

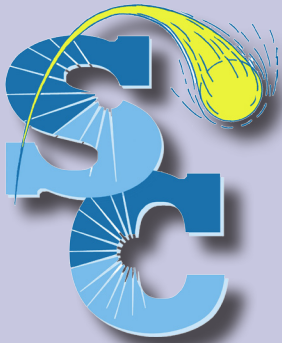
Sandy Creek

Central School
District
Newsletter

Spring 2017



The Comet's Tale



SC's Benedict Takes Section III Title



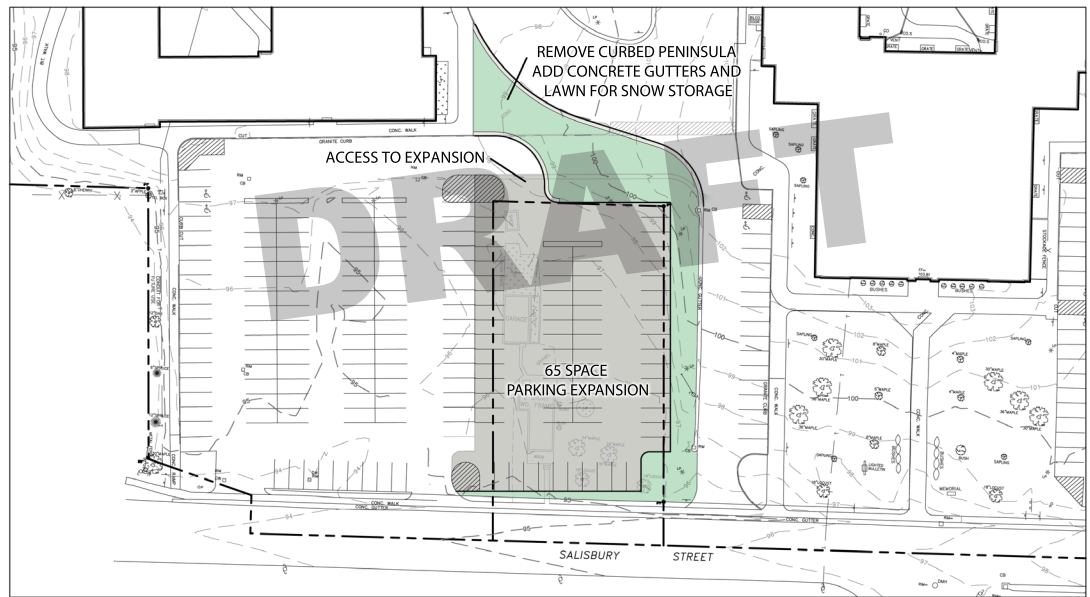
Joe Benedict, a junior at Sandy Creek High School earned the Wrestling Section III title in the 195 lb. weight class. Benedict wrestles on a combined team with South Jefferson and Sandy Creek, coached by John Babcock.

The Section III win advanced Benedict to the NY State tourney, where he quickly defeated his first opponent, Anthony Buffolino of Clarke, by pin in 21 seconds to advance to the finals.

In the final bout for the title, Benedict was defeated by James Hoeg of Mattituck, ending his season as second in the state.

His impressive season record of 45-3 is incredible and the fact that he is only a junior, makes his record even more impressive.

Sandy Creek School District to Put Forth Proposition to Voters on Capital Reserve Use



SANDY CREEK CSD - SITE SCHEMATIC



Draft proposal for purchase of parcel at 134 Salisbury Street, Sandy Creek. This is only a draft and final proposal is subject to change from pictured schematic.

On May 16th voters in the Sandy Creek Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on a separate proposition authorizing the district to use money from their Capital Reserve Fund to purchase the property at 134 Salisbury Street, Sandy Creek.

The district intends to expand parking and create a dedicated area for visitor parking at the elementary school to provide safer pick up and drop off of elementary students.

"We listened to our parents' concerns," said Superintendent of Schools Kyle Faulkner, "and we feel these proposed changes will greatly improve the traffic pattern for parents picking up and dropping off their children in the mornings and afternoons at the school. In addition, it will provide for much-needed visitor

parking closer to the elementary building."

In order to receive aid from New York State on this project the district will also complete some necessary work on the loading dock area to enhance safety and security as was identified by the district's safety committee.

