

HARTFORD

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

The start of a new school year is an exciting time, full of anticipation and hope. Faculty, staff, students, and parents are all excited for the prospect of a fresh start and a new year.

On Tuesday, September 5, 2023, the District held a Superintendent's Conference Day to finalize preparations for the 2023-24 school year. In addition to the members of the Board of Education and District Administration welcoming back the faculty and staff, each year I draft a "Welcome Back" message which outlines my goal for the year. This year, my hope is for the District to view obstacles as opportunities and, when faced with a challenge, approach the situation with a positive mindset which will allow us to reach our full potential and develop creative solutions for the benefit of everyone in the District.

When faced with a challenge, our natural reaction is to become frustrated and annoyed. As a society, we have an inherent negativity bias and tend to look for the negative in every circumstance. However, as author Laura Ingalls Wilder stated, "There is good in everything, if only we look for it." By understanding our biases, we are in a better position to change our perception, view obstacles as opportunities, and work to create positive mindsets. No matter the challenges we face, we need to remember there are still elements of positivity. In every situation we experience, no matter how bad or

seemingly undesirable, there is the opportunity for benefit.

In our daily lives we often forget the things that seem to be blocking our path are small and the obstacles are not blocking our path, but rather providing a new direction. In most circumstances, the obstacles in our path are not horrible situations; rather, they are inconveniences, frustrations, or little annoyances. We all face tough situations on a regular basis. However, behind the circumstances and events that provoke an immediate negative reaction can be something good; some exposed benefit we can seize and act upon.

This year, and every year, my goal is to support our faculty and staff to provide the best educational experience possible for our students. As a means to accomplish this goal, I want the Hartford CSD to be an institution that views obstacles as opportunities in disguise. As psychologist Dr. Nikki Martinez wrote, "Sometimes obstacles allow us the opportunity to reflect on how we could do things differently, and to examine what did and did not work right the first time around."

The pathway of accomplishing our goals is not smooth and there is no easy path to success. At some point we will encounter challenges that will test our resolve and question our ability to complete the task. However, if the goal is of significance, we will

push through. Our goal of providing the best educational experience possible for our students is significant. Students only have one opportunity to experience school, and it is our responsibility to ensure it is the best one possible.

In the article, "Learning To See Challenges As Opportunities," Wendy Betterini identifies roadblocks and obstacles as "opportunities to grow and learn, to strengthen ourselves, and to test ourselves and our faith." Challenges do not have to be a death sentence for our goals. In fact, obstacles can actually be a pathway that mold us into stronger individuals.

While we may not have control over the obstacles that block our path, we do have control over our response. Instead of viewing obstacles as a burden, as a District we are working to welcome the challenge and view the situation as an opportunity.

I am extremely proud to work for and represent the Hartford Central School District. It is my honor to work with our faculty and staff and to shape, mold, and cultivate our students. I truly believe that Hartford CSD is a community of educators and I am extremely proud to be a member of this team.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Capital Project

The members of the Board of Education and District Administration continuously seek ways to enhance the educational experience of our students, while maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment. One way to try to accomplish this goal is through frequent construction

projects to improve district infrastructure, expand learning opportunities, and heighten the safety and security of the District. On May 17, 2022, district residents overwhelming approved an \$8.8 million Capital Project that included the scope of work below:

- Removing the stage from the cafetorium
- Renovating and modernizing the cafetorium
- Relocating the stage to the existing music classrooms
- Renovating the courtyard and a small section of the library into a multipurpose room/auditorium
- Converting the girls' locker room to the elementary school music classroom
- Building a new middle/high school music classroom
- Building a new girls' locker room
- Replacing the original gymnasium floor



Early in the fall of 2023, the Board of Education awarded four (4) construction-related contracts. In early November 2023, the contractors reported on-site to begin the construction project. The photos above show the progress of the demolition of the existing music rooms and girls' locker room.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Capital Outlay 2023-2024

The 2023-2024 annual school budget included a Capital Outlay project line item to continue the elementary sink replacement process in the Floyd Harwood Elementary School which was initiated during the 2021-2022 school year. At the November 13, 2023, Board of Education meeting, the board members awarded the construction

contract to Akros MGMT, Inc. of Albany, New York to complete the project. At the time of publication, the District and our architectural firm, CSArch, are working with a representative from Akros to develop the timeline for completion of this project.

