HARPURSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# NEWS

March 2024



## Letter from the superintendent

Dear Members of the Harpursville School Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and spirits. I am pleased to begin by extending a warm welcome to Mr. Kevin Walsh, our newly appointed W.A. Olmsted Elementary Principal. Mr. Walsh joins us from Gilbertsville Mount Upton, where he has served as assistant principal since 2021. He emerged as the top candidate chosen by our interview committee and arrives with excellent recommendations. We are eagerly anticipating Mr. Walsh's leadership and contributions to our school community.

As we transition from winter into the spring season, I am hopeful that the mild weather will continue, bringing favorable conditions for our upcoming spring sports. It has been a joy to witness our student athletes in action, and as we distribute this newsletter, our students are gearing up for pre-season spring sports practices. With the end of the school year rapidly approaching, we are in the process of planning various year-end activities to celebrate our students' achievements throughout the academic year.

Congratulations are in order for several students who have been accepted to participate in the All-County Winterfest for band and chorus. I commend the dedication and talent of Aurora Connett, Angelina Quaglia, Hayleigh Moorehead, Oshaona Neer, Caleb Robertson, Viviana Huston, Miley VanBarriger, Harmony Mosher, Megan Cole, and Brendan Pike for their outstanding accomplishments. Their commitment to excellence reflects positively on our school community, and I extend my gratitude to their teachers and parents for their support. In addition to our All-County participants, a big congratulations to Brendan Pike for being accepted into the All-State Band. This honor means that Brendan is considered to be among the top high school musicians in the state.

Our RoboHornets VEX robotics teams continue to excel, showcasing their skills and teamwork. We are proud of their achievements this year and extend our appreciation to Mr. Salisbury for his guidance. These students are not only mastering technological concepts but also developing invaluable life skills in collaboration and sportsmanship.

In early March, we hosted our inaugural W.A.Olmsted

Attendance Matters-Family Game Night, which was a tremendous success. The event brought together hundreds of students and their families, filling both gyms and the cafeteria. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the volunteers, school employees, and community members who contributed to this event's success, particularly Jill Andrews and Melanie Allen, for their dedication and organization.



Heath Georgia, Superintendent

On a more serious note, we have received the initial 2024–2025 budget proposal from the governor, which includes cuts that may adversely affect our district and others across the state. These proposed cuts disproportionately impact rural districts and those with higher levels of economically disadvantaged families. We are closely monitoring the situation and are advocating for changes at the state level to minimize any negative impact on our district.

Given the current budget proposal, developing this year's budget will require cooperation and communication from all stakeholders. Despite the challenges, we remain committed to providing an instructional program that meets the needs of all students while ensuring fiscal responsibility. We value community input and our budget calendar includes opportunities for feedback and participation. Rest assured, we will continue to prioritize the delivery of outstanding educational experiences for our students.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we navigate these challenges together.

Thank you,

Heath Georgia

Superintendent of Schools





#### W.A. Olmsted Welcomes New Principal

Welcome, Kevin Walsh, new principal of W.A. Olmsted Elementary School!

As the newly appointed principal, Walsh brings over a decade of diverse educational leadership experience across various settings, both domestically and internationally.

Walsh's administrative tenure commenced as an assistant principal at Gilbertsville – Mount Upton Central School, where he honed skills in overseeing administrative responsibilities across grades PK-12. He actively collaborated with staff, students, and families, led the MTSS program, emphasized data-driven decision-making, and spearheaded various initiatives such as the summer enrichment and local spelling bees, all while ensuring a student-centered approach. Before that, Mr. Walsh also served in assisting building and district student-centered initiatives for the Arlington Central School District.

Internationally, Mr. Walsh served as Division Head at The Barstow School - Ningbo Campus in China, where he led academic initiatives for a team of diverse educators, developed American curricula for Chinese students, and

facilitated student admissions to prestigious universities worldwide. Before taking administrative roles, Walsh taught social studies, including history, geography, government, and economics, for grades 7 – 12. Beyond academics, his leadership extended to community engagement and program management, including at the Jewish Community Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.



