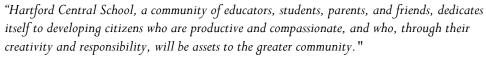
HARTFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



HOME OF THE TANAGERS





A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Andrew Cook

I hope that everyone has been able to enjoy the fall season and has now settled into the new school year!

The start of a new school year is always a very exciting time. The faculty, staff, and students all return to school with a

renewed source of energy and excitement; ready to take on the challenges for the new year, and this year has been no exception. Over the summer months the district is quiet as the twelve month staff works to conclude the prior year while at the same time preparing for the start of a new year. However, once the students entered the building on September 3rd, the quiet was gone, *thankfully*. Now, most of the student activities for the year are in full swing and even though it seems as though the school has just begun, we are starting to reach the end of the first marking period. Courses are beyond the introductory period, the students have settled into a routine, and our faculty and staff are working hard with our students on implementing the higher-level thinking skills that are associated, and required, with the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) across all grade levels. Some of our highlights from the first few weeks of school include: the Middle/High School "Act with Respect Always" assembly with

Persistence		
	The second	400

Superintendent Andrew Cook providing the welcoming address for the Regional Superintendent's Conference Day on Oct. 11th. See page 7 for more information on this day.

Coach Rick Johns to begin the year, our distance learning classroom is being utilized for seven periods (including a Psychology course being offered by HVCC), the district has implemented nine (9) mobile computer labs throughout the building, we are offering virtual or on-line Advanced

	IN THIS ISSUE
P2	Elementary Report
Р3	Middle/High School Report
P4	January Regents Schedule
P5	Parent Portal Application
P6	Advocacy Information
P7	Superintendent's Conference Day Report
	Calendar of Events
P8	Solar Panel Project
P9	Free and Reduced Lunch
	Application
P10	Resources for Parents
P12	Contact Information

Placement Courses through a grant with the Ulster County BOCES, we are expanding our professional development opportunities through the implementation of the STLE 3 Grant, and a great deal more.

Contained within the newsletter is a great deal of important information that should be helpful in assisting you and your student have a successful year, including: the January 2015 Regents schedule, a sign-up form for our SchoolTool parent portal (grades 6-12), information on how to advocate for HCS, a report on the regional Su-

perintendent's Conference Day held on October 10th, an update on the district's solar panel project, some valuable websites for parents to support their student's academic progress, and a number of other important notices. It is my since hope that you find this information timely and valuable!

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

And lok

ELEMENTARY REPORT

It is with excitement that I share with you some highlights from our first two months of school and upcoming events. The students have been working hard and appear to have settled into a routine. As much as no one likes to admit it, we all benefit from a structured routine and consistency!

We have many students who are "filling buckets" everyday, which creates a positive school atmosphere. Please ask your child what a "Bucket Filler" is if they have not already shared this with you. Next time you are in the school, please take note of our *Bucket Filler* bulletin board outside of the Elementary Office. I appreciate all of the students' positive comments and compliments each day and look forward to recognizing many more "bucket fillers" as the year progresses.

I would like to thank all of you who attended Open House on September 18th. We had an overall attendance rate of 84% for grades K-5! Involvement in your child/children's education will have positive long-term effects on their academic success. Research indicates that students with involved parents earn higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have a more positive attitude about school and better social skills, have fewer behavior problems, have increased self-esteem, consistently complete their homework, and are more likely to graduate and pursue post-secondary education. I encourage parents to share goals for their children with teachers, as well as having conversations about how you would like to be involved in the school.

One of our goals at the elementary level is to recognize as many students as possible for their accomplishments. Forty minutes of the last school day of each month is dedicated to doing just that. Kindergartners through fifth graders meet in the cafeteria and are recognized for upcoming birthdays, Citizens' of the Month, Bus Riders of the Month, the class that has collected the most "bus hands" for positive behavior, *Chronicle* entries, involvement in organizations/activities outside of school, participants in school related events, Star Reporters for our elementary Newspaper Club, student successes, etc. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize students and remind them about the great things they are doing to make our school and community a better place! We had some visitors in the building in October to discuss Bus Safety and Fire Safety, as October is Bus Safety and Fire Prevention Month. Thank you to one of our bus drivers, Mark Miller, for organizing presentations for Kindergartners through fifth graders. We appreciate his time and help from Stacy Tyler as well. Hartford fire-fighters visited our Pre-K through grade 5 students on October 24th. I hope everyone took the time to create a home fire escape plan and completed the fire safety checklist with their child/children that the firefighters provided to them. We greatly appreciate their dedication to our community and the time they volunteer, especially in teaching our youngsters about fire prevention.

