



# Your Public Schools



Empire State Advantage Gold Level Awardee

September 2018

Community Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 1

## District Introduces Speakers Series

In the 2018-2019 academic year, the District is pleased to launch a celebration of the Arts and the establishment of a free Speaker Series taking place all year long. Each of these events is free and has been designed to educate, foster broader understanding, and offer opportunities to increase communication within our community. Join us!

We begin September 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Niagara Falls High School by welcoming Peter Herr.

Mr. Herr is an award-winning high school teacher who has been sharing lessons in leadership, marketing, public speaking, journalism, and various creative design classes for almost two decades. He works hard to create classes that are engaging and filled with "life lessons" on top of the prescribed curriculum.

After graduating from Wittenberg University, Mr. Herr went to work in the world of professional theater. In addition to teaching, Pete has also served as his school's Visual

and Performing Arts Chair, Director of Facilities, Director of Operations, Director of Student Activities, and a member of the marketing committee. Pete additionally co-directs several of his school's student stage productions each year.

Along with his long-running teaching career, he is a blogger who posts his views on topics including success skills, parenting and education, politics and life. He is a community activist and a dedicated volunteer who has served on the Board of Directors for Upstage New York, Lancaster-Depew Teen Idol, and The Lancaster Youth Foundation.

In 1994, Mr. Herr's then four-year old daughter, Rebecca, was diagnosed with cancer. Life changed during the 21-months Rebecca battled the disease. In the years following her death, he learned about the generosity of strangers, the value of community, the importance of family, and the worth of inner strength (not always his own). Despite the terrible loss of his daughter, Mr. Herr credits some of his successes

in recent years to the lessons he learned during and after this challenging time.

Mr. Herr is the author of "10 Things We Should Teach You in High School and Usually Don't."

His will be a speaking/question - answer presentation and will be a perfect start to a new academic year. Although of particular interest to educators, parents and guardians as well as anyone who works with youth will benefit from an evening with Mr. Herr.

Generally speaking, our Speaker Series events will last about 90 minutes. So there's plenty of time to come and get home before it's time to start preparing for the next day's obligations.

The Speaker Series is part of a year-long focus on the Arts, which will include more theatrical productions at every level. The District Theater Season begins October 11, 12, and 13 with the NFHS Proscenium Players' presentation of Steel Magnolias.

This audience favorite tells the story of Truvy's beauty

salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, where all the ladies who are "anybody" come to have their hair done. Helped by her eager new assistant, Annelle, the wise-cracking Truvy dispenses shampoos and free advice to the town's colorful cast.

Witty and acerbic, the play moves toward tragedy when the spunky Shelby (who is a diabetic) risks pregnancy and forfeits her life. The sudden realization of their mortality affects the others, but also draws on the underlying strength—and love—which give the play, and its characters, the special quality to make them truly touching, funny and marvelously amiable company in good times and bad.

Tickets are required for Steel Magnolias, but can be purchased at the door.

## September 18: Dads Take Your Child To School Day

The date has been set for the 2018 Dads Take Your Child To School Day (DTYCTSD). Dads, men, interested moms and community members, please join us on SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 for our annual event!

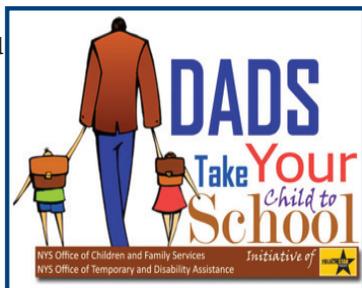
The Statewide event welcomes dads and men of importance in the lives of children to school for a brief welcome, and a chance to meet a child's principal, and to fellowship with other men.

The event in Niagara Falls has been an ever-growing success, with more than 1,000 guests taking part each year.

While each school community has its own culture and space and will organize its own specific event, in general, participants will have a similar experience. Every elementary school will have greeters from the community, such as elected officials, police officers or pastors. Each will have a door prize or two that a participant may win.

### What is it?

This is a State-wide event welcoming to encouraging men to be active participants in children's education. Typically, men arrive at elementary schools with the students at about 8:45 a.m. They are invited in for coffee and a snack, a



brief welcome, and fellowship. Guest greeters will be at every elementary school. Each site will have at least one door prize.

### Who will be there?

Elected officials, law enforcement officers, representatives from community agencies, our Board Of Education, and representatives of the Boy Scouts of America (Eagle Scouts) are some of guests who will welcome men to school. The event usually concludes with in an hour. Each school site will have a slightly different program, as each school is different.

### Who is participating?

Participating partners include Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls. Community partners who will be there and/or have donated door prizes and /or are helping to spread the word include: the Boy Scouts



of America, the Buffalo Bills, the Buffalo Sabres, the Carousel Museum, Four Seasons Cinema, Family & Children's Services of Niagara, Family Resource Center, Niagara Falls Community Development, the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, Niagara Falls Police Department, Niagara County Legislature, and the Niagara County Sheriff.