Kevin Walsh, W.A.O. principal

At W.A. Olmsted Elementary School, Walsh is committed to fostering a nurturing environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Together with dedicated faculty, staff, and families, we will continue to uphold the school's legacy of excellence and innovation in education.

Welcome Mr. Walsh, we are excited to have you join the Harpursville community!

#### **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	1 <sup>st</sup> contact	2 <sup>nd</sup> contact	3 <sup>rd</sup> contact	4 <sup>th</sup> contact	5 <sup>th</sup> contact
Academics	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent
Athletics	Coach	Athletic Director	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent
Behavior	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Principal	Superintendent	
<b>BOE Policies</b>	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		



## Eighth graders explore future careers at SUNY Broome

The eighth grade class participated in a career exploration field trip at SUNY Broome at the beginning of February. The students were able to visit many different local employers and educators and explore what types of jobs and training are available in our area.

Within these small group settings, students learned about health-care fields, the building trades, hospitality, the new lineman school, STEM fields, business opportunities and IT fields. The best part was getting to see one of Harpursville's seniors who is in the

culinary CTE program at BOCES be a presenter for the hotel and restaurant management room.

Students had a great time and enjoyed learning about potential careers for their future.







#### **College Acceptances**

Congratulations to the following seniors on their college acceptances

**Emily Higgins** on her acceptance to SUNY Oneonta into the Adolescence Education Family and Consumer Sciences Program!

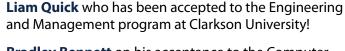
**Melissa Cantone** for her acceptances to the Vet Tech programs at the following colleges:

Alfred State College

**SUNY Canton** 

**SUNY Cobleskill** 

SUNY Delhi



**Bradley Bennett** on his acceptance to the Computer Security and Forensics program at SUNY Broome!

**Aubree Eberly-Robinson** on her recent acceptance to the Therapeutic Recreation program at SUNY Cortland!

**Sam Wright** on her recent acceptance to the Business Information Management program at SUNY Broome!



















## School Board Seats Up For Election In May

Two seats on the Harpursville Central School District Board of Education will be up for the election on May 21, 2024:

- A five-year term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2029, for the seat currently held by Russell Weist
- A five-year term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2029, for the seat currently held by Nicole Robertson

# Thinking about becoming a school board member?

A free workshop will be held on April 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. compliments of the Broome-Tioga School Boards Association. The location is Broome-Tioga BOCES, 435 Glenwood Ave, Binghamton in the Allen D. Buyck Instructional Support Center - Conference Room A. This workshop includes a panel of current school board members, a question-and-answer session and take-home materials. Topics include challenges in dealing with special interest groups, expectations of colleagues and administrators, legal responsibilities, and election procedures. Call 607-693-8112 to reserve your seat. \*Additionally, New York State School Boards Association provides even more free information online which can be found at NYSSBA.org.

# Board of Education meeting schedule for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year

- March 6
- April 22
- May 8 Board meeting + Budget hearing
- May 21 vote 1:30-8 P.M. elementary new gym
- June 12

All meetings are held at 6 P.M. in Jr. Sr. High room 101 unless otherwise noted.

Meeting dates are subject to change.

#### **District Directory**

District Office(607) 693-8112  Board of Education  Heath Georgia, Superintendent  Tabaitha Rhodes, Exec. Asst./District Clerk
Assistant Superintendent
Business Office(607) 693-8120  Joseph McLaughlin, Business Official  Amanda Loihle, Personnel Clerk(607) 693-8124
Special Education
Jr/Sr High School(607) 693-8105 Kristine Conrow, Principal Amy Walker, Admin. Assistant
Guidance Office
Attendance/Registration(607) 693-8108 Jill Andrews, Student Records
W.A. Olmsted Elementary(607) 693-8115 Kevin Walsh, Principal Jessica Moore-Hovancik, Admin. Assistant
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
Social workers:           Julianna Cox
Food Services(607) 693-8127 Norene Tasber, Director of Food Services
<b>Transportation(607) 693-8100</b> Dennis Symons, Head Bus Driver
<b>Facilities(607) 765-4145</b> Ed Livermore
Family & Children's(607) 693-8123 Fabienne Lescouflair, Clinician

## HARPURSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HIRING WE ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR

- School Psychologist
- School Counselor (WAO Elementary)
- Substitute Teachers

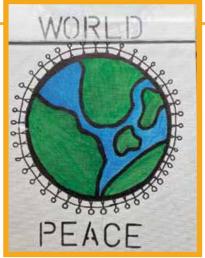




## **Art as Peaceful Protest Projects**

Students in Brenda Keeler's art class created art projects in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. They talked about his lifetime commitment to social justice and legacy of peaceful protest. The high school artists were then challenged to develop a work that could serve as a starting dialogue for an issue of importance to them. As a class, they looked at the influence of art as a tool for raising awareness and action about pressing concerns. The topics that were chosen included:

environmental degradation, especially for turtles and ocean life, war and conflict, and the need for sharing messages of positivity for personal wellness. They were able to choose the materials and final form for their investigations. The culmination of the project included writing an artist statement that further supported their voice about the self-chosen topic. Students did an excellent job with their projects!









### MARY POPPINS JR. 'FLIES' into Harpursville Central School District



Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins JR. is playing at the Jr./ Sr. High Auditorium from Friday, May 3 through Sunday, May 5. The "practically perfect" musical is based on the classic P.L. Travers stories and the Walt Disney film. This theater opportunity is open to students willing and ready to audition from grades fourth through 12.

Mary Poppins Jr. includes favorite Sherman brothers' songs such as "A Spoonful of Sugar," "Feed the Birds," and "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," as well as wonderful new songs by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. With colorful characters and an irresistible score, our show is sure to be a crowd-pleaser for all ages.

Students should speak with Nicole Cole or Paul Peterson for more information.

Community members and family, who are interested in being a patron of the arts, can purchase an ad for the program. Stayed tuned for more exciting information.

Mark your calendar- May 3 and 4 at 7p.m., and May 5 at 3p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase for \$8 (adults), \$5 (students and seniors), and children under 5 will be free.

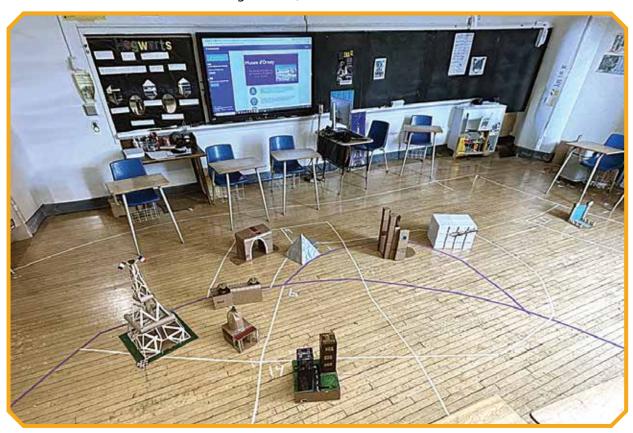
Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all materials are provided by Music Theatre International.

Please check our school website for the entire list of local high school musicals.



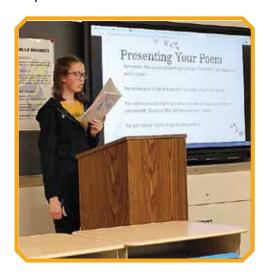
#### French students recreate Parisian monuments

French 1 students did a research project on famous Parisian monuments during the month of January. Each group was responsible for finding answers to certain questions, creating an infographic that highlighted these answers and building a 3D representation of their monument. After these monuments were completed, the classes took a tour around Paris (found on the floor of Madame Giblin's Room 308 in the high school) and learned about all the other students' monuments.



## **Partaking in Poetry**

Students in Michael Campi's 10th grade English class created and shared their own poems to conclude their poetry unit. Students did a great job and wrote many wonderful poems.