Examples of the sinks to be replaced in the elementary school



Exterior Physical Education Space

In early March 2023, the District submitted an application to NYSED for the purposes of constructing an exterior physical education space comprised of two basketball courts (with pickle ball lines overlaid) and a new batting cage for the softball and baseball programs. The District is funding the project through a portion of the allocated ESSER III grant funds, which means there is no impact to the tax levy or use of local funds.

The work on this project began on November 6, 2023. The District strategically submitted the construction application to coincide with the timing of the Capital Project. This will

maximize the contractor's work schedules. Additionally, the projects could piggy-back off each other (i.e. the required excavation work for both projects could be done at the same time by the same contractor in an effort to reduce potential mobilization expenditures).

The basketball courts are considered "full size" for exterior courts and will be open for public use during non-school hours.

Work on this project has commenced and we hope the space is ready for use in the spring/summer of 2024.



The excavation of the space for various physical education activities

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS FROM PRINCIPAL MANNIX

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

We have many exciting opportunities happening in the Elementary School! We continue to recognize students for their accomplishments at monthly Citizens' Assemblies and have added additional awards each month. Student pictures from our assemblies are posted on the school's website for family members to enjoy. Students are recognized for upcoming birthdays, demonstrating character traits, being safe bus riders, being Bucket Fillers, earning a Soaring Tanager Award, having their writing published in The Chronicle, receiving a Music, Art, Physical Education, and/or Library Award, and other student successes. 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 are off to a great start in recognizing many students during these first four months of school.

In addition to monthly Citizens' Assemblies, we have monthly Tanager Pride Days. It is so nice to see everyone's school spirit! We also hosted Spirit Week and Red Ribbon Week themes this past Fall for students to participate in. Students are also participating in after school activities including, intramurals, Learning Club, Elementary Student Government, Hartford Star Newspaper Club, Tanager Voices, Pumpkin Painting, Art Club, the Turkey Trot, Eager Engineers Club, and Battle of the Books. I look forward to additional opportunities for students as the year progresses.

Thank you to the members of the Hartford Volunteer Fire Company who visited us in October to discuss fire safety. Students were excited to see the fire truck and learn about the equipment. The firefighters reminded students about the importance of fire safety and what to do in an emergency. I hope every family takes the time to create a home fire escape plan, check their smoke detectors and change batteries, and remind children about important fire safety rules. We greatly appreciate the Hartford firefighters for their dedication to our community and the time they volunteer, especially by teaching our youngsters about fire prevention.



At our monthly Citizens' Assembly students are recognized for being safe and courteous bus riders, Bucket Fillers, Soaring Tanagers, and more.

October included National Bus Safety Week. Students wrote "Thank You" notes to their bus driver. The importance of following bus rules is always a good reminder for students. That same week, faculty, staff and students wore orange on Unity Day to unite for kindness, acceptance and inclusion to prevent bullying.

Thank you to parents for participating in parent-teacher conferences in person, via phone, or by video conference in November. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's teacher with any questions, ideas, concerns, or thoughts. Also, please make sure you check Class Dojo regularly, as teachers often post important information and reminders daily or weekly. Communication between home and school is key to the success of our students.

Fall provided opportunities for virtual author visits. Students are always amazed to listen to authors tell their story of how they began writing. The process is exciting to hear about, and I hope it encourages students to write and create their own stories. Students also submit monthly entries to The Chronicle. Students enjoy writing to answer The Chronicle's School Views questions in hopes of having their article chosen for publication.

I appreciate the opportunity every day to interact with students. I am so proud of their manners and random acts of kindness that make our school a great place to be! Parents and guardians, thank you for your support at home...together, we can have a tremendous impact on children's development!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024!

Mrs. Bethellen C. Mannix
Elementary Principal/CSE Chair
bmannix@hartfordcsd.org
518-632-5222 ext.120



Eager Engineers Club is new this school year. Students in kindergarten and first grade are welcome to join. They meet twice per month after school.

