



HARPURVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HORNETS NEWS

February 2025

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Harpursville School District Community,

I hope this message finds you well as we move into the second half of the 2024-2025 school year. Time has truly flown by. With spring just around the corner, there's a renewed sense of optimism and energy.

Our winter sports teams have demonstrated exceptional dedication and skill. It has been a pleasure to watch their hard work and competitive spirit. I want to extend heartfelt congratulations to the following student-athletes:

- **Volleyball All-Stars:** Honorable Mention - Elizabeth Ives, All-Star - Abby Baburchak
- **Football All-Stars:** Davin Warren, Jayden DeLeon, Caleb Miller
- **Cross Country:** Girls were Class C Champions, and Boys placed 4th in Section IV
- **Field Hockey All-Stars:** NYS All-State - Lilly Bagg, Section IV 1st Team - Lilly Bagg, Section IV 2nd Team - Jessalyn Powell and Adriana Hartman

Special congratulations to Lilly Bagg on her selection to the All-State Field Hockey Team—what a remarkable achievement!

We also congratulate Harpursville teacher Mrs. Bowen who was selected as WICZ's Teacher of the Week! Mrs. Bowen was nominated for her dedication and unwavering support for her students.

We are excited to welcome Officer Matt Cower as our new School Resource Officer. A Harpursville graduate with extensive law enforcement experience, Officer Cower is eager to build relationships with our students and families. Please extend a warm welcome to him on campus and take the opportunity to get to know him.

Congratulations to Mr. Salisbury and the Robo Hornet Robotics Team 2, led by captain Liem Donahue and featuring Alex Afify, Jacob Rueffer, and Glenn Miller. They competed in the Bear Robotics Tournament at Chittenango High, which featured 44 teams, and emerged undefeated, finishing in first place in the championship round. This victory earned them an automatic bid to the Northern New York VEX Championships. We wish them continued success and look forward to seeing how the rest of the season unfolds.

During our January Board of Education meeting, the administrative team presented mid-year academic, discipline, attendance, and enrollment data. I am pleased to report positive trends in each school. Highlights include:

W.A.O.:

- A 93% attendance rate, the highest since 2018.
- A 20% increase in students meeting their ELA benchmarks since the beginning of the year.

- A 36% reduction in student behavioral infractions compared to the 2023-2024 school year.

Jr./Sr. High:

- An 11% reduction in chronic absenteeism compared to the past two school years.
- A 57% reduction in first marking period failures compared to the 2022-2023 school year.
- A 51% reduction in student behavioral infractions compared to the 2022-2024 school years.



These significant improvements are the result of the collective efforts of everyone in the district. While there is more work to be done, we are on the right track, and I am proud of the dedication shown by all. Together, we are working to provide the best possible experience for our students.

For those interested in the full administrative team's presentation, it can be found on the district website under the Board of Education link in the BoardDocs section for the January 2025 meeting.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the many great programs and talented students at Harpursville. None of this would be possible without the support of our school and community. As we begin the budget development process for the upcoming year, I encourage all district residents to participate. Your input is invaluable as we work to create a fiscally responsible budget that supports our educational goals and enhances our programs. Please attend our budget development meetings in the coming months, share your thoughts, and stay informed about the decisions shaping our district's future.

Best wishes for a fantastic February! Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the appropriate person within the school district. Your continued support is truly appreciated. Thank you for all you do to make our schools thrive!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heath Georgia'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping 'H' and 'G'.

Heath Georgia,
Superintendent

District Communication

District Communication Guidelines

Frequently, parents and other community members request help in knowing the best way to communicate with the school. The chart below will serve as a helpful resource. By contacting the following people in the prescribed order, you can be assured that your questions will be answered.

