher
Ethan Tyler
Anna Ward
Rachel Yattow

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REMINDER!
Families can sign up for
FREE & REDUCED LUNCH
anytime during the year.
See form inside.



Students of all ages participated in the annual Turkey Trot