



News & Notes

A newsletter from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Galluzzo

Following the Board of Education Meeting of October 20, 2020

The Board of Education on Tuesday night:

Approved the six-month probationary appointment of:

Leacadia Dix,
Occupational
Therapist

Rachel Long, Laborer

Daniel Berns, Jr.,
Bus Driver

Tina Buckley,
Bus Driver

Kenneth Hontz,
Bus Driver

Carrie Preston,
Bus Driver

Justen Duplantis,
Bus Driver

Maria Schmelzinger,
Bus Attendant

Yvonne Wichtowski,
Bus Attendant

Accepted with regret the resignation of:

Jennifer Engler-Henry,
Monitor

Maria Schmelzinger,
Monitor

Con't on next page ...



Hello Everyone,

A question that came up at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting was whether we might see schools resuming more in-person days in the near future. There is nothing we would like more than to bring everyone back. But, until the OK is given by departments of health and the State Education Department, we remain on our current hybrid/remote format.

It is encouraging, though, to see more and more "semblances of normal" integrated into our Covid Days. The High School is currently observing Spirit Week and seniors from the Green Eagle Team and White Eagle Team attended a Senior Breakfast at the school ... and posed—masked, and briefly, but still together—for a Senior Class of 2021 photo.

The Middle School is making a bold statement of its Red Ribbon Week observance with bright red banners and signage along Eagle Drive.

At A.J. Schmidt, Buffalo State College students are back, learning to teach math methods in "real life." Teachers there recognize that "real life" also means ensuring that remote education students remain engaged in their schoolwork. They are making home visits to help bolster that home-school connection and engagement.

Highland is planning its Fall Festival on Oct. 29—to be done virtually, via a Facebook LIVE.

Some 60 J.T. Waugh students will participate in the first-ever Remote Day at the Early Childhood Learning Center, where they can use the center's computers and WiFi.

Fall Sports did happen and are wrapping up. Happily, Jeff Barnes and Mike Drezek were able to establish, and upgrade, a live feed for watching Girls' Varsity Swim meets ... the one sport where distancing guidelines precluded onsite spectators. NYS sports officials meet later this month and we await their word on the status of Winter Sports.

UPK is up and running at Hoag. The Southtowns YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club both have Virtual Learning Support Centers operating there.

So, our work continues. Covid-19 still frames what we do, but we *are* doing meaningful things and diligently practicing Covid precautions to keep our students and staff safe ... and to hopefully help hasten our eventual return to more normal times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Galluzzo, Superintendent



Board of Education

Con't. from previous page ...

Accepted with regret the resignation of:
Lindsay Anderson,
Personal Care Aide

Approved recall from lay-off status of:
Carissa Littlejohn,
Personal Care Aide

Approved the appointment of:
Yvonne Wichtowski,
Cafeteria Monitor

Christine Willard,
Cafeteria Monitor

Amy Guest,
Cafeteria Monitor

School Board Recognition Week

During School Board Recognition Week, we pause to recognize our Board of Education members and thank them for their service! School Board service is an unpaid role with significant responsibilities—the board is a corporate body that oversees and manages the district's affairs, personnel, and properties. School board members are elected by the district residents and serve three-year terms.

The hours devoted to their role include not just Board meetings, but also committee meetings, routine tours of district facilities, and attendance at school events, as well as ongoing board development training, and near constant reading to stay abreast of issues.

We thank the 2020-21 Members of the LSCSD Board of Education for their service:

Jennifer Michalec, President, 15 years of service (9 as President);

Carla Thompson, Vice President, 13 years (11 years as Vice President);

and Board Members **Christopher Binder,** 2 years; **Kathleen Chiavetta,** 6 years; **William Connors Jr.,** 8 years; **Michael Franey,** 4 years; **Cindy Latimore,** 15 years (11 years as Past President), and Student Representative **Madelyn Lockwood** (2020-21 school year).

Above: School Board members received appreciation certificates and gifts (cupcakes and Lake Shore mugs!) on Tuesday night in observance of School Board Recognition Week.

Seated from left: Mrs. Thompson, Superintendent Dr. Galluzzo, Mrs. Michalec, Mr. Connors, Mr. Franey.

Standing, from left: Mrs. Latimore, Ms. Chiavetta, Mr. Binder, Ms. Lockwood.

We love your stories ...

If you have a project, student or staff member you would like to see featured, please email info to jane.burzynski@lscsd.org!

Congratulations to our School Board 'Stars'!

