



News & Notes

A newsletter from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Galluzzo

Following the Board of Education Meeting of July 6, 2021

The Board of Education on July 6, 2021 approved ...

Increase of the 0.5 FTE appointment of Kacie Marchetti to a 1.0 FTE Science teacher.

Probationary appointments of Mary Lou Patnaude, Art teacher.

Anne Drake, German teacher.

Dr. Benjamin Swanson, Science teacher.

Sydney Sweet, Science teacher.

Danielle Guenot, Special Education teacher.

Kelly Hernandez, Special Education teacher.

Melanie Salazar, Speech Therapist.

6-month probationary appointments of Christine Dutka, Occupational Therapist.

Brenda White, Personnel Clerk.

Continued on next page ...

Remembering Bill Houston (1929-2021) ... page 6

Yesterday we received the sad news that former Lake Shore Superintendent William (Bill) Houston passed away early in the morning at the age of 91. His career was dedicated to Lake Shore and he was instrumental in building the district to what it is today. We honor his legacy and extend deepest condolences to his family.



Hello Everyone,

Right now, we're straddling two worlds, closing the chapter on one academic year and simultaneously opening a new chapter for the fall.

High School graduation is the final chapter of not just one school year, but 13 years of education. The Class of 2021 started with 187 freshmen. Over the course of four years, for various reasons, 13 did not return. Five students who remained with the cohort did not graduate. But 167 did, resulting in a graduation rate of 89.36%. Most of those who did not graduate are in summer school, and when they graduate, it will bring the graduation rate to 92.5%. That puts us right on the mark for our target of a 90% graduation rate.

Of our graduates, 59% received Regents diplomas and 38% received Advanced Regents diplomas. Fourteen students received Advanced Regents diplomas with Honors. Two percent received local or skills diplomas. Fourteen graduates demonstrated total mastery in math and science. These achievements are particularly awesome after a year of such upheaval.

Looking ahead to fall, Lake Shore plans to fully re-open, with all students in person on a full five-day schedule. If there is a pandemic emergency and students are not allowed in school, we are prepared to go full remote for a temporary solution. However, our goal is to maximize in-person instruction time to fill any learning gaps pre-K through 12. To accomplish this, we plan:

- Class size reduction with the addition of 4 elementary classes, more High School electives, and continuation of the K-1 Initiative guaranteeing small group instruction three times a day in phonics, reading and math
- Increase in special education services in a high need building
- Increase in computer science classes and science electives at the High School
- Increase in elementary art and elementary and High School physical education

Complete details are in our [American Rescue Plan document on our home page.](#)

I wish for you a safe, relaxing and rejuvenating summer.

**See you in the fall,
Dr. Charles Galluzzo, Superintendent**

**Accepted with regret
the resignation of:**
Danielle Guenot,
Teaching Assistant.

**Accepted
the resignation of:**
Kathleen Headley,
Confidential
Senior Clerk Typist.

**Accepted with regret
the resignation for the
purpose of retirement of:**
Alan Skeldon, Bus Driver.

Christine Coventry,
Bus Attendant
and School Monitor.

Kathleen Fioretti,
Bus Attendant
and School Monitor.

Laura Barlett,
Clerk Typist.

Vaccination Clinic JULY 10th at High School

The second dose
vaccination clinic is
Saturday, July 10,
9am—1pm at the
High School.
No appointment
necessary for the
second Pfizer dose.

Vaccine also will be
available for those
18 or older who
would like to receive
the single dose
J and J vaccine.
No appointment
necessary,
but you can go to
www.erie.gov/vax
if you would like to
schedule a time.

In other matters

At the July 6, 2021 Reorganization Meeting & Regular Board Meeting

Reorganization Meeting Highlights:

- Jennifer Michalec and Kathleen Chiavetta took the oath of office for their new three-year terms on the Board of Education.
- The Board again named Jennifer Michalec President and Carla Thompson Vice President.
- Board Assignments were designated:

NYS School Boards Association Delegate: Kathleen Chiavetta; Jennifer Michalec, alternate

Erie County Association of School Boards:

Delegate Assembly: Christopher Binder; Jennifer Michalec, alternate

Legislative Team: Kathleen Chiavetta; Michael Franey, alternate

Budget/Finance Team: Carla Thompson; Bill Connors, alternate

Board of Education Committees:

Administrative Leadership: Kathleen Chiavetta, Carla Thompson, Michael Franey

Athletics: Bill Connors, Michael Franey, Jennifer Michalec

Audit: Christopher Binder, Carla Thompson, Cindy Latimore

Building Conditions Survey: Bill Connors, Michael Franey, Carla Thompson

Budget: Bill Connors, Michael Franey, Carla Thompson

Code of Conduct: Kathleen Chiavetta, Christopher Binder

Finance Academy Representatives: Kathleen Chiavetta, Michael Franey

Policy: Kathleen Chiavetta, Michael Franey, Carla Thompson

Professional Learning Plan: Christopher Binder, Kathleen Chiavetta, Cindy Latimore

Safety: Bill Connors, Jennifer Michalec, Cindy Latimore

School Counselors: Kathleen Chiavetta, Christopher Binder, Carla Thompson

Technology: Bill Connors, Carla Thompson, Christopher Binder

Regular Meeting Highlights:

The Board approved:

- the MOA with North Collins CSD to share services of the Lake Shore CSD Transportation Supervisor for the 2021-22 school year.
- the agreement with the Silver Creek CSD for sharing JV and Varsity Boys and Girls Lacrosse for the 2021-22 season.
- and authorized funding for the collective bargaining agreement with the Lake Shore Central Teachers Association, July 1, 2021-June 30, 2025.

American Rescue Plan

Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief

Happening This Fall ...

School districts receiving funding from the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 must develop a plan for how these funds will be spent.

The following are highlights from the Lake Shore plan. The entire document is posted on our lakeshorecsd.org home page.

Educational Technology

Lake Shore Central School District will be implementing a 1:1 initiative effective fall 2021 in grades 6-12. Pending the release of Smart Schools Bond Act funding, K-5 implementation could follow in the winter/spring of the 2021-22 school year. With the support of specialized funding of the Smart Schools Bond Act and the My Brother's Keeper Grant, Lake Shore will be able to implement this initiative without ARP funding.

Social, Emotional and Academic Support

Compeer 6-12 services for students and training for staff

- Strength-based approach to supporting mental wellness through collaborating with mental health care providers, family caregivers and natural community supports
- Structured one-to-one mentoring models include screening, training, matching, and monitoring of volunteers
- Model has proven successful in achieving significant positive outcomes grounded in an internationally recognized best practices model and is founded on national research. Combination of these services provides the best possibility of match success and sustainability

Second Step K-8 purchase of kits and training; School Counselors will implement this holistic approach to building supportive communities for every child through social-emotional learning

Supper Club

Preparing and sharing meals can help people converse more freely. That's why food preparation is central to several *Preventionfocus* programs. In this 10-session program middle and high school girls learn to plan and cook meals from scratch, with nutrition and budgeting in mind, while strengthening communication and friendship-making skills. Similar programs will be customized for males, co-ed groups,

and other groups as needed.

SEL Committees by building

Each building has a Social Emotional Committee (SEL) comprised of various adult stakeholders to provide SEL training to the adults in the building to serve K-12 students with compassion and common language across environments.

Family Support Center

Provides access to a host of local agencies and community services

Provides information and resources for families to utilize

Assists families in need of food/clothing/housing/insurance

Assists in Crisis Intervention

Hosts Parenting Education Workshops

Addresses issues with students and families, including: Family Communication, Divorce/Separation, Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, Mental Health Concerns, Anger Management, Behavior Concerns

An increased focus on student involvement and connection to school and the school community through extra-curriculars that include sports, intramurals, clubs, social activities, and an immersion in the arts.

With technology in the classroom ...

Oh, the places we will go!

Highland Students Share Creativity With the World

buncee
ideas lab



As the school year drew to a close, Katherine Caboot's 5th graders were traversing the solar system, the legacies of African American activists, and the expeditions of famous explorers. Their adventures were accomplished using Buncee.

With Buncee, the students created interactive content, allowing those of all ages to visualize concepts and communicate creatively, explains Technology Integrator Mike Drezek. Their work drew the attention of Buncee representatives, who held a Student Showcase session to celebrate their great work and creativity with the world.

"On June 14, part of the class went live to an audience of educators and classrooms from around the globe to share how they use Buncee to make learning fun," says Mr. Drezek. "The students were quite surprised to see how far their ideas and creations were reaching." Attending their live session were: Egypt, India, Ecuador, Morocco, Bangladesh, Palestine, Libya, Tunisia, Georgia, Philippines, France, Thailand, Columbia, Iraq, North Macedonia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Malaysia, Ukraine, Bahrain, Greece, United Kingdom and several states across the United States.