This is an opportunity to see our schools and show children that the whole community cares about them. It is also, and most importantly, an opportunity to make ALL men who are part of students' lives feel welcome and comfortable. Students carry on their normal school day activities throughout the event, but many are very proud to have their special guy at their school!

### Why?

Research shows some powerful, positive effects of men

being involved in children's schools, including students receiving higher grades, being less likelihood to drop out, or repeat a grade. Statistics from the State Dads Take Your Child To School Day website show:

- ✓ 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes— nine times the national average.

- ✓ 85% of all youth in prison come from fatherless homes. That's 20 times the national average.

- ✓ Children living in two-parent households with a positive relationship with their father are 32% less likely to smoke, drink or use drugs compared to all teens in two-parent households.

- ✓ Adolescent girls raised with involved fathers are significantly less likely to be sexually active.

- ✓ Boys whose fathers are present in the household are two times less likely to go to prison as boys with fathers that are absent.

**From the Superintendent**



**Mark Laurrie**

A New Year, New Goals Throughout the summer, many members of staff and I have been busy with summer programs and preparations for the upcoming academic year. I have established priorities for 2018 – 2019 calendar, and I want to share them with the community, and ask for its support.

Academically, my priorities include adding Pre-Kindergarten classrooms for 3-year-olds at Kalfas Magnet School (PK3) and continuing thematic-based instruction there.

I want to hire social workers to work in the schools, focusing on attendance in primary level. It should alarm residents to know that at one elementary school, 86% of the student body ages three to seven missed at least 18 days of school last year. At another school, that number was 55%. I cannot stress enough that we cannot teach children who are not present, and employers will not be eager to hire people who grew up feeling that level of absenteeism is acceptable. Whatever the barriers are to good attendance, we must address them.

I intend to implement fully the Healthy Behaviors curriculum, including information on HPV prevention, and to institute a Mental Health Curriculum that includes all grades Pre-K 3 through 12. Why? According to the New York Times, Niagara County has the seventh highest rate per 100,000 of suicide attempts in the State. We are all acquainted with the rates of teen pregnancy, (zip codes 14301 and 14303 have teenage birth rates between the ages of 15 and 19 nearly double the State average, about 148 per 1,000 teenage girls becoming pregnant.)

**Principal's Corner** by Hyde Park School principal Jerry Orfano.



**Jerry Orfano**

To all the members of our Niagara Falls City School District: Welcome Back and Happy New Year! With the many changes happening in our School District, I have been given the opportunity to discuss some of the changes. I have recently been appointed Principal of Hyde Park Elementary School. As a former Assistant Principal at Hyde Park Elementary, Harry F. Abate Elementary, and Niagara Street Elementary Schools, working as a Dean of Students and Business Teacher at Niagara Falls High School over the last 26 years, has given me the opportunity to meet many students now parents and

According to data from the state Department of Health, Niagara County has the highest rate of drug-addicted newborns in all of New York. That tells you something about drug use. Some may feel these issues are not in the purview of a school district, but I ask you, if we don't address these issues, who will? And how can we expect academic achievement from youth dealing with these issues?

I am also undertaking a study to see how the District can address the oft-repeated concern by residents that they have no transportation to attend health fairs, job fairs, and other opportunities to obtain help they need.

I want to implement a system this year, in which all graduates will earn an endorsement on their diplomas officially crediting them with a sort of major, if you will: welding, science, math, culinary arts -whatever it may be - and to recognize every student performing 200 hours or more of community service. I am also committed to examining the possibility of bringing trade school back our District. This is a year focused on the Performing Arts in grades 4 through 12; you will hear more on our Speakers Series, as well. We are hosting five special evenings of speakers and panel discussions on topics relevant to our community, free and open to all. We will also be inviting all residents to join us in a community-wide read of a two titles this year; more on that coming in future.

Other business includes negotiating contracts with our unions, whom we are proud to employ, beginning capital projects, and examining carefully our transportation costs to ensure maximum efficiency.

I hope you will join us in supporting these goals and invite feedback at any time.

grandparents along with their extended families. Our newly appointed Assistant Principal at Hyde Park is Kathy Urban, bringing many years of experience in education and administration. Mrs. Urban actually started her career at Hyde Park as a grade four teacher!

As administrators, teachers, and all support staff work to help your children receive the best possible education to meet the various needs of your children while meeting the New York State Standards for their grade level, we will strive to differentiate instruction to build success. Teachers will focus on Learning Targets, checking students throughout the lesson for understanding, student engagement, and higher order thinking skills. The District and each school will continue to provide professional development to teachers and administrators to strengthen our skills.