3 Members of the LSCSD Board of Education were honored this Fall for their ongoing service and commitment to Board development and program activities of the Erie County Association of School Boards during 2019-20.

★ **Kathleen Chiavetta**
received the ECASB Shining Star Award.

★ **Carla Thompson** and
★ **Michael Franey**

received the ECASB Medallion Star Award.



‘The plan is to look at this holistically and see things that benefit not just these kids, but everyone.’

- Katy Berner-Wallen

About that DCIP Plan ...

Middle School Assistant Principal Katy Berner-Wallen presented a detailed description of the District’s progress on its District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP), along with an explanation of why the district needs one.

“A school is designated as a School Needing Improvement if there are missing pieces of growth or not making progress,” she said. ESSA data shows a group at the elementary and Middle School level that needs targeted support and improvement. In all, the DCIP focuses on 27 students at these grade levels. “The small group is nice, it’s easy to know who they are and what they need and target that,” she said. “These are 27 kids we can absolutely focus on.”

Data on student progress has been reviewed since the summer, she said, noting that because no assessments were given last year, the district was looking at data from two years ago. “That makes it hard to get a pulse on data that makes sense,” she acknowledges. Meanwhile, the district will work with more current STAR test data as that becomes available and is establishing

data teams in ELA and math at the elementary and Middle School levels.

Other insights also are informing the DCIP plan approach:

- Understanding that remote education students often need help with organizational skills. They are simply not in school every day in a structured environment. “The kids have a very difficult time knowing what to do next, who to talk to next” she explained.
- Making sure that kids are doing OK on the social-emotional front became a top priority. A recent Panorama survey on socio-emotional wellness asked Middle School students if they felt loved, and seven answered no. “We don’t know who these kids are because it’s anonymous, but we adjusted our approach to meet emotional needs before academic,” she said.

The plan, she said is to “look at this holistically and see things that benefit not just these kids, but everyone.”



Kaylee Guzman



Rebecca Myers



Elizabeth Sreniawski

3 of NYS's Top Vocalists Are Right Here at LSHS

Each year, some 900 students are selected for the New York State School Music Association's (NYSSMA) All-State music groups. This year, LSHS has three of them: seniors Kaylee Guzman, Rebecca Myers, and Elizabeth Sreniawski.

It's a high honor, because they represent the "best of the best" from music programs across the state. And, it's very exciting.

"That's because of all the hard work that goes into this," says Rebecca. "We've been doing this since Middle School, so to get to this level is kind of crazy to even think about. The fact that we are able to do this during the pandemic, I am so happy to be able to do that. It would be sad if we were not able to attend."

"This year, NYSSMA decided to hold a Virtual All-State Chorus, as well as seven other virtual ensembles (band, orchestra, etc.)," says music teacher Deanna Civilette. "Each student will record their part for their ensemble. The recordings are then mixed and presented as one virtual concert that will be linked to the NYSSMA website. This is an immense honor and opportunity for our students to showcase their talents among the best in New York State. I am very proud of these three singers."

The NYSSMA experience starts with music teachers working with students to prepare a NYSSMA Level VI solo. Last spring, more than 6,500 sophomores and juniors prepared solos, hoping to be selected.

Their solos were evaluated by NYSSMA Certified All-State adjudicators. For those who scored 98-100 – and more than 2400 did – the process continued.

In late June, selection committees convened to compile a statewide master proficiency list for each instrument and voice part. After that list was established, each successful candidate was assigned to an All-State performing ensemble.

In late August, some 900 students were notified that they were selected. In mid-October, they received music and instructions from the All-State Chairs and conductors.

Now, their work is not over. These students are expected to prepare their All-State music with the same care and attention to detail they gave for their audition the previous spring. It all comes to the culmination of the All-State experience: a cadre of the state's most talented and well prepared soloists, working with the finest conductors available, to produce music that is of the highest quality, for the music experience of a lifetime.

"With all the hard work that goes into it, it's rewarding to get to the highest level you can get. I'm grateful."

- Elizabeth Sreniawski, Senior

Scoring A College Board Exam ...

It changes the way you teach



Left: AP calculus teacher Kate Kreinheder.
Right: AP physics teacher Jeff Salerno.



Teaching advanced placement physics and calculus is challenging enough – these are college-level courses that students are tackling while still in high school. But scoring the College Board exams of those AP students from all over the world is an altogether distinct level of challenge.