"The students enjoyed the appreciation and inspiring messages sent their way in the session chat," says Mr. Drezek. "Some students participated on camera, and all students created an activity for the Buncee Ideas Lab as an extension to what was shared live. Their goal was to inspire other students to use Buncee over the summer outside of school. These students learned the power of student voice and the impact their learning and sharing can have on others. "

Technology + Music = Magic!

Things got more and more interesting in Paul Siekierski's 7th grade General Music class as the school year wrapped up. Students began the quarter discussing Latin American music and explored three regions: Brazil, Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

After exploring the three styles of music originating from these regions: Samba, Salsa and Merengue, students created their own Latin American percussion and learned to play two styles of music.

Next they learned how to create Foley sounds and underscoring for a short animated video. The students recorded their own sounds and composed the music using [Soundtrap Education](#), a web-based media creation tool that empowering students and teachers to explore creative sound recording in a secure, collaborative and fun way. Their three animated shorts with their musical creations were integrated into [WeVideo](#). [Quaver Ed](#) was used as the basis for the project, says Mr. Siekierski. Quaver provides evidence-based resources and professional development to engage students.

"Students witnessed firsthand the power of creative expression, musical production and media creation using web-based technologies," says Mr. Siekierski.

Looking for something to read?



Nicole Wegrzynowski's 4th graders enthusiastically check to see whether books were borrowed from or donated to their Little Free Library outside J.T. Waugh.

It's Little, It's Free ... And It's Shared with the Community

It started when a small group of kids read a story about Little Free Libraries. The J.T. Waugh 4th graders were charmed by the notion of a box filled with books that anyone could take for free.

The concept soon captured the hearts of the rest of Nicole Wegrzynowski's class. And they had a plan. They would start a Little Free Library of their own.

They put their request in writing to Principal Paula Eastman. They made flyers requesting book donations. Before long, they had two shelves filled with donated books and topped with a Little Free Library sign in the hall across from the Main Office. But the students realized there was a bigger audience out there: they wanted to bring books to the entire community.

Principal Eastman arranged to have the Little Free Library box built and installed by the school's Buildings & Grounds Department and volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 421. The students carefully strategized. They had to think about the height of the library box ... not too tall, not too short. And the placement. Not in the lawn where it would need to be weeded and mowed around. Not too close to the building, where people might think it was only for students. This box is filled with books for all ages, they emphasize. They decided to place it in the gravel bed, close to the sidewalk, where it's easily accessible. Also, it's bright red and easy to spot.

"It kind of looks like a bird house," one student noted. "It has chapter books, kids' books, and adult books," another reported. "You can take one, and leave one only if you want to," said another.

Remembering ...

Sept. 22, 1929-July 7, 2021

Bill Houston



Bill Houston at his retirement in 1996.

William (Bill) G. Houston retired from Lake Shore after 42 years with the district — 30 of them as the Superintendent—or “District Principal,” as the title was back in the day.

Born in Angola, NY, in 1929, on Wednesday, July 7, he passed away at the age of 91.

Bill Houston graduated from LSHS in 1947, then spent four years at Buffalo State Teachers College and two years in the Army. In 1954, he joined the district as a teacher of driver education and industrial arts. He then served as Supervisor of Transportation and Attendance, before taking on the top job in 1966.

By the time he retired in February 1996, he had gained a reputation for being “crusty.” He had little patience for government restrictions or regulations, nor for parents who came to him with only “part of the story.” He also had a reputation for not closing school for “snow days” - in fact, Lake Shore once went five years without a snow day.



But, his regular Superintendent’s newsletter revealed keen compassion for what was going on in the lives around him at Lake Shore. Every birthday, illness, new addition to the family, or passing of a parent or other family member was reported. School wasn’t just a place to come to work, it was where lives came together, and he knew that.

Few of us here today worked with him, but his is a life worth knowing. Here is the [link to a feature news article about him](#) when he retired.

He leaves behind his wife, Joan, and their three daughters, Linda, Laurie and Lee.

Condolences may be sent to 11 Glenwood Ave., Angola, NY 14006. Arrangements were incomplete at this time of this writing.



Bill Houston in LSHS Yearbook 1947.

WILLIAM G. HOUSTON
College Entrance — Business
Quiet, shy, studies a lot, blond curly hair, blue eyes. Band 1, 2, 3, 4, Visual Education 1, 2, 3, 4, Anglascope 2, 4.