I am thrilled to announce that the recent PTA fundraiser has raised enough money to provide field trips to our students again this year. Your support of the fundraiser made this possible. While we have access to museums and virtual field trips through our distance learning room, actually taking students to some of these places on a field trip cannot be replaced. PTA provides many activities and experiences for our children and they need your help. Please consider coming to PTA meetings to share your thoughts, ideas and time.

On November 20th, our K-5 students will participate in our annual *Harvest Fest*. We start by having breakfast together in the cafeteria, which PTA has graciously offered to pay for this year. The afternoon will include 6 different educational stations for students to rotate through. If you have a talent or business you would like to share, please contact me. I will provide more information to parents once the stations have been finalized. This is a wonderful day of learning and the students are always so excited to participate in all of the activities - this day truly puts the *fun* back in learning!

Parent-Teacher Conferences are November 21st, 24th and 25th. K-8 students will be dismissed at 11:30 on those days. Mrs. Ward has provided a separate schedule for Pre-K conferences. I hope you will make every effort to attend your child/children's scheduled conferences to learn more about their progress in meeting Common Core Standards. As always, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me with any questions, ideas, concerns, or thoughts. I believe that together we *can* make a difference! As Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Bethellen Mannix

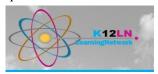
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall weather. The 2014-2015 school year is in full swing.

Congratulations to all of our Boys and Girls Modified, JV and Varsity Sports Programs. Our teams had to deal with a lot of adversity this year, but never made excuses and fought hard all year long. Both programs grew a lot throughout the season and we are all very proud of how well they performed. Good Luck in sectionals!

Thank you to all of our parents and guardians who were able to attend our Open House on Thursday, September 18th. I was very impressed with the turn out and always enjoy this evening. As we all know, parental involvement in our child's education is so important, and our staff greatly appreciates all of your support!

The 2014-2015 school year has been extremely busy thus far. Let's take a look at what our students have been up too:



- ⇒ **Virtual AP Program** New this year, Hartford CSD is partnering with Ulster County BOCES to offer our students Virtual AP courses. Students can choose from 6 different courses- Art History, Comparative Government and Politics, Computer Science, Human Geography, Psychology and Statistics. The courses are taught exclusively online and students are provided with a Dell laptop and internet access free of charge. Currently we have 3 students participating in this program. Two students in AP Psychology and one in Comparative Government and Politics.
- ⇒ **AP Courses** Currently we have 11 students enrolled in our AP US History course taught by our own Mr. Flower.
- ⇒ College Level Courses- Currently Hartford CSD is partnering with three State Universities: SUNY Adirondack, SUNY Plattsburgh and Hudson Valley Community College. Courses offered include English 101/108, Math 121/125, Spanish 201/202, Latin American Studies, and Psychology.
- ⇒ **New Visions**: Currently we have four Hartford CSD students participating in BOCES New Visions Programs: 3 in the Engineering Program and 1 in the Health Careers Program.
- ⇒ **Distance Learning** We are currently offering 6 Distance Learning courses: French II, Intro to Psychology, Music in Our Lives, English 101/108, Nanotechnology and SAT Prep.



⇒ "Act with Respect Always" – On September 9th and 10th, Coach Rich Johns presented to Middle and High School Students. "Act with Respect" is designed to build respect and leadership, teach positive and constructive behavior, and help stop bullying before it starts, both on campus and off. Looking at each person as a leader and stressing teamwork, kindness, empathy, courage and honesty, amongst other key traits. It strives to make everyone aware of their daily actions. - See more at: http://actwithrespectalways.com/howit-works/#sthash.27aqWnTf.dpuf

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Brian George

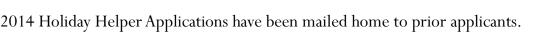
ATTENTION ALUMNI

We want to hear from you!



Please alert the district to any new achievement or accomplish so that we can help celebrate your success and use your accomplishments to help educate our current students! Please feel free to email or tweet the district with information so that we can celebrate with you!

HOLIDAY HELPER





If you are in need of assistance for the holidays and did not receive an application, please contact Mrs. Shaw at 518-632-5222, extension 513 or tshaw@hartfordcsd.org.

JANUARY 2015 REGENTS EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
January 27th	January 28th	January 29th	January 30th
8:15a.m.	8:15a.m.	8:15a.m.	8:15a.m.
Living Environment	Global Studies	U.S. History	A2/Trig.
RCT : Global Studies	RCT: Writing	Geometry	RCT: U.S. History
ELA (Common Core)		RCT: Science	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
Comprehensive ELA	Integrated Algebra	Earth Science	
Physics	RCT: Math	Chemistry	
Algebra (Common Core)		RCT: Reading	

Uniform Admission Times (students are not allowed to enter an exam after this time):

•Morning Exams: 10a.m.