For questions about	First contact	Second contact	Third contact	Fourth contact	Fifth contact
Academics	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent
Athletics	Coach	Athletic Director	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent
Behavior	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Principal	Superintendent	
BOE Policies	District Clerk	Superintendent	Board of Education		
Budget	Business Admin	Superintendent			
Building Use	Admin Assistant	Principal	Superintendent		
Cafeteria	Director of Food Services	Business Admin	Superintendent		
Classroom Procedures	Teacher	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent	
Bus Behavior	Bus Driver	Head Bus Driver	Principal	Superintendent	
Co-Curricular	Advisor	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent	
Facilities	Director of Facilities	Business Admin	Superintendent		
Health Office	Nurse	Principal	Superintendent		
Scheduling	Guidance Office	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent	
Special Education	Teacher	CSE/CPSE Chairperson	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent
Transportation	Head Bus Driver	Business Admin	Superintendent		

District Directory

District Office (607) 693-8112

Board of Education

Heath Georgia, Superintendent

Tabaitha Rhodes, Exec. Asst./District Clerk

Assistant Superintendent..... (607) 693-5713

Sarah Miller, Asst. Supt. of Instruction,

Curriculum & Accountability

Melanie Allen, Admin. Assistant

Business Office (607) 693-8120

Joseph McLaughlin, Business Official

Amanda Loihle, Personnel Clerk (607) 693-8124

Special Education (607) 693-8104

Joshua Quick, CSE/CPSE Chairperson

Jennifer DeCamp, Admin. Assistant

Jr/Sr High School (607) 693-8105

Kristine Conrow, Principal

Amy Walker, Admin. Assistant

Guidance Office (607) 693-5734

Karen Slesinsky, Jr/Sr HS Counselor

Megan Harrington, Jr/Sr HS Counselor

Allena Rowe, Admin. Assistant

Attendance/Registration (607) 693-8108

Jill Andrews, Student Records

W.A. Olmsted Elementary (607) 693-8115

Kevin Walsh, Principal

Jessica Moore-Hovancik, Admin. Assistant

Phylcia Dunham-Fleming, Elementary

Guidance Counselor

Health Offices

Rebecca Adolf, RN, Jr/Sr High Nurse (607) 693-8118

Julia Peets, RN, WAO Elem. Nurse..... (607) 693-8119

Athletics (607) 693-8133

Joshua Quick, Athletic Director

Food Services (607) 693-8127

Norene Tasber, Director of Food Services

Transportation (607) 693-8100

Ken Starr, Supervisor of Transportation

Facilities (607) 765-4145

Ed Livermore, Director of Facilities

Family & Children's (607) 693-8123

Fabienne Lescouflair, Clinician

Character Strong Award Winners

We recently honored our December Character Strong award winners. The focus for December was creativity, and students were nominated for demonstrating creativity in their own unique ways. Whether they were creating something new, trying something different, or developing a new idea in their activities, their teachers recognized the creativity shining through.

Students were celebrated for their creativity in areas such as artwork, music, dance, playtime, and their own new ideas.

Congratulations to our December Character Strong award winners!

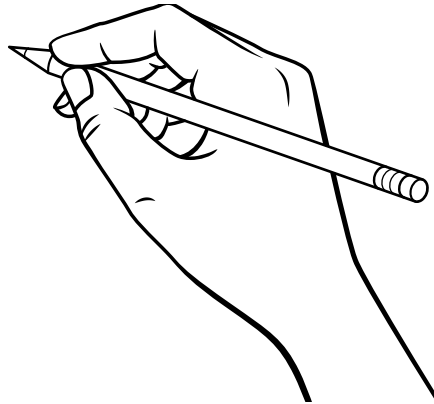


HARPURSVILLE

W.A. Olmsted Elementary

W.A.O. Celebrates Winter

Students at W.A.O. Elementary have embraced the snowy winter with the Student Council's "Frosty the Snowman" bulletin board contest! Each grade used their creativity to design their snowman-themed bulletin boards. Our Sixth-grade students really brought everyone's favorite snowman to life with their incredible retelling of Frosty's story.



Ag in the Classroom

Elementary students recently explored vegetables like okra and beets during a Ag in the Classroom activity. They discovered that beets are rich in potassium, phosphorus, and nitrogen. Afterwards, the students used vegetable cuttings as stamps to create Valentine's Day cards for their friends. Each card featured the message, "Nothing BEETS a friend like you!"









