



News & Notes

following the Board of Education Meeting of March 5, 2024

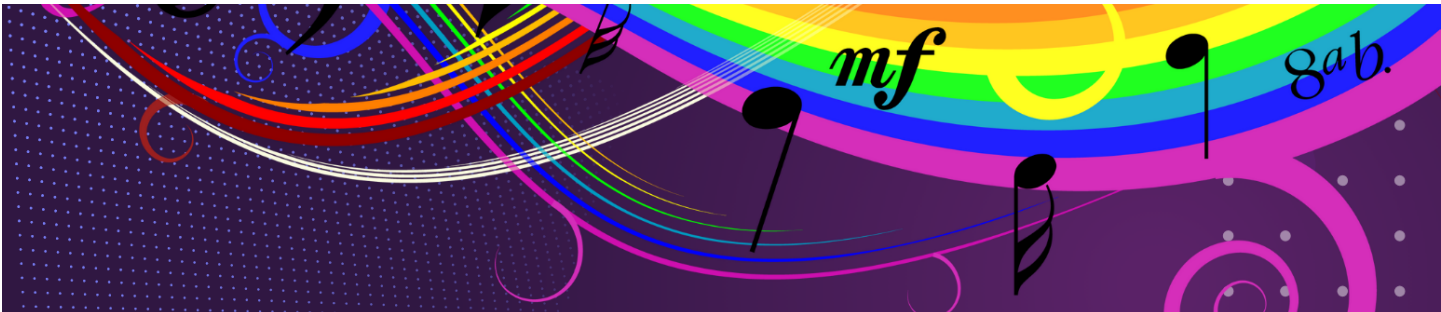


Just whipping up some chicken strips with smoked mozzarella and tortellini!

Highland Principal Colleen Politowski's after-school Chef Academy is gaining attention—more and more kids are joining, and WKBW featured them on Wednesday's edition of "Good Morning, Buffalo" ... see it [HERE](#).

At the March 5th Board of Education Meeting, the Board:

- **Reviewed policies** on Operation of Motor-Driven Vehicles on District Property, Public Access to Records, and Prohibition of Weapons on School Grounds.
- **Received an update** on the development and implementation of Restorative Practices.
- **Discussed the potential ownership transfer** of the Lake Erie Multi-Use Trail. The District granted an easement for construction of the trail to the Town of Evans last fall. The easement allows trail construction along District-owned frontage at 9455 Lake Shore Road, but does not shift ownership to the Town.
- **Heard a Budget Development Update:**
 - ◇ State Aid cuts are leading to a budget deficit this year.
 - ◇ The District is awaiting numbers on health insurance costs for 2024-25, and would like to finalize those numbers at a lower rate.
 - ◇ This year's New York State tax cap is 2.73%. The District is working toward a 2.7% increase.
- **Approved** the revised 2023-24 instructional calendar changing March 8 from a Superintendent's Conference Day to a regular K-12 instructional day.
- **Approved the ...**
 - Probationary appointment of ...***
Aleah McAfee, School Social Worker, effective 4/09/24
 - Resignations for the purpose of retirement of ...***
Peggy Koch, Reading Teacher, effective 6/30/24
 - Mary Mullins**, Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/24
 - Resignation of ...***
Misty Budziszewski, Personal Care Aide, effective 2/28/24



Music Shirt Mondays Are Here (& This Friday)!

It's time for Music Shirt Mondays! In celebration of Music In Our Schools Month, and you're invited to don your favorite music-type shirt on Mondays throughout March. Shirts from your favorite, or least favorite, bands, solo artists, musicals ... anything with music on it. (Music Department shirts are great examples!) To make up for this week (March 4-8), we'll be wearing music shirts this Friday, March 8!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

A skills and interests assessment taken in the Academy of Business and Finance program revealed public relations as a good career match for sophomore Bailey Burke.

So, in a job shadow experience with District PR person Jane Burzynski, she gave it a try.

Bailey [wrote this news item](#) about fellow sophomore Kelsey Dynas's acceptance into the summer musical theater program at Juilliard, which was posted on the District web site and Facebook page. She also had the opportunity to participate when WKBW covered Highland Elementary School's Chef Academy, and is working on an accompanying color feature for the District's web site. Sure looks like PR would be a good fit for her!



Sophomore Bailey Burke, right, interviews sophomore Kelsey Dynas, who will be attending the Julliard Summer Performing Arts program.

The Board of Education toured A.J. Schmidt Elementary School prior to its monthly Board work session on Tuesday evening.
Here's a peek!

- Photos by Melissa Bergler