SAFETY FIRST

The safety of our students is of utmost importance. During the first quarter of the school year our elementary students learned about various safety topics through interactive presentations. Many of the students recognized the guest presenters from the community and the school.

On October 20, 2023, members of the Hartford Volunteer Fire Company visited to talk about fire safety. This visit was in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week. The volunteer members included Hartford graduates Lucas Casey, Harrison Cornell, Matt Mercure, Dakota Morrow, Michelle Morrow, and Tim Zinn. Seth Burch is in his senior year and a volunteer firefighter. Seth did a great job talking to the younger students about fire safety and prevention. The students were encouraged to share what they learned with their families and to make sure they have a plan in place in case of a fire. The students were excited to sit in the fire truck, see the equipment up close, and spray the hose.

On November 20, 2023, Greg Brown, Matt Mercure, Chuck Ptacek, Michael Swezey, and recent Hartford graduate Drake Stewart of the Hartford Highway Department visited our elementary students to talk to them about snow and winter safety. The students gathered in the library to learn the importance of staying away from the road and be aware they are not always visible to snow plow drivers from their vantage points. Some students sat in the driver's seat and were amazed by the limited visibility. Mr. Brown also had chains and shoes from the plows and explained that heavy pieces of equipment could break free from the plow and become dangerous projectiles.

On November 29, 2023, Transportation Supervisor Susan Greene-Smith spoke about school bus safety. The presentation ranged from waiting safely for the bus, respectfully riding the bus, and safely crossing the road when getting on and off the bus. For many of the students it was a reminder and a review from the presentation held in the spring. The students received a coloring and activity book provided by the NYS Department of Transportation. Each month at the Citizens' Assembly students are recognized for being safe and courteous bus riders. You can learn more about the Citizens' Assemblies on page 4.



**Fire Prevention
and Safety**



**Snow and Winter
Safety**



**School Bus
Safety**



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS FROM PRINCIPAL DUPUIS

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Our students, faculty, and staff have been working extremely hard since the start of the school year and it is hard to believe that we are into quarter two. Here are a few of our academic, athletic, club, and extracurricular highlights to date.

First Quarter Academic Highlights

- Principal's List (94.5-100) 29 students
- Honor Roll (89.50-94.4) 52 students
- Merit Roll (84.5-89.4) 50 students
- The list of students can be found on the District's website hartfordcsd.org
- The varsity boys' cross country, varsity soccer, and golf teams earned NYSPHSAA's scholar athlete status and earned numerous athletic titles (See pages 8 & 9)

Student Recognition

One student from grades 6 through 12 was nominated for Student of the Quarter (See page 7)

- Ten students attended the Student Leadership Conference at The Great Escape Lodge (See page 7)
- Nathan Fiske was selected as the DAR recipient (See page 12)
- Bryton Mandigo was one of six students from Upward Bound selected to attend the annual New England Student Leadership Conference in Fairlee, VT
- Austin Wells was recognized at the Adirondack Charity Stampede Rodeo as a recipient of the Bill Liddle Memorial Scholarship

Coach Recognition

- Congratulations to Coach Wendy Harrington for reaching her 300th career coaching volleyball win

Music Notes

- Mrs. Schulz was pleased to have Mia Amato (horn), and Jacob Narkiewicz (trombone) perform at the Castleton Honors Band Festival on September 29 (See page 14).
- Mrs. Dougher was pleased to have nine chorus perform at the WCAMTA All-County Vocal and Jazz Band Festival (See page 14)
- Mrs. Schultz and the Junior and Senior High Bands held a wonderful concert on December 7
- Mrs. Dougher and the Junior and Senior High Chorus held a lovely concert on December 14

Field Trips

- English 9 students attended a performance of *Fahrenheit 451* in Saratoga Springs
- Art students in Mrs. Cawse and Mrs. Holl's high school art classes attended the Monet Immersive Experience in Schenectady
- Freshman attended WSWHE BOCES CTE Works! at the Saratoga City Center; an interactive career exploration opportunity featuring approximately 50 employers from the region

Guidance Office

- If students need a snack during the school day they can stop by our Guidance Office between classes to grab a snack provided by Food For Thought

If at any time during the school year I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Mrs. Shelley Dupuis
Middle/High School Principal
sdupuis@hartfordcsd.org
518-632-5222 ext. 307



Members of our History Club traveled to the New York State Capitol. They presented two mock bills they wrote for the YMCA Government and Alliance competition. Both bills passed. Great job!