**From the Board**



**President Robert Restaino**

A new academic year does not have necessarily the same cache as a new calendar year. We aren't surrounded by people making resolutions, and to a large percentage of our population, who do not have school-aged children and who do not work in the schools, September is merely the month that officially ends summer and starts football season.

But as taxpayers and residents, September should mean something to us locally. After all, all those students are the future of our community, and they face many challenges, although we have given them every advantage we can in terms of facilities, equipment, and learning tools.

What we cannot purchase or install is the intangible connection to a broader community, the feeling that so many of us had in our own youth. As residents here in Niagara Falls, our students are part of a heritage that encompasses many ethnicities, cultures, and religions but which is unique to this community and this District. But too many will not have memories of feeling the whole community is behind them, or in participating in community-wide activities.

This summer, many groups celebrated high school reunions: LaSalle High School Alumni Association held its Lovin LaSalle fest, the Trott Class of 1978 celebrated in August. NFHS Class of 1958

is also celebrating, September 7 to 9. Where we spent our formative years makes a difference to us all our lives; people always come to reunions.

Today's students will all be NFHS alumni, and like us, they will have reunions and fond memories.

How does this affect you? Why not ask how you can affect it?

We want our students to feel they are part of something larger than a high school or a school district. We want them to intern, volunteer, and enjoy all our community offers. The arts, the history, the tourist attractions, the recreation, and of course the water are all part of their inheritance as residents of the community we love. They will take better care of that community if we include them in it.

This year, we are launching a Speaker Series to give all residents a chance to utilize their high school and promote discussion together. There is an increased number of plays. The Cataract City Classic will be held in December.

Why not join us? If you have an opportunity for young interns, have time to volunteer, or would like to be involved in your local school, why not reach out to us this year? In this time when the national conversation is discordant, we can choose to pull together as a community and remember what it was like when we were in school. We may even be able to recreate that feeling for the benefit of our youth and ourselves.

It can start in September.

**Announcement**

We are happy to announce that the District, in collaboration with the Community Health Center of Buffalo, will be providing a Medical Mobile Unit, which will visit each of the schools during the upcoming school year. There also will be a Portable Dental Clinic that will visit elementary schools.

Please be sure to take advantage of this wonderful program. Watch for the "Your Public Schools" calendar each month. Dates will also be in your child's school newsletters.

For more information, be sure to attend your child's school Open House. Look for the Community Health Center of Buffalo table! You may also call Brenda Wyrosdick, Health Associate, at 286-0788. The necessary paper work will be available in each school's Health Office.

Parent involvement is a priority in all schools. We encourage all parents and family members to be involved in the children's education. Read the monthly school newsletter, attend your school's open house, parent teacher conferences, parent group meetings at the school, and family fun nights. Develop open communication with your child's teacher and administrators and be assured that we are available to help in any way. Most importantly, please make sure your child is at school, every day, on time, and ready to learn!

At the elementary level, our grade five teachers will be working with the newly adopted English Language Arts Journey's Materials. The Jour-

ney's program has been previously implemented in grades Kindergarten through grade four. The program has proven to be successful with our students. The Math Investigations curriculum will also continue in Grades Kindergarten through grade five.

The District has provided administrators and teachers all the necessary materials to help your child succeed. Your child's attendance at school is a top priority and we appreciate your continued support!

As we begin the new school year, I would like to wish everyone a happy, successful, and eventful school year and look forward to the many challenges that face us as well as celebrating the success of your children.

2018 2019 Highlights

The new academic year is a new start for everyone, including some staff members who are embracing new assignments.



Cynthia Jones

At Niagara Falls High School, following the retirement of Robert Bradley, Cynthia Jones will lead the faculty as Chief

Educational Administrator. Mrs. Jones was most recently principal at Abate Elementary School. In her 25 years with the District, she has served as a teaching assistant, secondary social studies teacher, Dean of Students, Teacher on Special Assignment, and Assistant Principal. Her career so far has included work in Harry F. Abate Elementary School, Cataract Elementary School, Henry J. Kalfas Magnet School, Niagara Street Elementary School, LaSalle Middle School, Gaskill Middle School, Niagara Middle School, LaSalle High School, Niagara Falls High School, and Central Office. Mrs. Jones was awarded the YWCA's 2017 EDUCATION Niagara Award.

Lynne Tompkins, most recently at Niagara Falls High School, will become principal at Harry F. Abate Elementary School.



Lynne Tompkins

Mrs. Tompkins has been with the District 28 Years, spending 17 as a Science Teacher at LaSalle Middle School.

She was a Teacher on Special Assignment working as program coordinator for three years working in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math/Math Science Partnership, and was also Assistant Principal at Harry F. Abate School. Most recently, she was House Administrator at NFHS.