News In The Schools

Our first-grade students were influenced by the book "The Wish Tree" to depict some beautiful winter tree scenes for their bulletin board.



Fifth-grade students used the art technique known as pointillism to create their snowmen, inspired by the book "The Giving Snowman."





W.A.O. Elementary Family Game Night

Friday, February 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
W.A.O. Gyms & Cafe

Join us for a fun night of games, basket raffles and pizza!
Students must be accompanied by an adult

February 2025 Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Alternate Daily Choices: Ham & Cheese Sandwich OR Turkey & Cheese Sandwich OR Yogurt w/Cheese Stick & homemade Granola OR PB&J w/Cheese Stick & Cheez-its WAO Salad Option on Wednesdays MS/HS Daily WAO Offers Chips for sale on Wednesdays @ \$.75 & Ice Cream on Fridays @ \$1.25 there is no charging, send money or check with child or use the QR code on the website under food services for credit cards.				
3 <i>Mini Pancakes/Juice</i> WAO <i>Mini Cinni/Juice</i> HS Chicken Patty on a roll Sweet Potato Fries Mixed Vegetables Juice NY Apple	4 <i>Breakfast Bread Fruit</i> Walking Taco w/ toppings (lettuce, tomato, black beans) Corn Juice/Chilled Fruit	5 <i>Breakfast Pizza Juice</i> Boneless Wings Corn Poppers Veggies Cup NY Maple Baby Carrots Juice Orange (S. W. Chicken Salad)	6 <i>Snack'n Waffle Fruit</i> Indoor Picnic NY Hot Dog on a roll NY Chips NY Corn NY Juice Pudding Dirt Cup NY Apple	7 <i>Hornet Muffin Juice</i> Homemade Pizza Garden Salad w/ chickpeas Juice NY Superbowl Black Bean Brownie Assorted Fruit
10 <i>Snack'n Waffle Juice</i> WAO <i>Fruadel Juice</i> HS Popcorn Chicken w/ dinner roll Mashed Potatoes Glazed Carrots Juice NY Apple	11 <i>Cinnamon Roll Fruit</i> Chicken Mac & Cheese Garlic Breadstick Broccoli Juice Chilled Fruit	12 <i>Cereal Juice</i> WAO <i>Breakfast Pizza Juice</i> HS French Toast Sticks/ Sausage Potato Tots/Veggie Cup/Juice Orange (Popcorn Chicken Salad)	13 Conference Day	14
17 	18 <i>Breakfast Bread Fruit</i> Cheeseburger on a roll w/lettuce & tomato Sweet Potato Fries Green Beans Juice NY Apple	19 Breakfast Pizza/Juice Lupo's Chicken Spiedie Sub Fries/Veggie Cup Juice/Banana (Chicken Spiedie Salad)	20 <i>Snack'n Waffle Fruit</i> NY Meatball Sub Fries Mixed Vegetables Juice NY Apple	21 <i>Breakfast Breaks</i> WAO <i>Hornet Muffin Juice</i> HS Homemade Pizza Garden Salad w/ chickpeas Juice Assorted Fruit
24 <i>Mini Pancakes Juice</i> Chicken Nuggets w/ dinner roll Mashed Potatoes Glazed Carrots Juice NY Apple	25 <i>Cinnamon Roll/Fruit</i> <i>NY Yogurt Parfait</i> WAO <i>(String Cheese & NY Granola)</i> Buffalo Chicken Wing Dip MS/HS Celery & Carrots Juice NY Apple	26 <i>Cereal Juice</i> WAO <i>Breakfast Pizza Juice</i> HS Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Veggie Cup Juice Banana (Chef Salad)	27 <i>French Toast Sticks Fruit</i> Pasta w/NY Meat sauce Garlic Breadstick NY Parmesan Green Beans Juice NY Apple	28 <i>Hornet Muffin Juice</i> Nardone Pizza Wedges Garden Salad w/ chickpeas Juice Assorted Fruit

Jr/Sr High School

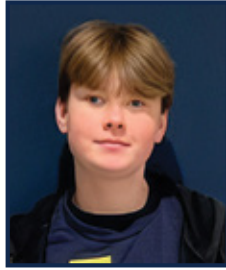
College Acceptances

Congratulations to the following seniors on their recent college acceptances! Your dedication and effort have truly paid off!