Our FFA members decorated a tractor for the Drive-Thru Holiday Lights Experience at the Washington County Fairgrounds. It was spear-headed by Case Burch. The FFA thank Tim Havens of Falls Farm & Garden for providing the lights and the tractor.

HARTFORD STUDENTS TAKE THE LEAD

Area students took the lead in planning the 2023 WSWHE BOCES Student Leadership Conference held Thursday, November 2, at the Six Flags Great Escape Lodge and Indoor Waterpark. The conference was organized by a committee of students from the participating districts and advised by Hartford CSD's Middle/High School Principal Shelley Dupuis.

Hartford students on the planning committee were Jesse Baker, Nathan Fiske, John Gauthier, Raeghan Liebig, and Gabe Stokowski. They were joined at the conference by Hartford students Lyndsay Burch, Landon Earl, Olivia Lindbridge, Aidan Shaw, and Kianna Wertheim.

The entire conference was planned and executed from start to finish by the students. Planning began in the spring with the selection of students who have demonstrated leadership, academic excellence, and are positive role models for their peers. The committee chose a theme and selected a keynote speaker. This year's theme was

"Take Action for Satisfaction," featuring author, speaker, and youth mover, Brandon Lee White. Mr. White helps teens take ownership of who they are, what they want, and identify and overcome obstacles. Born unable to speak, Mr. White shared his journey through his message of "Love the Tough and Own It." He has been featured on TLC, Discovery Health, Fit TV, and TEDx. He attended Rockhurst University where he earned a Master's Degree in Business and a double major in business and psychology.

The table seating was purposely arranged for students to break away from the comfort of friends and familiarity and connect students from other districts. There were ice breakers at the start of the day and team building exercises after lunch.

We are proud of our students and how well they represented our school and community.



Hartford CSD Conference Guests
(L. - r.) Middle School/High School Principal Shelley Dupuis, Aidan Shaw, Olivia Lindridge, Kianna Wertheim, Landon Earl, Lyndsay Burch



Hartford Planning Committee
(L. - r.) Raeghan Liebig, Nathan Fiske, John Gauthier, Jesse Baker, Gabe Stockowski

STUDENT OF THE QUARTER

These students were nominated by their teachers for making positive contributions in the classroom, being positive role models, and putting forth excellent effort in the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.



Scout
Fisher



Nicholas
Abbott



Friaya
Dalaba



Landon
Cook



Isabella
Euber



Stephen
Mercure



Reese
Pope

FALL SEASON ATHLETIC ACCOLADES

RAEGHAN LIEBIG



**ADIRONDACK LEAGUE
FIRST TEAM ALL STAR
HARTFORD CSD'S MVP**



CASSANDRA WADE



**ADIRONDACK LEAGUE
FIRST TEAM ALL STAR
HARTFORD CSD'S MVP**



JOEY HAPPY



**ADIRONDACK LEAGUE
SECOND TEAM ALL STAR
HARTFORD CSD'S MVP**



The District congratulates the members of the varsity boys' cross country team, the varsity golf team, the varsity soccer team, and the varsity volleyball team for being recognized as NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams. To achieve this honor, NYSPHSAA requires 75% of the team's roster earn an average GPA of 90.00 or higher. Even if a team does not have a 90.00 GPA or higher, individual athletes with a 90.00 GPA or higher are recognized by NYSPHSAA as well. Additionally, our teams and athletes achieved the following during the fall season:



VOLLEYBALL

- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team
- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athletes - **Alawnah Dunda, Jadyn Fish, Regan Gebo, Raeghan Liebig, Isabelle Reynolds, Cassandra Wade**
- **Raeghan Liebig** - Adirondack League First Team All-Star;
- Hartford CSD's Most Valuable Player
- **Cassandra Wade** - Adirondack League First Team All-Star;
- Hartford CSD's Most Valuable Player
- **Cailin Severance** - Adirondack League Second Team All Star
- **McKenzie Johnson** - Hartford CSD's Most Improved Player
- **Jadyn Fish** - Hartford CSD's Players' Player
- **Coach Wendy Harrington** - Earned her 300th coaching win