•Afternoon Exams: 2p.m.

If you are interested in taking one of the listed exams, please contact Mrs. Harrington in the Guidance Office.

SCHOOLTOOL: PARENT PORTAL

The Hartford Central School District is pleased to offer our parents and guardians of students in grades 6-12 with the opportunity to access their student(s) records through the SchoolTool Parent Portal. In order to protect the privacy and confidentiality of our students' records, all parents and/or guardians who would like to gain access to the portal are required to complete this form and return it in person to the Guidance Office. For security purposes, a photo ID is required when returning this form.

Parents/Guardians are required to adhere to the following SchoolTool Parent Portal guidelines:

- Parents/Guardians will access data solely in regard to their child(ren).
- Parents/Guardians will not access any account assigned to another user.
- Please do not share your password with anyone, including your children.
- Please do not allow your computer to "remember" your Parent Portal password.

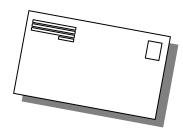
Parent/Guardian Name							
(One per form):							
Parent/Guardian							
Home Address:							
Parent/Guardian Email Address (Required):							
Only one email per application. Your email address will be your user name. You only need to complete this form once. New Children will automatically be entered.							
Please list all children who are/will be enrolled within the Hartford Central School District	Your relationship to the	Reside with the Student?	Grade				
	Student	(Yes or No)					
I have read the SchoolTool Parent Access Form and agree to abide by and support the guidelines. I certify that all of the above information is true and I have legal authority to access the records of the student(s) listed above.							
Signed:	Signed: Date:						
Important : Once the information on this form is received and processed, you will receive notification via email that your SchoolTool Parent portal account has been created. The email will also contain instructions to complete the registration process.							
For Office Use Only							
Date Received: ID Verified: by Whom?_ By:	Account	t Created Date:					

ADVOCACY

School districts across New York State are experiencing economic difficulty due to the increase amount of expenditures and the significant decreases in revenue; mainly state aid. This is especially true for Hartford. As a small-rural school, the district relies on state aid for a large portion of the budget. However, given the drastic reduction in state aid due to the "Gap Elimination Adjustment", Hartford has not received \$3,920,629 million in allocated aid since the GEA's inception in 2010.

It is very important for our state representatives to hear our dissatisfaction with the GEA and how it is negatively affecting our students. Please contact our representatives through email, Facebook, twitter, telephone calls, and letters asking for help in providing our students the best education possible. Posted on the district's website are sample letters addressed to Senator Little, Governor Cuomo, Senator Skelos, Senator Klein, Senator Flanagan, and Assemblywoman Nolan. Please feel free to download, print, sign, and mail these letters directly on behalf of your child's education.





GEA IMPACT

In 2010-2011, NYS enacted the "Gap Elimination Adjustment" (GEA) as a way to help close the state's budget deficit by withholding state aid from school districts across the state. The table below displays how much aid has been withheld from our students as a result of the GEA:

Year	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Total
						Withholdings
Money Withheld	\$780,316	\$1,024,771	\$903,274	\$690,359	\$521,936	\$3,920,629

In perspective, a 1% increase on the tax levy equates to \$33,557. In order to recoup the money lost last year as a result of the GEA, the district would have to increase the tax levy by over 15% and to recoup all the lost money, the district would have to increase the tax levy by over 117%.

At the July 2014 meeting of the Hartford Central School District Board of Education, the members of the Board supported two resolutions that have been submitted to our legislative representatives and Governor Cuomo.



The first resolution called on NYS to create a commission designed to reform the allocation process for state aide. The second resolution called for an immediate end to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). School Districts throughout the state are approving similar resolutions and we need your help in advocating fiscal equality for all schools.

REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY

For the past four years, the Hartford Central School District has participated in the "Washington County Collaborative" with the following school districts: Argyle, Hudson Falls, Fort Ann, Salem, Granville, and Cambridge. The purpose of the collaborative is to discuss ways in which the participating districts can increase opportunities for our students through the sharing of services and working together. As part of this process, five of the collaborative schools applied for, and were granted, the Strengthening Teacher and Leadership Effectiveness Grant #3 through NYSED. Through this grant, the collaborative was able to organize the first ever Washington

(Continued on page 11)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please note: all events are subject to date and time changes. Please contact the district with any questions regarding the scheduling of events and refer to the district calendar at www.hartfordcsd.org for any updated information.