Abby Afify

Childhood Education program at SUNY Buffalo.



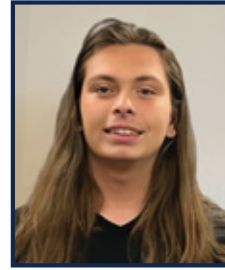
Jasper Heier

SUNY Delhi's Residential Construction program.



Elizabeth Ives

Art/Visual Communications programs at SUNY Broome, SUNY Cortland, and SUNY Oneonta.



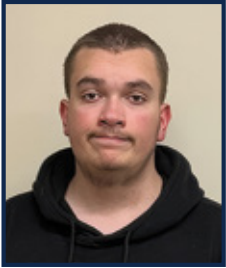
Jonathan Prince

Fashion Merchandising program at Buffalo State, Business Administration program at Hartwick College, and Business Management program at Utica University.



Madalyn Willumson

SUNY Broome Early Childhood/Childhood Education Studies program.



Nathan Riewerts

SUNY Broome's Mechanical Engineering program.

Outstanding!



Robo Hornets Eye Northern New York Championship After Strong Start

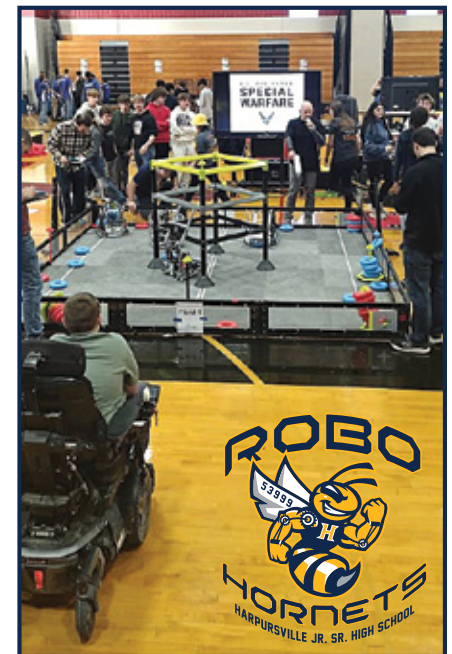
The Robo Hornets launched their season on Dec. 14 at the Bear Robotics Tournament at Chittenango High School, competing in the "High Stakes" challenge. Teams built robots to pick up plastic donuts, place them on stakes, and climb a four-foot tower. The winning alliance earned a spot in the Northern New York VEX Robotics Championship.

Two Robo Hornets teams competed alongside 44 others from central and eastern New York, focusing on performance, strategy, and adapting to new rules.

Team Highlights:

- The first team, led by Nathan Rewrits with Kalen Kuas, achieved a 4-3 record, ranked 15th, and advanced to the round of 16. They placed 17th in the skills challenge, keeping state championship hopes alive.
- The second team, led by captain Liem Donahue and featuring Alex Afify, Jacob Rueffer, and Glenn Miller, finished qualification rounds undefeated (7-0), ranked second, and won the finals 29-25, securing an automatic championship bid. They also won the skills competition with a dramatic final score of 56 to 53.

With this strong start, the Robo Hornets are well-positioned for success at the Northern New York VEX Robotics Championship.



Jr/Sr High School

Connecting to Local History in a Sweet Way

Mrs. Rusnak's students recently delved into the history of John Lamphere, the first man to settle in Harpursville in 1785 when the area was nothing more than dense forest. The class explored Lamphere's journey from Connecticut through upstate New York, ultimately arriving in the wilderness that would become present-day Harpursville. They learned about the steps he took to build a home in such a challenging environment. To bring history to life, the students participated in a creative activity, constructing replicas of his cabin using graham crackers, frosting, pretzels, and other treats. They even added candy pumpkins to represent his garden, making the lesson both educational and fun.