GOLF

- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team
- Scholar Athlete - **Dylan Happy**
- **Joey Happy** - Adirondack League Second Team All Star;
- Hartford CSD's Most Valuable Player
- **Dylan Happy** - Hartford CSD's Most Improved Player



FALL SEASON ATHLETIC ACCOLADES



SOCCER

- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team
- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athletes - **Trevor Baker, Landon Cook, Nathan Fiske, Aiden Foster, Logan Jensen, Bryton Mandigo, Aidan Shaw**
- **Nathan Fiske** - Adirondack League MVP; Section 2 Class D Player of the Year Nominee, Hartford CSD's Most Valuable Player
- **Austin Wells** - Section 2 Class D Goalkeeper of the Year; Adirondack League 2nd Team All Star
- **John Gauthier** - Adirondack League 2nd Team All Star
- **Brandon Tyler** - Hartford CSD's Varsity Soccer Team Most Improved Player
- **Spencer Fehl** - Hartford Varsity Soccer Team Players' Player



CROSS COUNTRY

- Boys' Cross Country Team - NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team
- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athletes - **Esau Day, Bryton Mandio**
- **Bryton Mandigo** - Adirondack League First Team All Star; Hartford CSD's Most Valuable Player

NATE FISKE



ADIRONDACK LEAGUE MVP

**SECTION 2 CLASS D
PLAYER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE**

HARTFORD CSD'S MVP

AUSTIN WELLS



**SECTION 2 CLASS D
GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR**

**ADIRONDACK LEAGUE
2ND TEAM ALL STAR**

BRYTON MANDIGO



**ADIRONDACK LEAGUE
FIRST TEAM ALL STAR**

HARTFORD CSD'S MVP

NUTRITIOUS NEWS



Our students were invited to take a bite out of an apple grown in New York to celebrate “Big Apple Crunch,” and inspire us to eat local. The apples were from one of our Farm To School partners, Samascott Orchards.



Our students give a thumbs up to “Expanding Cultural Meals Day.” This is an opportunity for our students to try foods they might not otherwise.

The District was selected to receive the “Action for Healthy Kids Grant,” administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is a highly competitive federal grant with only 264 school districts across 44 states and the District of Columbia awarded the funds.

The grant is designed to support schools to improve the nutritional quality of their meals and modernizing their operations, through efforts which could include: innovative staff training programs; kitchen updates and renovations; redesigning food preparation and service spaces; other school-district-led efforts to support school meals and school nutrition professionals.

The maximum allocation a District could receive is \$150,000 and Hartford’s application was awarded \$144,270. These funds will be expended over three years and will be used to:

- Purchase unique equipment and supplies to modernize the kitchen and create the ability to offer new and unique meal offerings
- Provide additional staffing
- Offer professional development
- Expand our ability to purchase local agricultural products
- Increase student engagement in the cafeteria
- Expand the District’s Farm To School activities

According to Superintendent Andrew Cook, “The District, through our partnership with the Capital Region Food Service Program, has been committed to expanding and revising our cafeteria program and increasing student engagement. This grant will allow the District to expand our relationships with our local agricultural partners and create new and exciting meal opportunities for our students.”

BACK PACK PROGRAM

Hartford Central School District’s backpack program supports students in food-insecure homes. Every Friday students receive a backpack containing nutritious and child friendly meals. Each bag contains approximately ten different food items to provide calories and nutrition for the weekend. Refrigeration or preparation is not required. Children can “open and eat” without adult supervision.

The program operates in partnership with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. Helping students is only possible through donor support. Donors include HCS teacher aides, HCS retired teachers, community members, Hartford Food Pantry, Hebron United Presbyterian Church, Hartford United Methodist Church, Hartford Ridge Riders, First Baptist Church Thrift Shoppe, Adirondack League, and many of the district’s student led clubs.

To donate please make checks payable to: Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY. In the memo line indicate the donation is designated for the Hartford BackPack Program. Checks should be mailed to: Regional Food Bank, 965 Albany-Shaker Road, Latham, NY 12110.