Hyde Park Principal Mary Kerins has also retired; filling her shoes will be Jerry Orfano. Mr. Orfano's most recent position with the District



Jerry Orfano

was Assistant Principal at Hyde Park Elementary School. Mr. Orfano has worked in the Niagara Falls City School District for 26

years. Starting in the District in 1992 as a Business Teacher at Niagara Falls High School, he worked for two years as a Dean of Students at the 2000 Niagara Falls High School. He was transferred to Central Office in the Curriculum and Instruction Office for one year and then worked for one year at Niagara Middle School as a Dean of Students. Mr. Orfano was promoted to Assistant Principal at Niagara Street Elementary School for five years and was transferred to Hyde Park Elementary School as Assistant Principal for four years. From Hyde Park, he was transferred to Harry F. Abate Elementary School as Assistant Principal for four years.

Report Card Schedule

It can help students and parents to remember when to expect to see a report card. Here is a handy schedule you may want to keep.

Primary – Grades Pre-K - 2  
 First Trimester  
 Report Cards Mailed  
 Friday, December 14, 2018  
 Second Trimester  
 Report Cards Mailed Friday,  
 March 22, 2019  
 Third Trimester  
 Report Cards Mailed  
 Wednesday, July 3, 2019

Elementary (Grades 3-6) and  
 Prep Schools  
 10 Week - Report Cards  
 Mailed  
 Monday, November 26, 2018  
 20 Week - Report Cards  
 Mailed  
 Friday, February 8, 2019  
 30 Week - Report Cards  
 Mailed  
 Wednesday, April 17, 2019  
 40 Week - Report Cards  
 Mailed  
 Wednesday, July 3, 2019

Niagara Falls High School  
 10 Week - Report Cards  
 Mailed  
 Monday, November 26, 2018  
 20 Week - Report Cards  
 Mailed  
 Friday, February 8, 2019  
 30 Week - Report Cards  
 Mailed  
 Wednesday, April 17, 2019  
 40 Week- Report Cards Mailed  
 Wednesday, July 3, 2019

Harvesting Healthy Back to School Habits

Creating Healthy Schools and Communities

By Jennifer O'Connor  
 Power up with Breakfast!

Did you know your body never turns off, even when you sleep? So, after a long night's rest, you need to refuel with breakfast. Breakfast helps to:

1. Power up your body and your brain
2. Give your body energy
3. Feed your brain so you can listen in class, get your school-work done, and even do better on tests.

Beginning your day without breakfast is like trying to fly a kite without any wind- it's hard to get started and even harder to keep going. Start your day off right with these quick and tasty breakfast ideas:

- Try a cereal mix-up  
 Combine two or more of your favorite cereals, hot or cold, you

pick. Mix in some fresh fruit like a sliced banana or dried fruit like raisins and top with milk or yogurt.

- Flip out with pancakes or waffles

The frozen kinds are quick and easy to make. Try whole grain waffles if you haven't before. Top them with syrup, fruit, applesauce or peanut butter.

- Slurp down a breakfast smoothie.

Blend together 1 ripe banana, 6 pineapple chunks, ½ cup orange juice, ¾ cup low-fat vanilla yogurt and 1 ½ cups fresh Spinach. Add ice to make it cool and slushy.

- Grab and go  
 Before you head out, grab a few of these foods: cereal bar, bagel, muffin, piece of fruit, box of raisins, cheese stick, juice pouch or a cup of applesauce or yogurt.
- The school breakfast program is also a great option!

Start your school-year off right with a healthy breakfast routine!

IT'S GAME TIME! Save the Date!

*The Harlem Wizards are BOUNCING into Niagara Falls!*

The Harlem Wizards are a professional entertainment basketball team from New York City that will put on a fun family show with music, dancing, tricks and surprises!

Sponsored by the Abate Parent Group and community partners, the Harlem Wizards will be playing against teachers from our Niagara Falls elementary and middle schools. They will also be making appearances in our schools earlier in the day.

Tickets can be purchased on-line at <https://harlem-wizards.thundertix.com/events/132697>

Paper tickets will be available for sale at your child's school starting October 1 (look out for order forms coming home with students on October 1).



We hope you can BLOCK out the following date on your calendar and DRIBBLE on over with the whole family for a SLAM DUNK experience with the Harlem Wizards!

Thursday, October 25, 2018  
 6:30pm  
 NFHS Wolvarena  
 Tickets: \$5 presale  
 (\$6 at the door)

For more information, check out [www.harlemwizards.com](http://www.harlemwizards.com)

Announcement: Football

For Varsity Football games at the NFHS Main Stadium, please be aware of the following policies, which are in place for all home games.

1. All currently enrolled Niagara Falls High School Students must show their Niagara Falls High School ID upon entering the stadium.
2. All prep school and elementary school students must be accompanied by an adult in order to be admitted to the game.
3. All visitors must remain in the bleacher area or on the outside of the perimeter fence. No spectators will be allowed within the track or infield areas of the stadium.
4. Visitors to the NFHS Main Stadium will not be able to re-enter the stadium once they leave.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How Do I Contact District Staff?