## Valentine's Day Art

Seventh grade students in Brenda Keeler's art class created a project together for Valentine's Day. Each artist put together at least one paper cube to contribute to this overall heart design. They started with paper strips and then folded and attached the pieces together to develop a sculptural open cube form. There were also secondary elements included, like "love notes" and hearts, to further personalize the individual cubes. What a LOVE-ly project.





## A night of family fun

On Friday, Feb. 2, WAO held their first ever family game night for attendance awareness month! It was so nice to bring together families, staff, students of all ages and community organizations for such a fun occasion that was free to all! There were a wide variety of games and activities for all ages. Students and parents won tickets as they played games that they could enter in the basket raffle. Local groups, classes, and teachers donated 34 baskets of varying themes for the kids to win. A good time was had by all, complete with pizza, popcorn and drinks provided. Every student was able to go home with a hornet water bottle as well. Thank you to the administration for this great night of fun!































































## Dancing the night away

On Friday, Feb. 9, eighth grade students in Melissa Fye's civic participation class hosted two snowball dances, one for middle school students and one for high school students. Money from ticket sales and concession sales all went to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, where in total, \$609 was raised.

Thank you to everyone who made this dance possible including the eighth grade students who planned the dance, those who gave concession donations, and to the staff who chaperoned.



## **Senior performs in All-State Band**

Brendan Pike, a Harpursville high school senior this year, competed in the Area All-State band recently. Pike plays in the percussion section of the high school band and has a strong passion for music.



Area All-State is a music festival that is held for top high school musicians each year. The primary goal of Area All-State is to further the musical education and development of students all over New York. The All-State Band is the big league for high school musicians. It's an incredible opportunity to meet talented students from around the state, work with quest conductors, and perform challenging music.

This band is joined by auditions only, and it is a very competitive process. The All-State Band performed multiple pieces under

the direction of Dr. Michael Struzik. The performance was held at the Ford Concert Music Hall at the Whalen

School of Music in Ithaca on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Pike served as one of the lead multi-instrumental percussionists in the section and performed beautifully with the rest of the extremely talented ensemble.

Congratulations to Brendan on this terrific achievement and for representing the music program at Harpursville!







## Making Rainbows in Real World Science

Eighth grade students in Deidra Bigelow's Real World Science class recently investigated density. Students were able to create different densities of water by utilizing varying amounts of salt. They then used food coloring to be able to see the different densities as they layered in the test tube. Students needed a lot of patience and stellar lab techniques to achieve the rainbow, all of which did a great job.









## THE HIVE CAFE HAS BEEN BUZZING WITH BUSINESS

Our Hive Café has been a very successful way of bringing students together as well as their bellies fed during collaboration time twice a week. This fundraiser is a snack cart filled with affordable goodies to help the junior class raise money toward this year's prom. Junior class members take turns working the Cafe while advisors Amanda Bowen and Megan Harrington supervise.









## Honor Roll Second Quarter 01/26/2024

#### Grade 7

Kassandra Kasmarcik Lexie Kolb

#### **Grade 8**

Natalie Dibble Cole Hine Todd Ingraham Zoe Naporano

#### **Grade 9**

lan Colsten Jayden Lane Lilyanna Snowball Savanna Zylko

#### **Grade 10**

Abbygayl Baburchak

Gracie Bagg Eric Biriki Kaylee Biriki Cassidy Bolster Kate Crum Emily Gillette Ella Humphrey Abraham Pittsley Madison Stevens

#### Grade 11

Maxamus Allen Lily Barriger Gaidyn Dahlgren Wyatt Murphy Raelynn Wood

#### Grade 12

Bradley Bennett Trinity Brewster Ryan Kane Hannah Livermore Casey Lusk Kandyce Sophie Lillian Taylor





## Principal's List Second Quarter 1/26/2024

#### **Grade 7**

Kelsey Brewster Isabella Brotzman Megan Cole Kaitlyn Congdon Liam Hawkins Brayden Holden Colby Johnson Julianna Krenner Kyan Kulas Tamryn Roys Emma Snow Gabriel Truman Jordan Truman Melody VanGorder Adaline Warren