During the 2022-2023 school year Hartford’s BackPack program



**Provided
714 backpacks**



**Provided
188 pounds
of fresh produce**



**Served
21 students
weekly**



**Distributed
7,320 meals**

NUTRITIOUS NEWS

The District is pleased to announce it received the "New York State School Nutrition Farm to School Partnership Award." School Lunch Director Patrick Kenneally accepted the award while attending the New York School Nutrition Association Annual Conference.

The award recognizes the District's work with the New York State Farm To School initiative, and specifically the events School Lunch Director Patrick Kenneally and Superintendent Andrew Cook organize to showcase the bounty of local agricultural options in Washington County and across New York state. According to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Market, the "New York State Farm To School Program was created to connect schools with local farms and food producers to strengthen local agriculture, improve student health, and promote regional food systems awareness." Upon receiving the award, Superintendent Cook remarked, "The District is committed to maximizing our relationships with our agricultural partners within our school district, the greater Washington County area, and throughout New York state. Our area is blessed to have outstanding



(L. - r.) Lunch Director Patrick Kenneally, Superintendent Andrew Cook

agricultural partners who can provide our students with fresh products which enhance the student's meal experience in the district."

Additionally, Superintendent Cook remarked, "The District is always exploring new ways to enhance the students' school

experience, including their time in the cafeteria. By creating new and unique opportunities to showcase our local agricultural products as part of the meal delivery system, we can provide a fun atmosphere for the students to enjoy their meal and highlight the excellence of our local products."

The District's local Farm To Table partners include:

- Argyle Cheese Farmer
- Comfort Food Community
- Grazin' Acres Farm
- Headwater Food Hub
- Juniper Hill Farm
- Kilcoyne Farm
- Mapleland Farms
- Samascott Orchards
- Tiashoke Farms



Marge Randles, founder and owner of Argyle Cheese Farmer, one of our Farm To Table partners serves students cheese curd samples.



Our students enthusiastically show the stickers they received for trying a product from the Argyle Cheese Farmer.

Did You Know?

Every day our cafeteria proudly serves milk produced in New York State and every Thursday serves produce grown and harvested in New York State as part of the Farm To School initiative





NATHAN FISKE SELECTED AS DAR GOOD CITIZEN AWARD RECIPIENT

Nathan Fiske has been selected as the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen Award. Nathan was nominated by faculty and voted by his fellow class members as best exemplifying the characteristics of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism.

Nathan has been serving his peers in various leadership positions including class president since 2020; soccer team captain for the 2023 and 2022 seasons; and a WSWHE BOCES Student Leader Committee member (You can learn more about the conference Nathan helped organize on page 7).

Nathan's service roles include helping other students. He assists with the District's backpack program. (You can learn more about the program on page 10). Nathan is a mentor with the NYS Student Mentoring Program. He also volunteers throughout the community. He has helped at the Argyle Food Pantry; the Argyle Chicken BBQ; he has been a docent for the Hartford Historical Society; and referees for the Hartford Youth Commission's soccer and basketball programs.

In addition to earning the DAR Good Citizen award, Nathan earned a Citizenship Award in 2021, 2022, and 2023; and History Achievement in 2021, 2022, and 2023. He has earned numerous athletics titles that you can learn about on page 9.

Nathan is enrolled in the Early College Career Academy through SUNY Adirondack and WSWHE BOCES. Upon graduation he plans to pursue a degree in business. Nathan is the son of Nathan and Hillary Fiske.

REAL LIFE SKILLS

Mr. Rodriguez's Life Skills class planned, prepared, and cooked a Thanksgiving dinner. The students compiled the list of items they needed, shopped for the groceries, and learned about food preparation and safety. They then enjoyed a delicious feast together.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

We are pleased to spotlight class of 2002 graduate, Nate Jones. He is the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Professional Learning with the Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES (ONC). Nate's decision to pursue a career in education was greatly influenced by the human interactions and experiences as a Hartford CSD student. During his elementary years, he especially enjoyed athletics and physical education class with Mr. Coach Thomas. Nate shared "We had a six day schedule with PE class every other day. I enjoyed school, but it was so much better on the days I had PE." As Nate continued to enjoy and excel at playing soccer, basketball, and baseball throughout middle and high school, he realized pursuing a career in physical education might be the right path for him.