By using funds from the Capital Reserve, the District can make the needed infrastructure and site work without impact to taxpayers. The Capital Reserve fund was established by the District to set aside funds for infrastructure and capital improvements the district may encounter without having to rely on tax increases to support these needs. These funds must be used within a ten year period of time.

A public hearing to discuss the Sandy Creek District Budget, including the Capital Reserve

Proposition will be held on May 4th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Sandy Creek District Office Board Room.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing and have questions regarding the proposition, contact the District Office at 315-387-3445.

The vote will be held on May 16th between the hours of 12 p.m. and 8 p.m., also in the Sandy Creek District Office Board Room.

Don't Forget to

Vote

May 16 • 12-8pm

Sandy Creek Central School District



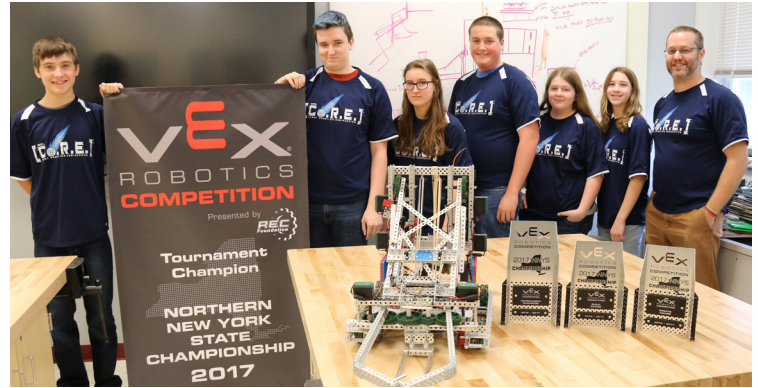


Robotics Team Advances to Worlds for 2nd Consecutive Year

For the second year in a row, the CoRE (Comet Robotics Engineers) Robotics team from Sandy Creek Middle/Senior High School has headed to Louisville, KY to the VEX Robotics World Competition, where teams from all over the globe come together in the prestigious competition. The team earned the honor by winning the Northern New York State Championship in the SRC Arena in February.

The Sandy Creek team is coached by John DeGone, technology teacher in the district who talked about the improvements the team has made over last year. "We came in with a more focused design and started earlier than last year." Last year the team did not even start on their first bot until November and one team member said they were often coding and building bots in the truck on the way to competitions.

This year's team is quite young with only two returning members from last year's team and includes students in grades 8-11. They began working last summer to develop the competitive bots that would be used in the competitions and focused their season on making it back to the VEX Worlds. At the start of the year, DeGone asked the students what they wanted their focus to be: winning individual competitions or aiming for the state championship tournament? The answer was, of course, that they wanted to win the state tournament and go back to the world competition again. Their dedication to that goal and the team's commitment to robotics is paying off. "The amount of time and effort they have put in is second to none. Their effort speaks volumes to their character," he said, adding that the accomplishments by the



Representing New York State at the VEX World Robotics Championships on April 19-25 in Louisville, Kentucky is team CoRE from the Sandy Creek Central School District. Pictured left to right are: Logan Hatch, Alex Olin, Margery Yousey, Garret LaPoint, Ashleigh Rosenbaum, Emily Ward and Coach John DeGone.

team "shows what a few people who are really dedicated to a cause can do."

DeGone also credits the incredible support the team has been
(Continued on page 3)