#### **Grade 8**

Easton Bagg Braedyn Barton Iyanna Brown DellaRae Dayton Maxim DiRosa Corrine Hine Reina Kark Kalen Kulas Hiliana Mendoza Harmony Mosher Kaelynn Oakley Peyton Paff Gabrielle Piester Hunter Prentice Isabella Prince Leah Sayman Hannah Walker

#### **Grade 9**

Alexander Afify Eva DiRosa Liem Donahue

#### Grade 10

Jayden Deleon
Elijah Fellows
Adriana Hartman
Briana Hopkins
Emily Kane
Ailish Munson
Gabrielle Pawela
Jessalyn Powell
Aiden Quick
Charlotte Quick
Xander Quick
Nevaeh Robinson
Peter Scalesci
Amber Tyler
Leigha Wolbert

#### Grade 11

Abigail Afify Lloyd Byers Jasper Heier Elizabeth Ives Jonathan Prince Ephram Rowe

#### Grade 12

Gracie Bomboy Cecilia Boyer Aliyah Campbell Melissa Cantone-Gnyp Aubree Eberly-Robinson Emily Higgins Logan Hunter James Tavish Miner Brendan Pike Liam Quick Brayden Sakowsky Matthew Sanchez Ashley VanHouten Jacob Wolbert





March 2023 menu							
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
All Students Eat FREE Breakfast & Lunch M,W,F Turkey & Cheese Sandwich T&TH Ham & Cheese Sandwich Wed: Salad of the Week WAO only Daily: PB&J w/cheese stick & crackers NY Yogurt w/cheese stick & NY granola			<del>\$</del>	Breakfast Break WAO Hornet Muffin HS Wild Mike's Pizza Garden Salad w/chickpeas Assorted Fresh Fruit			
Mini Bagels WAO Chicken Croissant HS Popcorn Chicken w/roll Mashed Potatoes Glazed Carrots NY Apple	Cinnamon Roll Fruit  NY Chicken Mac & Cheese Garlic Breadstick Broccoli NY Apple Slices	Breakfast Pizza Juice French Toast Sticks Potato Tots Sausage Patty Veggie Cup w/hummus Orange (Popcorn Chicken Salad)	7 French Toast Sticks Fruit Wild Mike's Mozzarella Bites w/side of pasta Cucumbers w/dip NY Grape Juice Assorted Chilled Fruit	Breakfast Break WAO Hornet Muffin HS Stuffed Crust Pizza Garden Salad w/chickpeas Assorted Fresh Fruit			
Frudels Juice  Cheeseburger on a roll w/lettuce & tomato Sw. Potato Fries Green Beans NY Apple	Breakfast Bread Fruit  NY Taco's w/toppings Taco Seasoned Rice Corn Assorted Chilled Fruit	Mini Cinni WAO Breakfast Pizza HS  Lupo's Chicken Spiedies Rst. Potatoes St. Patrick's Day Jello Baby Carrots Banana (Chef Salad)	14	Happy St. Patrick's Day!			
Mini Pancakes Juice Chicken Nuggets w/roll Mashed Potatoes Glazed Carrots NY Apple	Cinnamon Roll Fruit  NY Meatball Sub French Fries Mixed Vegetables Assorted Chilled Fruit	Cereal & Muffin WAO Breakfast Pizza HS  Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Veggie Cup w/hummus Banana (S.W. Chicken Salad)	French Toast Sticks Fruit  Pasta w/NY Meatsauce Garlic Breadstick NY Green Beans NY Grape Juice NY Applesauce	Breakfast Breaks WAO Hornet Muffin HS Nardone's Pizza Garden Salad w/chickpeas Assorted Fresh Fruit			
Mini French Toast Juice Chicken Patty on a roll Sw. Potato Fries Mixed Vegetables NY Apple	Breakfast Bread Fruit  NY Taco Salad w/toppings Seasoned Rice/Corn Assorted Chilled Fruit	Breakfast Pizza Juice  Mini Corn Dogs w/side of Mac & Cheese Veggie Cup w/hummus Orange (Popcorn Chicken Salad)	Breakfast Break WAO Cereal & Muffin HS Cheese Pizza Wedge Garden Salad w/ chickpeas Assorted Fresh Fruit	***************************************			



#### 100 days smarter

Celebrating 100 days of school at WAO, Jamie Jo Dayton and Nicole Cole wanted to make the day a little more fun with a competition on Thursday, Feb. 15.