Onaquaga Historical Society
Historic Onaquaga Region of Colesville and Windsor, NY

Welcome to the District

The Harpursville Central School District is thrilled to welcome Officer Matt Cower as its newest school resource officer.

Officer Cower, who has always had a desire to protect others—especially those in need and the most vulnerable—was inspired to become a school resource officer to give back to the community where he was born and raised. Having attended the same schools from kindergarten through high school, he hopes to make a difference in the lives of the community's children and young adults, just as many teachers and staff did for him during his childhood.

He joins the district following an extensive, nearly 23-year career in law enforcement. His experience includes working with the Broome County Sheriff's Office, where he served as a detective sergeant assigned to the Broome County Special Investigations Unit Task Force. Prior to that, he was the training director for the Broome County Law Enforcement Academy, providing state-mandated training for 40 law enforcement agencies in seven counties. His background also includes serving as the team commander for the Broome-Endicott SWAT Team, working as a certified New York State police instructor, a New York State firearms instructor, and a trainer for active violence and critical incident emergency response.

When asked what he looks forward to most in his new role as an SRO, Officer Cower said, "I look forward to meeting the staff, students and parents. I would like to foster an open relationship between law enforcement

and the community. I hope to show children that police officers are approachable, can be your friend, and truly want to help."

Officer Cower joins the district following the departure of Officer April

Demer, to whom we express our gratitude for her dedication and service to the district.





Sweetheart Dance

The Class of 2025 would like to invite grades PK-12 to join us for a fun filled evening on:

Saturday, February 1, 2025
6:00 – 8:00 PM @ Harpursville Jr/Sr High Gym

Bring your Mother, Father, Grandparent(s), family members to a Sweetheart Dance!

Dancing, Activities, and Refreshments Included in ticket price.
\$20.00/Family in Advance \$25.00/Family on the Day of Event
Photos available for purchase(6-7 PM)
Photo proceeds benefits Harpursville Yearbook Club



Tickets Available for Sale
At the following Locations:
88 BC
Nineveh Country Store
Harpursville Farm & Garden
Crossroads Corner Store n Deli
W.A. Olmsted Elementary & JR/SR High School Main offices



News In The Schools

Ski Club

The Harpursville Ski Club kicked off the season with its first trip to the slopes! Club members in grades 5-12 enjoyed time on both skis and snowboards, with everyone embracing the winter adventure and having an incredible time. Club advisor Mrs. Rusnak shared snowy pictures from the day, and the club is looking forward to more fun-filled trips as the season unfolds.



GREEK PEAK
MOUNTAIN RESORT



Board of Education

Michelle Noyes, Board President
Kacie Huston, Vice President
Thomas Fargo
Nicole Robertson
Bernard Scott
Nicole Weist

Postal Patron

ECRWSS

Superintendent

Heath Georgia

Announcements

Thank You!

Thank you for your Board of Education service, Mr. Mike Rhodes!

At their school board meeting on Jan. 8, 2025, the Board accepted Mike's resignation effective Dec. 31, 2024, since he was to take office Jan. 1 as the new Colesville Highway Superintendent. As School Board President Michelle Noyes said at their meeting, "We will miss having Mike at the table, we thank him, congratulate him and appreciate that he will still be serving our community." Thus, Mike was just months shy of completing his tenth year of school board service; his seat will be up for election on May 20.

Stay tuned for more budget and election information as the details become available.

From the Health Office

It's that time of year again- deciding whether to send a child to school when they're not feeling their best or to keep them at home. While we value having students in school to learn, it's important for them to stay home if they're unwell and potentially contagious.

When to keep your child home:

- Fever greater than 100° (with or without medicine).
- Persistent cough.
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
- Sore throat that is severe, accompanied by fever and/or simply feeling ill.
- Visible sores, bumps or rash that is accompanied by other symptoms of illness.
- Red, runny eyes, severe headache, severe ear pain or drainage, discolored nasal discharge, especially if accompanied by fever. These symptoms should be evaluated by your healthcare provider.

When your child can return:

- Fever free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medicines).
- No vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.
- Symptom improvement for viral illnesses.

If you have questions regarding your child's health, please contact your primary health provider.