Students Read Across America



On March 2, students at Sandy Creek elementary School marked Dr. Seuss' 113th birthday by dressing as their favorite character from one of his many children's books. In addition to the birthday celebration, the students also participated each day during the week of February 27 to March 3, with a different theme each day. Above: students in Mrs. Allen's class showed their enthusiasm for Dr. Seuss as they celebrated in class.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr. 30	Clean the Creek
May 4	Board of Education Budget Hearing, 6 pm
May 6	Jr/Sr Prom
May 12	Half Day Staff Dev. Day 11:30 Dismissal
May 12-13	NYSSMA Solo Festival (Mexico)
May 16	5th & 6th Band/Chorus Concert, 7 pm
	Elementary Science Fair 12-6 pm
	Board Election and Budget Vote, 12-8 pm
May 29	Memorial Day - School Closed
May 31	7-12 Chorus Concert, 7 pm
June 2	Elementary Student Council Awards 2 pm
June 5	Grades 4 & 8 Science Written Test
June 6	Earth Sci. Regents Lab Performance Exam
	MS Awards 6 pm, HS Awards 6:45 pm
June 8	Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm
June 12	Graduation Parade, 8:30 am
June 13-22	Regents Exams
June 14	Flag Day Ceremony 2 pm (HS Aud)
June 15	1st Grade Reading Tea, 2 pm
June 16	Pre-K Sail-a-bration, 10 am & 1 pm
June 19	Kindergarten Graduation, 9 am (HS Aud)
June 20	5th Grade Graduation, 9 am (HS Aud)
June 21	Elem. Moving Up Day, Early Dismissal 11:30
June 22	Fun Day - Last Day of School for Students
June 23	Graduation Rehearsal 9 am
	Wall of Distinction Ceremony 6:15 pm
	Alumni Banquet 7 pm
	Last Day for Staff
June 24	Graduation, 10 am



Robotics Team Advances to VEX World Championships

(Continued from page 2)

given by the Sandy Creek Central School District for their success. "We are very, very lucky to have a district who has supported us 100%," he said, noting that many of the teams they face do not have that support system in place. The team members echoed the sentiment saying that the support allows them to focus entirely on the robot without having to worry about fund-raising or finding space to meet.

This year's VEX 2017 competition requires student-built robots, in alliances of two teams to be maneuvered around a 12' x 12' arena and perform several tasks to score points. The object is to score more points by moving large rubber stars and soft fabric cubes into zones in the opponents' area. Scores can also be obtained by hanging the bot from a high or low bar during the autonomous or driver-controlled time period.

Early in the season the team dealt with a few setbacks, including one issue with static electricity that nearly side-lined the team. The bot did not encounter any issues in the practice arenas, but when in the competition arena, the bot would shut down after only 15 seconds in the driver-controlled portion. After trying nearly everything, it was finally determined that a buildup of static electricity in the mechanism that counts the number of rotations in the wheels caused the problem. A simple override of that counting system solved the problem. As they move to the world competition, that ability to precision focus could be what the team will need to be successful.

"We have a lot of work to do," said DeGone. The young team plans to use this year to build a reputation by being more visible, showing good sportsmanship and working their way up in the rankings. Exposure to cultural diversity is one aspect of the competition that DeGone emphasized as an opportunity for his students, who come from a small, rural, upstate community. An opportunity they might not have without robotics.

"I told my students the number one thing I want them to do is to experience the cultural diversity at worlds because it is an event like no other unless you are going to the Olympics. Last year we had Japan on one side of us and Syria on the other. This year it will be Taiwan and Malaysia. We get to experience all of these different cultures in one spot and while we may not speak the same language, we all speak robot."

Their plan for the world competition is simple: "On the first day we are going to go out and rock the skills arena," said DeGone noting that it is the skills portion, which is driver and programming together, that determines overall ranking in the world. After that, they will focus on a design award or a build award and work their way up from there. The team earned a trophy in both design and create categories at the New York State VEX Competition.

DeGone predicted that the trend for their small team to excel will continue. "We are a solid team that has good work ethic, good design principles, all of our ducks in a row, and we are going to be back year after year."

For the second year in a row, the team advances to the VEX World Competition, but they plan to make this a yearly trip and hope to say to the teams gathered: "Remember us, we are going to be big one day."

The VEX Robotics World Championship were held on April 19-25 in Louisville, KY where 1,400 teams from around the world vie for the top spot in the largest and fastest growing international robotics program.



Honored with a plaque on the Wall of Excellence at Sandy Creek was longtime teacher, Mable Rawlings. On hand for the honor was Phyllis Allen, left, who nominated her beloved teacher, family members, Kevin Rawlings, Katie Rawlings Sauro, and Florence Rawlings, far right. Presenting the honor is Sandy Creek Superintendent of Schools, Kyle Faulkner, second from right.

Two Honored With Wall of Excellence Recognition

Two former employees of the Sandy Creek Central School District were named to their Wall of Excellence which recognizes past and present faculty and staff members who have exhibited unforgettable commitment and service to the children of the Sandy Creek Central School District. Criteria includes professionalism, dedication, commitment to the mission of the Sandy Creek District and demonstration of an extra-ordinary level of performance for the benefit of students, staff and the community.