Both LSHS AP physics teacher Jeff Salerno – who has been a College Board exam reader multiple times – and AP calculus teacher Kate Kreinheder – who was a reader for the first time this past spring – attest that it is stressful, but also professionally invigorating. And it has powerfully influenced their classroom teaching.

“I’m proud to be selected. It’s a fairly rigorous application process,” says Mr. Salerno. “You feel pretty good about the fact that you met their guidelines.”

Having the proper credentials is only part of the process to be accepted as an exam reader. “They train you on the questions you’re scoring, then test you to see if you’re scoring appropriately,” says Mrs. Kreinheder. “You are timed and if you don’t pass, you don’t get to score.”

“The time factor is rigorous,” agrees Mr. Salerno. “You’re expected to move along. They keep track of time and what you’re grading. Your leader is scoring exactly the same exam and if they score differently, there will be some conversation to see if you change their minds. It’s a lot of pressure and they are watching you, although then you get your confidence and your speed going. It keeps you on your toes.”

The grading continues over the course of seven consecutive days and there is always someone above you doing spot checks on your grading, says Mrs. Kreinheder. Over that week this spring, she had one version of one question from the exam. “So, it was very consistent,” she says.

Con't ... AP Scoring

from page 5

"There is a rubric involved and I graded hundreds of exams," she recalls. While student names are kept anonymous, she could tell if the exam was from a European student, because they use common instead of decimals, or an Asian student, by their writing style.

"I really learned so much about what to expect from students, their common mistakes. I took four pages of notes for things to change this year in my classes," she says. "You learn a ton and not just the calculus aspect but that the expectations are so very high. The way you word things can affect a score, you have to be very precise in your wording and notation."

In fact, a College Board survey found that more than 97% of returning high school AP exam readers changed the way they teach or score work because of their experience at the AP Reading.

"It is so powerful when you have to grade from a rubric you've seen countless times as a teacher, but when you have to dissect it, and hang on every word," says Mr. Salerno. "You can tell when something will not hold up. You have to be very consistent and not vague. That's the part that has changed me, knowing it's quite rigid in terms of knowing what to accept.

"So much of the style of Advanced Placement has

changed. It used to be getting the right answer was good enough. Now, you get no points unless you can justify your responses. You need the evidence and the reasoning behind it. You have to support everything."

Added to the things that have changed was the fact that the exams were virtual this year. "It was super stressful for the kids," says Mrs. Kreinheder. "There were practice exams with a huge count down in the corner. It might buzz when there were two minutes left. You would have five minutes to take a photo and upload your work. If something went wrong, you would have to take another exam three weeks later. If it happened a second time, 'forget it.'"

The exam scoring also was conducted virtually this year. "Ordinarily, when scoring was done face-to-face in a convention hall, you experienced a lot more conversation with colleagues," said Mr. Salerno. "You would talk a lot to be consistent on interpreting the exams. You make connections outside of your area and people share resources."

One year, he recalls, he met a Buffalo Bills fan from Cincinnati, then realized it was Greg Jacobs, author of "AP Physics: Five Steps to a Five," which is an immensely popular study guide to a perfect AP physics score. "It's pretty cool," he says. "There are some real rock stars."

If something went wrong, you would have to take
another exam three weeks later.

If it happened a second time, 'forget it.'

- Kate Kreinheder on stresses students face on AP exams.

950 Chromebooks & 275 Hot Spots Coming!

Lake Shore Schools will be ordering 950 Chromebooks, a major step in ensuring that each student has a dedicated device for their school work.

"We know there is a backlog for Chromebooks worldwide, but now we are getting in the queue," says Melissa Bergler, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. "As we have seen in the past months of remote learning during Covid-19, access to technology is more than ever a vital part of a student's educational program."

In addition, the District will be getting 275 hot spots from T-Mobile by the end of December through their Project 10Million Program. These will be provided to families who do not have Internet.

It is anticipated that the Chromebooks will be available this spring. "For now, remote instruction continues to be strongly paper-based," says Mrs. Bergler. "But the new Chromebooks will allow 1-to-1, ensuring each student access to a de-



"The impact of Covid-19 has shown the need to address digital equity," says Mr. Barnes. "With the addition of these 950 Chromebooks, the District will adopt a one-to-one policy so all students will have access to a device for instruction."

- Jeffrey Barnes, Director of Technology

vice. And they will replace previous platforms that were not as reliable or compatible with school district resources."

Funding for the devices comes from the Smart Schools Bond Act, whose approval by NYS voters in 2014 authorized up to \$2 billion for improved educational technology and infrastructure for students in NYS.