Each staff member got some hornets to "hide" around their room. In the morning, Cole announced the following:

There are 100 hornets for 100 days of school. We need your help in finding them! One hundred numbered hornets need to be collected from grades 3-6 and grades PreK-2. Can you help us? When you find your hornet, bring it down to the

music hallway bulletin board, and tape it to the matching number on the wall. We can't wait to see all the hornets brought back to the Hive.

By the end of the morning, each board had 99 hornets. Pre-K through second grade lost hornet #5, and grades 3-6 lost hornet #119.

It was a tie. Everyone had a blast finding the hornets and matching it with the correct number.









#### Winter All-County Festival

On Saturday, Jan. 20, nine Harpursville students and two music teachers went to Afton, N.Y. and participated in the Winter All-County Festival. Students spent the entire day practicing with their ensembles and then finished the day with a performance for everyone. Included were the elementary band (grades 5 and 6) and the Jr. Chorus (grades 7-9). Everyone did a fantastic job.



**Elementary band (grades 5 & 6) Pictured L-R:** Aurora Connett, Angelina Quaglia, Hayleigh Moorehead, Oshaona Neer, Caleb Robertson, Viviana Huston, and Miley VanBarriger





Jr. Chorus (grades 7-9)

Pictured L-R: Harmony Mosher and
Megan Cole



#### Creating winter stories in art class

Students in grades Pre-K - 6 created winter art projects in Jamie Jo Dayton's art class in collaboration with an authentic winter story. Bringing literature into art inspires students to make connections to build a better understanding of the world around them in a creative way. The goal as educators is to collaborate and bring learning full circle for the student. Stay tuned to the next newsletter for more curriculum connections from the social studies classroom to the art classroom.



















## Patie Bowens

Meet Katie! Katie is a social worker working in partnership with Harpursville through Binghamton University Community Schools (BUCS). She works with our MSW interns to help support students and their community (including families,

teachers, and more!). Together, the BUCS team at Harpursville will be working on a little bit of everything, like talking with students, hosting Quiet Lunch, organizing the clothing closet, hosting family events, getting resources to teachers, and much more!

Originally from Binghamton, NY, Katie has worked with schools in New York City, Washington, D.C., Connecticut, and across the Southern Tier. Katie got her Bachelor of Science in Development Sociology from Cornell University and her Master of Social Work from Hunter College in NYC. Before coming to Harpursville, Katie worked in Adventure-Based Learning at Greater Southern Tier BOCES, where she helped students climb trees, conquer challenges, and become leaders.

Katie loves working with students to help them develop their confidence, find solutions, and make each day a little brighter.

Outside of school, Katie enjoys spending time with her family, reading, singing, traveling, and doing theater! She has three cats (Izzy, Gandalf, and Vlad the Rad) and a rabbit named Milhouse. Katie is excited to join the team at Harpursville! Be sure to stop by Room 102 in the Jr./Sr. High School to say hello!





#### **Harpursville Central School District**

P.O. Box 147

Harpursville, NY 13787

**Board of Education** 

Michelle Noyes, Board President Kacie Huston, Vice President Thomas Fargo

Michael Rhodes
Nicole Robertson

Bernard Scott

**Russell Weist** 

Superintendent

Heath Georgia

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P.O. Box 1 Harpursville, NY 13787



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- Mail a check or cash to: PO Box 1 Harpursville, NY 13787
   Please make checks payable to: Colesville Dollars for Scholars.
- Donate online at https://secure.givelively.org/donate/colesville-dollars-for-scholars
- Donate through venmo via the QR code to the left

Thank you in advance for your donation and supporting our youth!