Nominations were reviewed by a selection committee, appointed by the Board of Education and the following two individuals were selected for this year's induction: Mable Rawlings and Linda Taber.

Mable Rawlings was a teacher in the Sandy Creek Central School District for 40 years. She was known for helping students who needed extra help and students say she had a positive impact on their success in life. Nominated by Phyllis Allen, a former student who wanted to honor her beloved teacher with a place on the Wall of Excellence.

Linda Taber, nominated by Roxanne Paro, was always there for students, friends, and teachers without hesitation, offering advice, or anything else a student needed. Taber, was employed by the district for 40 years, many of those years as the high school principals secretary. In her acceptance, she said, "To be remembered forever in the hallowed halls, I am forever grateful to all of you."

Linda Taber, far right, was named to the Wall of Excellence in the Sandy Creek Central School District, honoring her commitment to students, staff and community. Pictured at left is Sandy Creek Superintendent of School Kyle Faulkner, and Roxanne Paro, who nominated Taber for the honor.





SC's Math and Movement Family Fun Night

Sandy Creek Elementary School hosted a Math & Movement™ Family Fun night recently where students and their families were able to physically hop, walk, crawl, dance and touch mats and banners as they learned math and ELA concepts. Math & Movement™ is a kinesthetic, multi-sensory approach to teaching math that incorporates physical exercise, stretching, cross-body movements, yoga, and visually-pleasing floor mats designed to encourage students to practice math and ELA using more sensory channels. These sensory channels include visual, auditory, motor and kinesthetic, and relate to learning styles of the students. Some individuals are visual learners, while others learn better through listening and still others can better concentrate while doing a physical movement. The multi-sensory mats meet those learning styles, but also provide an element of fun interaction with each other and with the staff who assisted at each station. The night was sponsored by the Dryden Mutual Insurance Co. and their support will allow the school to purchase some of the mats for use in classrooms throughout the year.



Pesticide Notice

Dear Parent, Guardian, and School Staff:

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The following pesticide applications took place in the Sandy Creek Central School from July 6, 2016 to April 21, 2017:

❖ *There have been no pesticide applications during the above stated period.*

As a reminder, the Sandy Creek Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- Anti-microbial products;
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- The application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you have not yet registered to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to Shelley H. Fitzpatrick, Sandy Creek Central School District Business Administrator at:

**PO Box 248
Sandy Creek, NY 13145
Phone: 315-387-3445 x1510
Fax: 315-387-2196**

Sandy Creek Central School District

Request for Pesticide Application Notification (Please Print)

____ School Building

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please feel free to contact Andy Ridgeway, the Sandy Creek Central School District pesticide representative at: PO Box 248, Sandy Creek, NY 13145, Phone: 315-387-3445 x1510, Fax: 315-387-2196 for further information on these requirements, including information on the products that have been applied in this school.

Sincerely,

Shelley H. Fitzpatrick
Business Administrator

Sandy Creek's Presentation of "Annie" a Huge Success

The Sandy Creek Drama Department presented the musical "Annie" on March 10th and 11th at the Sandy Creek Middle/High School Auditorium.

Annie has been called one of the best musicals ever and this production by the cast at Sandy Creek proved that statement to be correct. With a stellar cast, beloved songs, and hilarious hijinks the show was a must see. The auditorium was packed for each production and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The musical was directed by Sandy Kinney and Valerie Marshall with production assistance by Chas Worden.



Annie

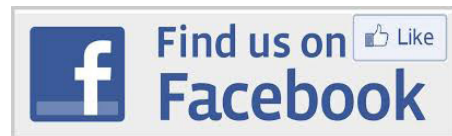


Top 3 in CTE Classes at CiTi

The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation recently recognized exceptional students enrolled in their Career and Technical Education programs for their outstanding academic standing. Representatives from the Sandy Creek District were on hand for the ceremony. Pictured in front,



left to right are: Lexi Ladd, Cosmetology; Taila Hatch, Early Childhood Education; R.J. Skellington III, Cosmetology; Danielle James, Sandy Creek Guidance Counselor; Summer Skinner, Nurse Assistant; William Robbins, Public Safety and Justice; Thomas Yerdon, Heavy Equipment; Ethan Graf, Digital Media; and Kyle Faulkner, Sandy Creek Superintendent. The students were honored in a special recognition ceremony for being in the top three academically, in their program at CiTi.