The SSBA requires a Review Board to approve a school district's Smart Schools investment Plan before any funds are made available.

"This process required several revisions," notes Mrs. Bergler. "We are grateful to our Director of Technology Services, Jeffrey Barnes, for his perseverance in this effort."

Masked, But Together!

Green Eagle Team & White Eagle Team Gather for Photo During Spirit Week



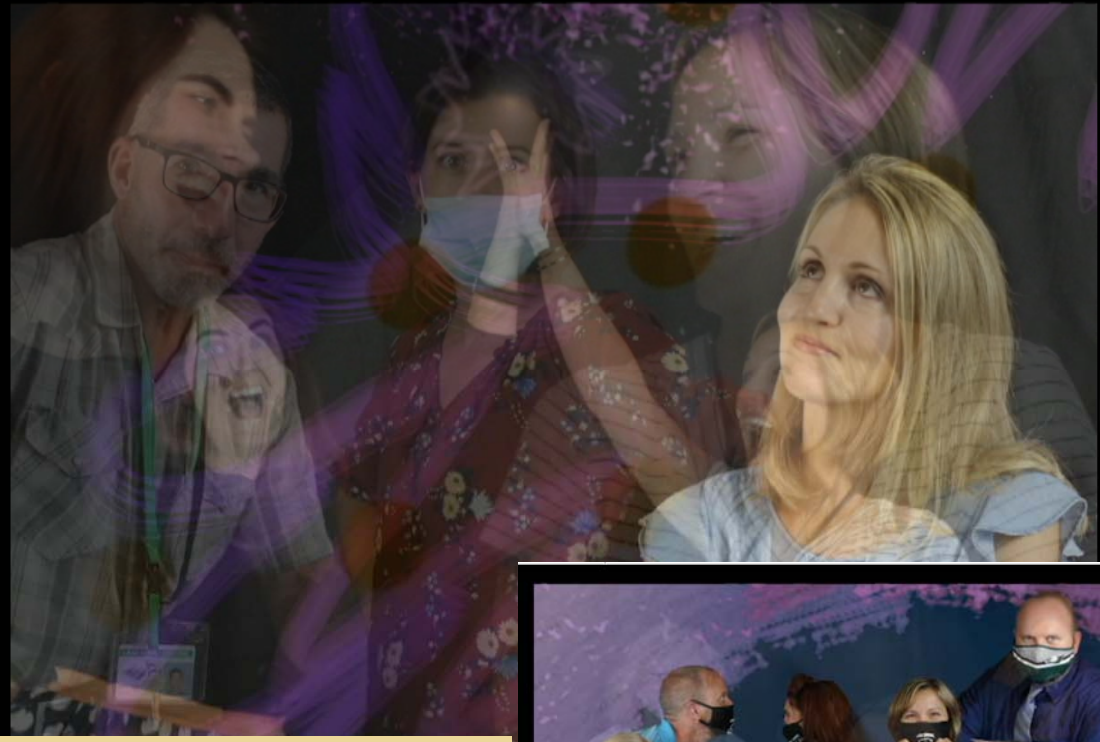
This is Spirit Week at the High School, and on Monday the Student Government sponsored a Senior Breakfast. After weeks of being separated in their hybrid groups, students from both the Green Eagle Team and White Eagle Team were able to connect with each other as the Class of 2021. They posed for a class photo; received a senior class t-shirt designed by Senior Class President Kendal Haberer (compliments of the Senior Class), and filled out "Senior Superlatives" for the yearbook. In addition to Wear Green Day and Wear White Day and Class Shirt Day, students are decorating "Senior Rocks" to include in a group formation to show that they are all part of the whole class of 2021. (Photo by Mrs. Smaldino)



GOALS

COMING SOON to a wall near you!

Posters depicting each of LSCSD's goals for 2020-21 are soon headed to each district building. Lending a hand to get that job underway were seniors Sofea Dziedzic, left, and Domenica Cala, who made a couple of trips to bring the individually-boxed frames to District Office for preparation. Their help was much appreciated!



NEXT Board of Education Meeting

**Nov. 3,
7 pm
Work
Session
J.T. Waugh**

Board
of Education
meetings are now
being held in per-
son and also are
livestreamed
HERE.



Photos and video by Megan
Smaldino, High School Art
Teacher. See the video

HERE.

Back & Rockin'!

They're back
and they're rockin' the High School!
LSHS staff posed for these 'glamour shots'
at the start of school, showing us that even
though we are distanced, with the magic of
photography we can sure come 'together'
in music videos!