The District appreciates that working with your children means being responsible to you for their well being when they are in our care. We also understand that many parents work hours that make contacting schools or staff members challenging.

You should know that you can always communicate with your child's teachers or any other member of staff. Here are three ways to do that no matter how busy your schedule.

1. Leave a voicemail. You can call a school after hours and leave a voicemail to be forwarded to the correct individual. You can also call during the day and ask to be told the individual's direct extension. Leave a message anytime without disturbing class by calling 286.4101 and entering the extension when prompted. (A list of Central office extensions is in your calendar guide.)

2. Send an email. Every employee has access to District email. In most cases, the address is `firstinitiallastname@nfschools.net` for example, Mary Jones would be `mjones@nfschools.net`.

In some cases, two people may have similar names which changes their email addresses, for example, Joseph Smith and John Smith. If you are unsure about the correct email address, call the school and ask specific questions.

3. Send a good old fashioned note. If technology is not your comfort zone, don't forget: you can always send a note to school put one in the mail. The important thing is that you communicate when you need to share information or ask questions.

The District understands that while the 7,000 individuals who attend our schools are our students, they are your children. We appreciate parental concerns about education and encourage you to reach out.

### What to do if: Your have an issue with an adult (employee) at your child's school.

Start by addressing the issue with the adult in question. If no satisfactory resolution is reached, contact the school principal for assistance. If there is still no resolution, contact Administration. Each school has a "Guardian Angel" in Administration to assist. The Superintendent's Office oversees this function. The

next step would be the Superintendent himself and finally, the Board of Education. Most issues are easily resolved through dialogue following this protocol.

You suspect your child may have a learning disability. Contact the Committee on Special Education. Requests for a child to be evaluated for a learning disability can come from a teacher or a parent. The Niagara Falls City School District provides Special Education services to children from 3 to 21 years of age. Services are recommended by the Committee on Special Education (ages 5-21) and the Committee on Preschool Special Education (ages 3-5).

### You have a question about busing.

State-subsidized bus transportation is provided free to all children grades Pre-K through 12 who live more than 1.5 miles from the schools they attend.

Public and non-public school students do not need to apply. Eligibility will automatically be determined by computer registration at the students' respective schools.

If you have questions regarding your child's trans-

portation, please feel free to contact the Transportation Office at 286-4239.

### You require transcripts.

The Records Office at Community Education Center houses transcripts from Niagara Falls High School, LaSalle Senior High School, and Trott Vocational High School.

Your transcripts are available to be sent to you or on your behalf. Once three copies have been sent to you, or on your behalf, a \$3.00 fee will be charged for each transcript request.

Most colleges require an official copy to be sent directly to them. For other purposes, such as employment, unofficial copies can be sent to you or directly to the recipient.

Contact Records at 286-4256 or [arecords@nfschools.net](mailto:arecords@nfschools.net).

You can also fax your request Attn: Records to (716) 286-4124, or mail it to:

NFCSD  
Attn: Records  
Community Ed. Center  
6040 Lindbergh  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

## Annual FERPA Notification

Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend

a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instruc-

tor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that ad-

minister FERPA are:  
Family Policy  
Compliance Office  
U.S. Dept. of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605  
Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupils Rights Amendment (PPRA)

Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

\* Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.

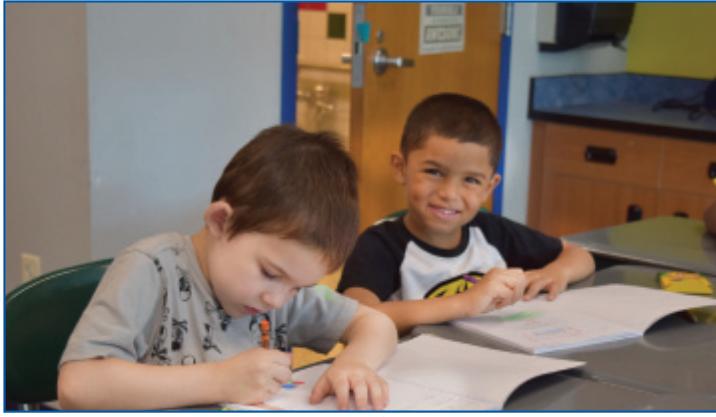
\*Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.

\*Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described below.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy  
Compliance Office  
U.S. Department  
of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

Summer Programs Kept Students Learning



District students had no excuse to be bored this summer, as they had several options available to stay engaged.

The District hosted a Summer STEM Camp (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) for students entering grades one to nine.

Students in grades three and four participated in a service learning program, in which they will studied the health of a beach as environmental science citizens.