November 10th Superintendent's Conference Day - Classes are not in session

November 11th Veteran's Day - Classes are not in session

November 12th Turkey Trot (Grades 3-8)

November 17th Board of Education Meeting

November 18th Tanager Pride Party (Grades K-2)

November 19th Tanager Pride Party (Grades 3-5)

November 20th Harvest Fest

November 21st 6th Grade Pig-Roast and Auction

November 21st, 24th, 25th 11:30a.m. dismissal for students in grades K-8 for Parent/

Teacher Conferences

November 26th - 28th Thanksgiving Recess

December 12th 15-Week Marking Period Ends

December 15th Board of Education Meeting

December 22nd - January 2nd Holiday Recess

January 12th Board of Education Meeting

January 19th Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Classes are not in session

January 26th - 29th Regents Exams

January 30th Quarter 2 Marking Period Ends

For up-to-date athletic schedules, please visit the "Athletics" page at www.hartfordcsd.org, which also provides a link to Google maps for driving directions to all away contests.

SOLAR ENERGY

At the July 14, 2014 Board of Education meeting, the members of the Board of Education heard a presentation from representatives from U.S. Light Energy (USLE) on the feasibility of installing solar panels in the district. Following the presentation, and after speaking with other solar panel providers, the Board of Education authorized the district to enter negotiations on a purchase power agreement (PPA) with USLE. Once the PPA was signed, USLE conducted a number of site visits that included a structural review and an engineered site review of the bus garage. This information was then sent to the district's architectural firm, CSArch, for review prior to submitting an application to the New York State Department of Education. Through this thorough review process, USLE and the district have agreed on the following:

- ♦ The Main Building will have a 50kW system installed on the roof;
- ♦ The Technology Building will have a 22.8kW system installed on the roof;
- The Bus Garage will have a ground mounted 300kW system that will be net metered to the Main Building.

In all, USLE and the district are anticipating electrical coverage at:

- ♦ 98% for the Bus Garage;
- ♦ 98% for the Chip Plant;
- ♦ 98% for the Technology Building; and
- ♦ 70% for the Main Building.



It is important to note that this project is not costing the district any money. All financial obligations, including the surveys and the architectural reviews, are being paid for by USLE. According to Superintendent Andrew Cook, "As a district, we believe it is important to look outside the box for ways in which we can reduce expenditures, without impacting the educational experience of our students. The implementation of solar energy is not only environmentally sound, but provides the district with a reduction in electrical expenses that we can use to off-set other escalating costs." Michael Fingar, a representative USLE, further states that "USLE has partnered with Hartford CSD to provide the campus with renewable and reliable solar energy. USLE arrays consist of the highest quality components in the industry and are installed with minimal impact to existing buildings. The photovoltaic systems, monitored daily by USLE through an online database, will cover the majority of the Districts energy consumption. By saving the District thousands of dollars in costly electricity from the Grid, USLE aims to reduce the District's operating costs."

In addition to the solar array, the district is part of an energy purchasing consortium through BOCES. This is a cooperative agreement that allows the district to purchase electricity at a discounted rate. The cooperative energy agreement is separate from the solar panel project as this is the district's energy supply, while the solar panels will act as an on-site generator of electricity; which will reduce the supply the district purchases from the cooperative, but not eliminate it. Superintendent Cook states that "The cooperative agreement is an important supplementary step to our solar project. The solar panels are not able to produce 100% of energy costs so it is vital to investigate all options for savings. Our participation in the consortium guarantees energy savings for any electrical needs not produced by the sun."

The formal application for the project has been submitted to NYSED approval.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please feel free to contact the District Office.

Date Withdrew		15 Annilianting for Free	1 D . 1		Attachment Va F	R
turn it to: Melanie How	duced price meals for your chil re, 4704 State Route 149, Hart		on the back, co	mplete only one form	for your household, sign	
rate paper. 1. List all children in yo	ur household who attend schoo	l:				
Student Name		Sch	School		Foster Child	No Income
					0	О
					0	О
					О	О
					О	О
					О	О
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2. SNAP/TANF/FDPI and sign the application.			AP, TANF or F	DPIR benefits, list their	name and CASE # here.	Skip to Part 5,
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	come: List all people living in					per month,
	income blank. If no income, ch	•			1	a 11
Name of	Earnings from work	Child Support, Alimony		ns, Retirement	Other Income, Social rity	
household member	before deductions Amount / How Often	Amount / How Often	Paymer	nts nt / How Often	Amount / How Ofte	Income en
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	Work Phone					
	DO NO	T WRITE BELOW THIS L	INE – FOR SC	CHOOL USE ONLY		
		n (Only convert when mult ry Two Weeks (bi-weekly)	-	-		
o SNAP/TANF/Fo	oster			C. MOHULA 27; MOHUII	•	
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Signature of Review	ing Official			Date Noti	ice Sent:	

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

What Parents Can Do to Help their Children Learn

As a parent, you can help and learn more by talking with your child about what they are learning. Ask openended questions about what they learned in school each day, read their homework and attend school events to learn about what their teachers expect. To try and help provide as much information as possible, the district has listed below a number of resources that parents might find helpful.