Nathan Jones and his wife Paige, and their children Bryce, Jayce, and Brynn

Upon graduating from high school, Nate attended Adirondack Community College (now SUNY Adirondack) for two years to earn his core credits while having a blast with his friend Scot Frank (HCS alumni). He was then accepted at SUNY Cortland where he pursued a degree in physical education. His first teaching position was at Hunter-Tannersville Central School District as a physical education teacher. Nate stated, "A sincere thank you to Coach Thomas. He was a tremendous role model for me. I looked up to him as an educator, and followed in his footsteps when I earned my PE teaching certification." At some point during his nine years as a PE teacher Nate decided to further his education. He enrolled in administrative classes through The College of Saint Rose where he earned a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership. In 2016 Nate was promoted as Hunter-Tannerville's elementary principal, and in 2020 he was appointed as the school superintendent. In the summer of 2023 Nate began his new role with ONC.

Nate's fondest memories attending Hartford CSD include the great experiences with his soccer teammates on and off the field. The team was a dominant force in the Adirondack League and they thrived on their motto HSR (Hartford Soccer Rules). This motto was embraced by the school and community as a point of pride. He also recalls the upperclassmen looking out for him and his teammates. They had a lot of fun thanks to the older players. After every game the team would pile into the upperclassmen's cars and venture to The Dog Shack in Hudson Falls. "It didn't matter if you were a freshman or senior. We were one," he commented.

Nate also credits the late David St. Germain as a positive influence as a student. Mr. St. Germain was the high school principal when Nate was in school. One of Nate's many hobbies includes fishing, which he and Mr. St. Germain shared a love for and connected by exchanging their fishing stories and experiences.

Nate also enjoys hunting and playing golf. His favorite way to spend his time is with his wife, Paige, and their three children Jayce (5th grade); Brynn (2nd grade) and Bryce (2nd grade). One of his greatest joys is sharing his hobbies with his children and seeing them thoroughly enjoy and excel at them. They also spend their time together creating memories by visiting Lake George, Cape Cod, and Disney World. The family members have their individual pursuits aside the family shared interests. Paige is the owner and manager of

Mrs. Puddleduck's Child Care. Jayce is quite a good baker. Brynn loves her horses, dolls, reading, and getting her nails and makeup done on special occasions. Bryce loves putting Lego sets together. Nate and Paige enjoy hosting get-togethers at their house, and going out to dinner together. Their household also includes a lively group of dogs, mostly corgis and a dalmatian.

Nate encourages all students to get involved in either their school, community, or both. He said, "For such a small school and community, Hartford is not lacking opportunities. In addition to the great influences I had in school, my 4-H leaders Becky Arlen, Diane Smith, and my late mother Chris Jones, provided me and my friends with so many great opportunities and projects and managed all of our shenanigans."



Hunting is one of the many hobbies shared by the family

MUSIC NOTES



(L. - r.) Mia Amato and Jacob Narkiewicz performed at the Castleton Honors Band Festival on Friday, September 29, 2023. Spencer Granger was also selected but not able to attend.

Nine Hartford Central School District students attended the WCAMTA All-County Vocal and Jazz Band Festival hosted by the Granville Central School District on Friday, November 3, and Saturday, November 4, 2023. The music they performed was selected and rehearsed in advance of the festival. They then joined students from several area districts to perform a collaborative concert performance.

Senior Chorus

(L. - r.) Mia Amato, Lily Stockowski

Mia Amato was recognized for being a senior and for being selected the past seven years.



Junior Chorus

(L. - r.) Alex Amato, Annalise Holcomb, Camryn Alren



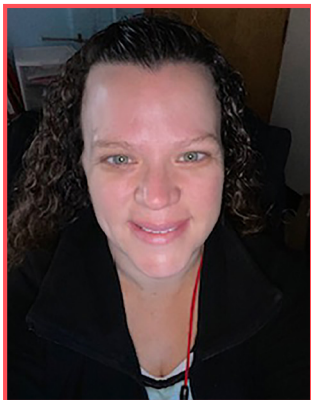
Students from several school districts performed together at the Castleton Honors Band Festival.