Log on and search:
www.facebook.com/SandyCreekComets



OCAY League Competition Tests Students' Engineering Skills

Dozens of local students displayed their knowledge and demonstrated their engineering skills recently during the third Oswego County Academic Youth (OCAY) League challenge of the school year.

The competition, dubbed "Build, Build, Build," required students to work together to accomplish a variety of engineering tasks. Student teams from Altmar-Parish-Williamstown, Central Square, Fulton, Hannibal, Mexico, Oswego, Pulaski and Sandy Creek represented their respective school districts as they built towers, catapults, clocks, airplanes and irrigation systems.

"The students were limited in terms of the materials they could use for the build," said APW OCAY League adviser Danni Miller. "It required them to think outside the box and use a lot of planning and teamwork for each build."

Each completed task was judged and scored based on specific criteria such as stability, height, distance and effectiveness. The top three teams were Mexico Academy and Central School District (first

place); Pulaski Academy and Central School District (second place); and Oswego City School District (third place).

Event coordinator Matthew Goodnough, of the Fulton City School District, lauded the students for their efforts as he presented them with medals. "You had some very creative solutions to some very difficult builds," he said. "You all did a great job."

OCAY League is coordinated through the Center for Instruction, Technology and Innovation's (CiTi) gifted and talented program.

Sandy Creek team members included: Logan Hatch, Oren McDougall, T.J. Harding, Alex Olin, Alex Sawchuck, Margery Yousey, Chris Blount, John McGrew, Garrett LaPointe, Josh Balcom and Jakob Kuehl.



Logan Hatch makes ready to launch his catapult during the "Build, Build, Build" engineering-focused OCAY League Competition.



Sandy Creek OCAY League team members brainstorm and design engineering projects for the third competition of the season.

100 Ways to Celebrate the 100th Day of School



100 day glasses!



Burke Harvey proudly displays her 100 buttons poster she created to mark the 100th day of school



Heather Wallace's first grade class showed their silly side while celebrating the first 100 days of school at Sandy Creek Elementary School.

With 100 days of school behind them, students at Sandy Creek Elementary celebrated in 100s of ways, including sporting special "100" glasses, dressing like a 100-year-old person and creating lots of examples to illustrate the number 100. One class created a thank you treat for the staff member who cleans up their room each day with 100 pieces of candy and a great thank you card signed by

each of the students in the class. Students wore medals and crowns proclaiming that they are "100 days smarter" to help celebrate the occasion.

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athletes for Fall and Winter Sports



Pictured are scholar athletes from the fall and winter sports season.

At the end of each high school sports season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association honors those teams and individuals that excel in the classroom. These student-athletes work very hard at both their sport and their academics and deserve to be recognized for their outstanding academic success. To receive scholar-athlete recognition, teams must have 75% of their roster earning a GPA of 90.00 or greater. Individual students with an average GPA of greater than 90.00 are eligible for the honor and recognition as individual scholar-athletes. The follow teams and/or individuals were recognized:

Fall Girls' Cross-Country Team: Lexi Ladd, Karina Hunter, Tori Jenkins, Emily Kehoe, Rebecca Miller, Allison Burrows, Abbey Fitzpatrick, Kayla Carnes, Madison Bauer, Marley Yerdon, Sydney Cook and Gabriella Brown. **Fall Cheerleading Team:** Dallas Blair, Lindsey Goodnough, Abby Widrig, Jessica Leppien, Sophie Walter, Hanna Dasno and Madison Benedict.

Fall Individual Boys' Cross Country: Jesse Cornell, Chase Pappa, David Hennigan, Nic Potter and Oren McDougal. **Football:** Jakob

Kuehl, Dustin Bryant, Chris Blount, John McGrew, Joe Metott, Alex Sawchuck and Skylar Marshall. **Girls' Soccer:** Jasmyn Williams, Eve Kingsley, Cassidy Carnes, Carley Lyndaker, Bailey Fahnestock, Alison Lantry, Shelby Miller, Alexis Wolfe and Lainie Hathway. **Boys' Soccer:** Josh Balcom and Gavin Babcock.