Websites

- ⇒ Engage New York: engageny.org
- ⇒ Achieve the Core: achieve the core.org
- ⇒ Council of Great City Schools: cgcs.org/Domain/36
- ⇒ Common Core State Standards Initiative: www.corestandards.org/what-parentsshould-know
- ⇒ National PTA: http://www.pta.org/parents/
- ⇒ NYC Department of Education: http://schools.nyc.gov/academics/commoncorelibrary/ forfamilies
- ⇒ Common Core for Parents: http://commoncore.scholastic.com/parents
- ⇒ Fun4thebrain.com
- \Rightarrow Aplusmath.com
- ⇒ Multiplication.com
- ⇒ Starfall.com
- ⇒ Pebblego.com (user name: hartlib / password: morebooks)
- ⇒ Tumblebooks.com (user name: hartfordcsd / password: books)
- ⇒ Regentsprep.org
- ⇒ www.everystudentpresent.org/parents (Resources for helping your child attend school each day)

For additional information regarding the Common Core Learning Standards or how your student in progressing, please feel free to contact your student's teacher.

BASKETBALL SEASON PASSES

Basketball season passes are now available for purchase in the Middle/High School Office. Passes are sold for \$10 and allow entry to all home male and female basketball contests; excluding any home sectional games.

Please contact Mrs. Ross at 632-5222, extension 306 or at pross@hartfordcsd.org for more information.



(Continued from page 7)

County Regional Superintendent's Conference Day, which was held on October 10th in Hudson Falls.

Mrs. Shelley Dupuis, the Curriculum Coordinator / Instructional Coach for the STLE Grant was the primary organizer for the event. Starting in the summer months, Mrs. Dupuis began

organizer for the event. Starting in the summer months, Mrs. Dupuis began coordinating the agenda for the program with a number of outside entities, including: BOCES, CASDA, SUNY Plattsburgh, the Washington County District Attorney's Office, and the Council for Prevention. The day began with a brief opening statement by the Hudson Falls Superintendent Mark Doody and the Hartford Superintendent Andrew Cook. For the remainder of the morning, over 700 area faculty and staff members participated in workshops designed on improving student performance and achievement. After lunch, the participants were able to conduct grade and department level meetings and share best practice ideas and brain storm on difficult situations across the county. According to Mrs. Dupuis, "The response from the conference day



A view from the back of the Hudson Falls auditorium at the start of the regional conference.

has been overwhelming positive. Our goal for the day was to provide educators the opportunity to collaborate and share best practices across grade levels or subject areas. Teachers really valued this time together and are already looking forward to ways to work together again in the near future." The accomplishment of this goal is supported by Hartford fifth grade teacher Mrs. Gwynne Cosh who remarked that the "collaboration among class-room teachers from the different districts was really nice to see. It was refreshing to see that we all face the same

challenges, but being able to discuss and offer suggestions left us leaving the forum with new insights and strategies to bring back to our own classroom."

While the idea to incorporate grade and department level meetings throughout the county is not new, this was the first time that the districts have been able to facilitate these opportunities. Hartford Superintendent Andrew Cook observed that "This was the first time that we have been able to provide our faculty with the opportunity to engage in high-level conversations with their colleagues throughout the county. The sharing of ideas, strategies, and collegial exchanges were impressive and can have a major impact on student achievement."

All participating districts are hopeful that this collaboration among the teachers can continue long into the future.



Teachers participating in a workshop during the regional conference day.

2014 - 2015 Board of Education

Remaining Meeting Dates
7:00 P.M. in the School Library
November 17th
December 15th
January 12th
February 22nd
March 16th
April 20th
May 18th
June 15th

HARTFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO Box 79 4704 State Route 149

Hartford, New York 12838 518-632-5222

Superintendent Andrew Cook

Middle/High School Principal

Brian George

Elementary Principal Bethellen Mannix

<u>Board of Education</u> Brian Getty, President

Janine Thomas, Vice President

Philip Jessen

Adam Fish

Ron Smith



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Please visit the district website at www.hartfordcsd.org. The site is continually updated and provides helpful links, a staff directory, important documents available for download, all district communications, and a great deal of other information that can help keep you informed and your student informed.