Elementary Chorus

(L. - r.) Divine Duhamel, Lane Truehart, Abigail Maynard, Reagan Ellis

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY



Gwen Rehm - Special Education Teacher

The District welcomes back Gwen Rehm as an elementary special education teacher. Gwen returns to the workforce after taking time to care for her twin daughters, Aspen and Briar, who turned one in April. Besides Gwen's previous experience in the District, she also taught general education and special education in Vermont and North Carolina. She earned both her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Education and Master's of Science Degree in Special Education from SUNY Plattsburgh.

Gwen is a native of Latham, New York, and a proud graduate of Shaker High School. She and her husband, Justin, have been married since 2012. In addition to their twin daughters they have two sons, Sawyer and Finley, ages 10 and 7. During the winter months Gwen and her family enjoy snowmobiling throughout the New England area. During the summer months they can be found on their boat touring Lake Bomoseen in Vermont. Gwen is excited to be back in the district and connecting with her students and their families.



Gina Petrone - English Language Arts Teacher

The District welcomes Gina Petrone as 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts Teacher. She brings a wealth of experience with her in her fourteenth year of teaching. She has six years experience teaching middle school students and seven years experience teaching high school students. Gina earned a Bachelor's Degree in English from Westfield State University, a Master of Arts Degree in English from University of Massachusetts, and recently earned her second Master of Arts Degree in English and Literature from Signum University.

Gina moved to the area from Connecticut with her husband who is employed by Adirondack Studios in Argyle as a Technical Director. Her parents continue to reside in Connecticut, and her brother and his family live in Boston. Gina's favorite hobby is reading, and one of her many goals for the school year is to foster the love of reading in all her students. She also enjoys going to the movies and playing the occasional video game.



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. Don't play in the snow while waiting for the bus.
5. Don't slide on the snow or ice in driveways or on the street.
6. Don't push or shove around the bus.

Waiting at the Bus Stop

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

HARTFORD

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

4704 State Route 149, Hartford, NY 12838
518-632-5222 • www.hartfordcsd.org 

Administration

Andrew Cook, Superintendent
Shelley Dupuis, Middle/High School Principal
Bethellen Mannix, Elementary Principal

Board of Education

Philip Jessen, President
Janine Thomas, Vice-President
Adam Fish
Ron Smith
Ashley Happy

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.

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Annual Turkey Trot

On November 15, 2023, students in grades 3-8, faculty, and staff participated in the Turkey Trot. Thank you to all who volunteered and donated turkeys, potatoes, and canned goods that were awarded as prizes.



Turkey Trot organizer Coach Andrew Capone gives the runners pre-race instructions.



Bryton Mandigo led the young runners over the one mile Turkey Trot course.



Nicholas Abbott was the overall winner.



Sophia LaCross (right) held on for an exciting and narrow finish over Hope Abbott (left) in the girls' division.



Coach Sutliff was one of many faculty and staff who participated.

Hartford Stewart's Spud Run and One Mile Fun Run

On October 7, 2023, runners and walkers endured the 5K dubbed, "The toughest race you'll ever love!" This annual tradition began over thirty-five years ago by running enthusiast and Board of Education President Phil Jessen. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered. Proceeds benefit our Class of 2024!



Runners gather for the start of the Spud Run



Superintendent Cook congratulates a fun run finisher

HARTFORD STEWART'S SPUD RUN 5K RESULTS

Place	Name	Time	Place	Name	Time
1	Sean Dingman	20:12	10	Jill Peterson	31:07
2	Justine Trybendis	20:25	11	Jennifer Sharp	32:54
3	Jennifer Dingman	23:46	12	Deana Endieveri	33:04
4	Mark Connor	24:31	13	Cynthia White	33:15
5	Portia Studenroth	24:48	14	Sue Nealon	33:58
6	Ray Ruby	24:52	15	Candi Schermerhorn	38:48
7	Jane LaBombard	25:36	16	Eliana Macura	39:02
8	Dan Larson	28:28	17	Joseph Macura	39:02
9	Mark Schachner	28:48	18	Cathy Biss	41:32