



# News & Notes

A newsletter from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Galluzzo

Following the Board of Education Meeting of Dec. 7, 2021

## The Board of Education, at its Dec. 7 Meeting:

Approved the appointment of



**Arlene DeJoy-Meckes** to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education created by the resignation of Cynthia Latimore, with a term through the next regular school district election (May 17, 2022).

Accepted with regret the resignation of ...

**Daniel Pacos**, Assistant Superintendent for Administration & Finance, effective 12/15/21. (See related article at right)

Approved the probationary appointment of ...

**Amber Busch**, Elementary Teacher, effective 01/10/22

Con't on next page ...



**Dr. Charles Galluzzo, Superintendent**

### Hello Everyone,

I would like to congratulate my colleague and friend Dan Pacos, who last night was appointed as the next Superintendent of the Lake Shore Central School District, effective Dec. 16.

It has been a pleasure working with Dan, and I know the District will be in good stead under his leadership.

Be well and move forward!

## Dan Pacos Named Lake Shore School Superintendent



*Daniel Pacos*

The Evans-Brant (Lake Shore) Central School District Board of Education appointed Daniel Pacos as Superintendent of Schools at its Tuesday, Dec. 7 meeting, effective December 16.

Mr. Pacos succeeds current Superintendent Dr. Charles A. Galluzzo, who retires on December 15.

Mr. Pacos began his career in public education with the Brocton Central School District, and later joined Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES as Director of Finance. He has been with Lake Shore for nearly 20 years ago, first as Business Administrator and District Clerk. For the past 11 years he has served as Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Finance. "I am excited and eager to begin this new phase of my service to the Lake Shore Central School District," said Mr. Pacos.

In addition to his New York State Public School District Administrative Certifications, Mr. Pacos holds a Bachelor's in Accounting from the State University of New York at Fredonia, and a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) in Finance from St. Bonaventure University. He also is a New York State licensed Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Pacos has served on several boards of directors for various not-for-profit organizations in the area, including the Lake Shore Academy Foundation and the Chautauqua County Rural Ministry. He also currently serves as the Supervisor for the Town of Pomfret. Mr. Pacos resides in Fredonia with his wife, Kimberly, and their sons Kevin, Marc and Aaron.

Con't ...

Approved the  
termination of ...

**Heidi Dizer,**  
Bus Driver, effective  
12/7/21

**In other  
matters,  
the Board ...**

**Reviewed policies on:**

- Transportation of Students
- Entitlement to Attend—Age and Residency
- Education of Students in Temporary Housing

**Next Board  
Meeting:**

**Dec. 21**  
7 p.m., Regular  
Meeting  
High School  
Library Media  
Center

**Winter  
Recess:  
Dec. 23-31**

# Highland Tour

LSCSD Board Meeting of Dec. 7, 2021

## ... On Connecting and Caring



*Board members and administrators toured Highland's hallways, which provided a gallery of student writing and projects.*

**The Board of Education continued its circuit** of building visitations Tuesday night with a work session at Highland Elementary School.

Principal Colleen Politowski took the opportunity to share Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and parent conference updates with the Board.

As it was with Open Houses this year, each K-8 building also provided Parent-Teacher Conference options for parents who work, or may have been without transportation, or quarantined due to COVID. Parents could phone in, join in a virtual meeting or come in person. Board member Kathleen Chiavetta asked if there was a clear preference from parents. Mrs. Politowski said it was a mix at Highland and no one prefer-

ence stood out. She said families seemed very appreciative of the options.

**In her update on the SEL initiative,** Mrs. Politowski noted that all three elementary buildings have SEL committees chaired by teacher leaders. All use In Focus books to guide classroom mini-lessons in developing SEL skills. These lessons are reinforced by Second Step, an SEL-based program used by the school counselors to help build supportive, successful learning environments. Mrs. Politowski also highlighted various SEL activities at the different schools:

**At A.J. Schmidt,** bulletin boards help faculty get to know each other. The school features Wellness Wednesdays, Kind Kid of the Month, door decorating contests, a gratitude tree, and birthday celebrations. Pre-service teachers from Buffalo State College also pitch in. One uses puppetry to work on SEL for the students, including parts of the brain, and belly breathing.

*Con't on next page ...*

*Highland Principal Colleen Politowski provided updates on Parent-Teacher Conferences and Social Emotional Learning initiatives.*



## Highland Tour Con't ...



*Meditation and relaxation go best with furry friends for these students at A.J. Schmidt.*



*J.T. Waugh students provided this Thanksgiving bird with a feather listing what they're thankful for.*



**Left:** Board member Mike Franey reviews the calming box/brain break box that is in every room at Highland. All kids have access to these materials when they need a brain break.

**Above:** On a hallway bulletin board stating, "We all have something in us that the world needs," students affix a colored slip of paper listing their particular trait. Athletic! Kind! Smart! There are so many good things about us!

**J.T. Waugh** has SELebrations, a monthly newsletter for parents, monthly bulletin boards, monthly student recognitions and weekly announcements aligned with the SEL themes. The school conducts mindfulness practices and breathing exercises are a part of morning announcements. There also is a staff book study on *Better Than Carrots Or Sticks: Restorative Practices for Positive Classroom Management* (by Dominique Smith, Douglas B. Fisher, and Nancy Frey).

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## Highland Tour Con't ...