Students in grades five and six learned the fundamentals of basic coding using a blue-tooth-enabled robot, while those in grades seven through nine will studied robotics.

The popular summer sports camp for prep and high school students included baseball, basketball, bowling, football, hockey, softball, swimming, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling.

The Extended Learning Program was offered to all students exiting grades K-5 and provided students an opportunity to reinforce skills in math and literacy, while enjoying recreational activities in the

afternoon. Camp Wolverine focused on maintaining academic, vocational, social and behavioral consistency for students enrolled in the District's Functional Life Skills Classes.

Fine Arts Camp was held at Harry F. Abate Elementary School for all students in grades three to six.

Summer Enrichment Camps were offered to students in grades seven through 12- including Performing Arts Camp, Coding Camp, and Chess Camp.

Of course, summer school was also in session, offered through Orleans-Niagara BOCES. Summer School offers required academic programming. This program provides students the opportunity to re-address classes of concern, obtain required credit for graduation, earn additional credits toward graduation, and an opportunity to challenge existing grades or Regents exam results.

Excluding Summer School, more than 1200 students took advantage of these programs.

**PLEASE: Return the Lunch Application!**

Welcome to the new school year! We need your help in completing the HOUSEHOLD INCOME ELIGIBILITY FORM. This form is used to determine funding that the Niagara Falls City Schools receives.

All households need to complete the HOUSEHOLD INCOME ELIGIBILITY FORM, regardless of income levels. It is important that we receive one application, per household, that lists all students. This form needs to be filled out and returned to your youngest child's school by **September 14, 2018.**

Because the District was successful in the past at getting these lunch applications submitted, it became eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) that is available to the State of New York.

What does this mean for you and your children attending the public school(s) in the District?

- ALL students attending the public schools in the Niagara

Falls City School District are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast AND lunch at school at NO CHARGE to your household each day of the 2018-2019 school year.

- Your child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee.

- Your child will still have the option to purchase extra food items and healthy a la carte items daily in the cafeteria.

By completing the Household Eligibility Form you will assist us in remaining eligible for programs like this that benefit our students and their families.

The data gathered helps the District to qualify for grants that provide things like after school and summer programming, as well as being used to calculate certain District reimbursements from the State.

If we can be of assistance, please contact 716-286-4241.



**Safety Corner**

It's that time of year again! Time to kick off another exciting school year. Even if your children have already walked out the door for the first day of classes, it is not too late to remind them how to get to and from school safely. Safety must be the first lesson of every new school year.

Tragically, from 2006 to 2015 there were 301 school-age children (18 and younger) killed in school transportation-related crashes. It is important to share a few simple tips with children to help them stay safe.

**RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS**  
School buses are the safest way for children to travel to and from school. However, there are dangers when children are boarding and leaving the bus. Over the last decade, nearly two-thirds of school-age pedestrians fatally injured in school transportation-related crashes were struck by school buses or other vehicles when getting on or off a school bus. Teach your child to always play it SAFE:

- Stay five steps away from the curb.
- Always wait for the bus driver to tell you when to board.
- Face forward after finding a seat on the bus.
- Exit the bus when it stops, look left-right-left, and take five steps away from the bus toward the curb.

**WALKING**

Walking to school is great exercise and gets kids ready to face their studies. Children under 10 years old should be accompanied by an adult or someone who will make sure they walk safely. Teach your child to always

- Use the sidewalk whenever possible, and if there isn't a sidewalk, walk on the edge of the street facing traffic.
  - Focus when walking near traffic – this is no time for horseplay.
  - Use crosswalks whenever they are available to cross the street.
  - Look left-right-left before crossing any street.
- www.nhtsa.gov

**Financial Data Facts What happens to your application?**

School personnel collect applications and forward them to a designated person in Central Office. This individual enters the data in a secure, electronic environment. Hard copy applications are stored in a secured location and shredded after three years. NY State requires districts to store the applications for that time period, in case of audit. With the exception of the designated employee who enters the data, it is not accessible to District employees.

**How does the District benefit?**

Using the documented financial information: the State sets our Districts reimbursement rate for capital projects; determines our qualifications to offer free meals to students; the District applies for many grants that fund summer camp and after school activities. Data collected from the lunch applications strengthens these grant applications.



NIAGARA FALLS COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS  
6040 LINDBERGH AVENUE  
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK 14304  
(716)286-0771

The Niagara Falls City School District is committed to life-long learning and through the Community Education Center offers programs for people of all ages. Our course list contains opportunities for participation in activities that promote physical fitness, the use of technology and other special interests during the Fall Term of 2018.

Please note that we are interested in expanding the number of future course offerings and invite community experts who are willing to share their expertise to contact the Community Education Center.

Registration begins on August 27, 2018. If you have any questions, or would like more information about a specific program, please call us at 716-286-0771.