Winter Volleyball Team: Allison Burrows, Machela Sullivan, Kayla Carnes, Carley Lyndaker, Bailey Fahnestock, Alison Lantry, Lainie Hathway and Maddie Bauer.

Winter Individual Girls' Basketball: Marley Yerdon, Riley Dowlearn, Logan Strong, Sadie Lurcock and Cati-Ann Blodgett.

Individual Cheerleading: Lindsey Goodnough, Dallas Blair, Rosie Walter and Madison Benedict. **Individual Boys' Basketball:** Jakob Kuehl and John McGrew. **Individual Swimming:** Abbey Fitzpatrick, Kennedy Sullivan, Cassidy Carnes, Jesse Cornell and Chase Pappa.

Battle of the Books Teachers vs. Students Edition

Battle of the Books is a voluntary reading incentive where teams of up to three students read books from a list of ten selected specifically for the battle each year, and then answer 16 questions about those books that begin, "In which book..." For fun, the teams follow up the official Battle of the Books with a teachers vs. student edition. This year all of the levels were won by the teacher teams.



Third and fourth grade teams.



Fifth grade teams.



Middle school teams.

Section III Champions!



Pictured in front, left to right are: Jodi Whitney, assistant coach; VanOrnum; Alexis Miley, Madison Benedict, Dallas Blair, Abigail Widrig, Jessica Leppien and Lindsey Goodnough. In back are: Allyssa Smith, Madison Yerdon and Rosie Walter.

The Sandy Creek Varsity Competitive Cheer Team took the title of Section III Class C Champion last weekend, for the 14th time under head coach Tanya VanOrnum.

"After battling snow days, cancelled practices and two missed competitions due to the weather," said VanOrnum, "the Sandy Creek Comets were on 'cloud 9' (for the nine team members) to win the Sectional Championship for Class C and advance to States."

**Sandy Creek Central
School District**
P.O. Box 248
124 Salisbury St.
Sandy Creek, NY 13145

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Zip Code 13145

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District Office: Ext. 1510
Business Office: Ext. 1510
Elementary: Ext. 1110
Middle School/High School: Ext. 1910
Nurses' Offices:
Elementary - Ext. 1503; HS - Ext. 1505
Transportation: Ext. 3330

Postal Patron



Sandy Creek Central School District

Sandy Creek Central School District 2016-17 Board of Education

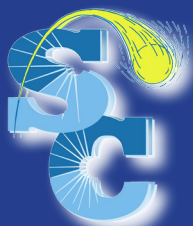
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District Clerk:**
Shelley H. Fitzpatrick

Principals:
Elementary:
Bonnie Finnerty
Middle School:
Carolyn Shirley
High School (Interim):
Louis Chistolini



Middle School Students Honored for Perfect Attendance for 2nd Marking Period

Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley recognized students who had recorded perfect attendance during the second marking period of the school year. Pictured at right: 6th grade perfect attendance: Travis Montone, Dustin Mackey, Hunter Redden, Natalie LaCelle, Gracie Griffiths, Ryan Barney, Lily Liszewski, Nicholas Huckabone, Hayden Haines, Kierra Davis, Hailey Dobbs, Ty Lallier, Tate Lallier, Samantha Lamay, and Nikolai Rosenbaum.



Left: 7th grade perfect attendance: Madison Benedict, Jessica Graham, Rachel Griffiths, Wyatt Hilton, Emma Halsey, Abigail Lantry, Dorothy Searles, Hailey McNitt, Claire Dreilbelbis, Alayna Blount, Nathan Alford, Carl Petrie Jr., Hailey McGrew, Duron Trumble, Trayton Mullin, Evan Allen and Justin Thayer.

Right: 8th grade perfect attendance: Emily Yousey, Kerigan Trudell, Elsa Graf, Cecelia-Jay Barney, Evelyn Bice, Tionna Dearing, Lauren Wilber, Deanna Hathway, Sarah Balcom, Cati-ann Blodgett, Andrea Jennings, Michaela Kastler, Samantha Ranieri, Thomas Reff and Brooke Rogers.