*Above: To start the school year, Mrs. Politowski presented faculty and staff this potholder with a surprise inside—cookie mix to whip up for a sweet treat. She tries to provide everyone with regular reminders of how important they are for our students and school.*

***Right: Highland's sensory room is equipped with various options to help students cool down, get their wiggles out, or just take a moment for themselves.***



**At Highland**, positive words are posted in the halls and bathrooms. Bulletin boards promote positive self-image. There are meditation/break/yoga minutes throughout the day, and morning/afternoon circles where students talk, share and help each other. Every room has a stress/break box and every grade has “classroom buddies,” pairing up to help build relationships that can move with them into Middle School.

For students, there are “kindness hearts” to recognize efforts toward kindness and good choices. For staff morale boosters, there are rock mementos, a sock exchange, and a “you’ve been boo’d” program.

**There also is a focus on community**, with projects such as the school's Thanksgiving food collection; cards for Veterans, seniors and deployed military; a warming clothes collection, and toiletry collections for Operation Good Neighbor and deployed military. Community-focused events with the Parent-Teacher Group include Trunk or Treat and Holiday Fun Night.

The approaches vary, but the ultimate goal is the same: to increase self-awareness, academic success and positive behaviors in and out of the classroom... and the long-term goal of preparing students to better navigate the inevitable pressures of adult life.

- Board meeting photos contributed by Melissa Bergler.
- Student project photos contributed by principals.

# COVID-19 Testing Locations

**Area Testing Locations based on information from their websites. This information is subject to change.**

**Rite Aid Testing Sites – [www.riteaid.com](http://www.riteaid.com)**

13090 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004  
12983 Main St, Akron, NY 14001  
3249 Sheridan Dr, Amherst, NY 14226  
3924 Harlem Rd, Amherst, NY 14226  
8530 Transit Rd, Amherst, NY 14221  
9062 Erie Rd, Angola, NY 14006  
1625 Broadway, Buffalo, NY 14212  
1941 Seneca St, Buffalo, NY 14210  
476 William St, Buffalo, NY 14206  
1410 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209  
2047 Sheridan Dr, Buffalo, NY 14223  
789 Tonawanda St, Buffalo, NY 14207  
2865 Elmwood Ave, Kenmore, NY 14217  
654 Colvin Ave, Kenmore, NY 14217  
2585 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14214  
291 W Ferry St, Buffalo, NY 14213  
2474 Bailey Ave, Buffalo, NY 14215  
5447 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221  
2401 Genesee St, Cheektowaga, NY 14225  
2887 Harlem Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225  
3950 Union Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225  
6000 Transit Rd, Depew, NY 14043  
4900 Broadway, Depew, NY 14043  
60 Central Ave, Lancaster, NY 14086  
9160 Main St, Clarence, NY 14031  
190 Main St, East Aurora, NY 14052  
3071-3085 South Park Ave, Lackawanna, NY 14218  
3050 Union Rd, Orchard Park, NY 14127  
140 Pine St, Hamburg, NY 14075  
6939 Erie Rd, Derby, NY 14047  
40 W Main St, Springville, NY 14141  
81 W Main St, Gowanda, NY 14070  
214 Central Ave, Silver Creek, NY 14136  
47 Niagara St, Tonawanda, NY 14150

**Walgreens Testing Sites – [www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com) 9217**

Main St, Clarence, NY 14031  
5275 Transit Rd, Buffalo, NY 14221  
2970 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst, NY 14228 3564  
Delaware Ave, Tonawanda, NY 14217  
2601 Sheridan Dr, Tonawanda, NY 14150  
3605 Sheridan Dr, Amherst, NY 14226  
2739 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, NY 14217  
1556 Hertel Ave, Buffalo, NY 14216  
3488 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14214  
2043 Kensington Ave, Amherst, NY 14226  
578 Dick Rd, Depew, NY 14043  
4815 Broadway, Depew, NY 14043

**Walgreens Testing Sites – [www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com) 9217**

815 Harlem Rd, West Seneca, NY 14224  
1180 French Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14227  
1328 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna, NY 14218  
3008 Union Rd, Orchard Park, NY 14127  
6199 South Park Ave, Hamburg, NY 14075  
10 Young Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150  
650 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14202  
2320 Grand Island Blvd, Grand Island, NY 14072

**KSL Diagnostics Testing Sites**

1000 Youngs Road, Williamsville, NY 14221, 800-960-1080, FAX 716-559-1582  
28 Best Street, Buffalo, NY 14209, 800-960-1080, FAX 716-800-6057

**Medlab, Inc. Testing Site**

4110 N Buffalo St, Orchard Park, NY 14127, 716-320-3001

**Immediate Care Testing Sites**

2099 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY 14228, 716-564-2273  
2497 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216, 716-874-2273  
5014 Transit Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14043, 716-684-2273  
3050 Orchard Park Road, Orchard Park, NY 14224, 716-675-3700  
7616 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY 14221, 716-204-2273

**WellNow Testing Sites**

1956 Ridge Road, West Seneca, NY 14224  
3245 Southwestern Blvd, Orchard Park, NY 14127 4909  
Southwestern Blvd, Hamburg, NY 14075  
4827 Transit Road, Depew, NY 14043  
3450 Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14225  
3921 Harlem Rd, Buffalo, NY 14226  
1751 Sheridan Dr, Buffalo, NY 14223  
5965 Transit Rd, East Amherst, NY 14051  
225 S Cascade Dr, Springville, NY 14141

**Pediatric Urgent Care Testing Sites**

1800 Maple Road, Suite #100, Williamsville, NY 14221, 716-636-5437  
3055 Southwestern Blvd., Suite 104, Orchard Park, NY 14127, 716-636-5437