#### DAILY PROGRAMS O/N BOCES

\*\*There are no fees for these programs

#### \*\*ADULT BASIC EDUCATION/HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

This course is designed for the adult learner interested in completing their High School Equivalency diploma. It is also recommended for anyone who has been away from school for a long period of time or for those who feel they need prior preparation for the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) Exam. The course reviews the basics of Writing, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Reading. Applications are available at the Community Education Center. The course and TASC exam are free of charge. New York State has selected a new high school equivalency test called the TASC™ to replace the GED® as the primary pathway to a NYS High School Equivalency Diploma.

Monday through Friday 8:30 – 11:30 or 12:00 - 3:00

Tuesday & Thursday 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Stephanie Bevacqua Call for information: 716-286-0768

#### \*\*ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE FOR THE FOREIGN BORN

Developed for the adult learner to read, write, and speak the English Language.

Monday through Friday 8:30 am – 11:30 pm or 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Sarah Wright Call for information: 716-286-0772

#### \*\*NATIONAL EXTERNAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM (NEDP)

This is a non-instructional program that incorporates a variety of assessment techniques, which are designed for the adult learner who has acquired academic skills through life experiences. The techniques include home projects, performance assessments, interviewing and documentation review. NEDP provides competent adults with the opportunity to earn a regular, High School diploma. Qualifications: 21 years and older.

Erica Kopp Call for information: 716-278-8154

Stephanie Bevacqua Call for information: 716-286-0768

#### HHA – Home Health Aide

A one month program (4-5 weeks) of 105 clinical hours (75 hrs theory class and 30 hrs clinical) with a final exam. Students become trained and certified health-care worker who provides assistance to a patient in the home with personal care (as hygiene and exercise) and light household duties (as meal preparation) and who monitors a patient's condition.

Contact Terry Josker @ 731-4176 ext. 4445

#### FITNESS ACTIVITIES

##### SWIMNASTICS

Have fun getting fit with stretching, toning, water exercise in the pool. This program is suitable for those with or without swimming background. Experience increased flexibility, stomach, and cardiovascular benefits. (Limit 12) Each class is \$30.00.

Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Mon 9:00 am-10:00 am	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Mon 10:00 am-11:00 pm	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Mon 11:00 am-12:00 pm	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Tues 9:00 am-10:00 am	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Tues 10:00 am-11:00 am	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Wed 10:00 am- 11:00 pm	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Wed 11:00 am-12:00 pm	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Thurs 9:00 am-10:00 am	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Thurs 10:00 am-11:00 am	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Thurs 11:00 am-12:00 pm	\$30.00

##### WATERWALKING

Exercise your entire body with added benefit of water resistance. One-half hour equals two hours of street walking. (Limit 10)

Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Mon Noon-1 pm	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Wed Noon-1 pm	\$30.00

NIAGARA FALLS COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS

Andrew Touma, School Administrator  
Main Office - Julia Destino, Secretary  
Debbie Mort, Office Support Clerk

REGISTRATION

The Fall Term begins on September 10, 2018. Classes are held for 10 consecutive weeks unless otherwise noted. Classes will not be held on:

- Monday, Oct 8, 2018 – Columbus Day
- November 12, 2018 – Veterans Day

Registration by mail is preferred and will only be accepted with a postmark PRIOR to the start of classes from September 11, 2018 – December 3, 2018. There will be no registration on the first day of class. Please make checks or money orders payable to: Niagara Falls City School District

NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED & there is a \$30.00 charge for returned checks

Please forward registration and payment to:

Niagara Falls Community Education Center  
ATTN: Julia Destino  
6040 Lindbergh Avenue  
Niagara Falls, New York 14304

You may register in person from August 27, 2018 through September 7, 2018 in the Community Education Center Main Office from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

FEES: As a self-sustaining division of the Niagara Falls City School District, all costs for instructors and staff are covered by course fees. Fees must be paid at time of registration. Residents of the City of Niagara Falls who are 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER may register in some courses for a fee of \$25.00 (exclusive of textbooks and/or supplies). Please refer to the course listing for the fees required.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS: Classes may be canceled or rescheduled if enrollment is low or if an instructor becomes unavailable. If classes are canceled due to weather conditions, the community will be notified by local television and radio stations.

REFUNDS:

Refunds will be issued only in the following circumstances:

- A. If a course is canceled – total refund.
- B. If you withdraw one week prior to the start of class – refund, less \$3.
- C. If you withdraw during the first or second week of class – refund, less \$6.
- D. No refunds will be issued after the second week of class.
- E. To receive a refund you must notify the Community Education Center Office of your intent to withdraw from the class.

Please Remember:

- Register from August 28, 2018 – September 7, 2018
- There will be no registration on first day of class
- Make checks and/or money orders payable to: Niagara Falls City School District
- If you have questions, please call 286-0771

NIAGARA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGISTRATION FORM

Make Check Payable to: Niagara Falls City School District or N.F.C.S.D.

Send to: Niagara Falls Community Education Center  
ATTN: Community Education Program  
6040 Lindbergh Avenue  
Niagara Falls, New York 14304

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name    First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address    City    Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Telephone    Alternative No.    Senior (65 yrs) Y / N

\_\_\_\_\_  
Course Title    Location    Day/Time    Fee & Check/ M.O. #

**Looking Ahead**

**October 8  
Columbus Day No School**

**October 11  
Board of Education  
Review Session 5:30 p.m.**

**October 11, 12, 13  
DISTRICT THEATER  
Steel Magnolias**

**October 25  
Harlem Wizards event  
6:30 p.m. at NFHS**

**October 30  
DISTRICT SPEAKER  
SERIES: Suicide: The  
Ripple Effect Movie  
Screening with Kevin  
Hines NSS 5:30 p.m.**

In October, as part of our District Speakers Series, the District will be screening **Suicide: The Ripple Effect**. This important presentation takes a real life look at suicide, with a film created by a suicide-attempt survivor, Kevin Hines.

It may be surprising to learn that Niagara County has the seventh highest suicide rate in the state. With a national average of 13 per 100,000 and a state average of 8.4 per 100,000, Niagara County has an average of 16.2 per 100,000, according to data collected in 2015.

According to the NYS Kids Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse, in New York State, suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth ages 10 through 19 years. New York State youth ages 15 to 19 years are hospitalized for self-inflicted injuries five times more frequently than youth ages 10 to 14 years.

Niagara Falls residents are never shocked to read about another individual who has gone to the water and ended it all. Nationally, suicide in the U.S. has surged

to the highest levels in 30 years. Experts have blamed the increase on the economy, poverty and drug abuse.

In our community, we can choose to address these alarming statistics. We can choose to educate ourselves on how to recognize signs and appropriately assist individuals who are at risk.

The District is proud to welcome Mr. Hines, who survived a jump off the Golden Gate Bridge at age 19. He produced a full-length documentary film and today is a renowned mental health advocate. Mr. Hines will join us October 30 to introduce his film.

We invite everyone to join us at Niagara Street School at 5:30 p.m. October 30 to share this experience. Agencies, individuals, families, teachers, youth, mental health workers and advocates, pastors - this film will be important to a lot of people. Join us.

Too many families have been affected by suicide. Maybe we can prevent more suicides; maybe we can prevent just one. Join us.

**2018-2019  
Board of Education  
www.nfschools.net**

Robert Restaino  
President  
285-8185 (h)

Vincent "Jimmy" Cancemi  
Vice President  
284-2688 (w)

Ron Barstys  
299-8233 (c)

Earl Bass  
471-9775 (c)

Kevin Dobbs  
282-5152 (h)

Art Jocoy Jr.  
283-9329 (h)

Anthony Paretto  
283-0372 (h)

Russell Petrozzi  
297-8663 (h)

Nick Vilardo  
283-3206 (h)

Mark Laurrie  
Superintendent  
286-4253 (w)

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME at all Board of Education Meetings.

# S e p t e m b e r

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4 Teachers Report <b>Hyde Park</b> Open House 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. <b>NSS</b> Open House at Gill Creek 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.	5 First Day of School <b>Welcome Back</b> UPK, PK3 Screenings through 9/7	6 <b>GJM</b> Open House 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. <b>CES, Maple</b> Open House 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.	7	8
9 National Grandparents Day Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown	10 <b>First Full Day UPK, PK3 79th St.</b> PEG Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	11 <b>Mobile Health Clinic at NFHS</b> 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	12 <b>79th St.</b> Open House 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. <b>CES</b> PEG Mtg. 9 a.m. Rm. 190 <b>New Staff</b> Orientation 4:30p.m.	13 <b>No School</b> Super. Conf. Day <b>Board of Education</b> Rev. Mtg. 5:30 p.m.	14	15
16	17 <b>NFHS</b> Underclassmen pictures, Senior I.D.s during ELA today and 9/18	18 <b>District-wide Dads Take Your Child To School Day</b> Yom Kippur begins at sundown	19 <b>District Speaker Series: Pete Herr</b> Free. PAC at NFHS	20 <b>79th St.</b> Walk-a-thon <b>GPS</b> Open House <b>Hyde Park</b> PEG Mtg. 6 p.m.	21	22
23 Autumn begins	24	25 <b>Mobile Health Clinic at GPS</b> 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. <b>DPC</b> Mtg. at Central Office 5:30 p.m.	26	27 <b>Board of Education</b> Reg. Mtg. 7 p.m. August Graduates Celebration	28 <b>NFHS, Prep</b> Half Day Staff Development	29 <b>NFHS</b> Homecoming Game and Dance
30						