



HARPURSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HORNETS NEWS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2024

Letter From the Superintendent

Dear Harpursville School District Parents and Community Members,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you've enjoyed a wonderful summer! As we head into the second month of the school year, I am excited to reconnect with all of you. Reflecting on the progress we made as a community last year, I am incredibly proud of what we've achieved together. I'm confident that with your continued support, we will maintain this positive momentum for the rest of the year.

My focus, as always, remains on creating a safe and secure learning environment where strong partnerships between home, school, and the broader community can thrive. We are committed to building on the successes of our programs, with a particular emphasis on our literacy initiative, which will continue to be a district-wide focus. In conjunction with our Professional Learning Community efforts, this initiative is key as we strive to enhance student learning. Through these efforts, we will unlock new opportunities for our students, teachers, parents, and the entire community.



Mr. Heath Georgia,
Superintendent

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone involved in our summer enrichment programs. Our students were provided with incredible opportunities, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our teachers, aides, and student workers. These programs were made possible by the support of our transportation department, which facilitated daily field trips; our food service team, which provided meals throughout the summer; and our maintenance and custodial staff, who ensured our facilities were in excellent condition.

I would like to thank the maintenance department who diligently prepared the buildings over the summer, and our transportation who are back in full swing safely transporting our students. Additionally, our award-winning food service department who are continuing to provide students with healthy and nutritious meals. As we have in the past, the district will be providing all students breakfast and lunch free of charge. All of our departments (maintenance, transportation, and foodservice) are essential to our district to run smoothly. Each day they interact with our students and provide them with a caring and supportive environment.

Additionally, our coaches and students are back on campus and competing in their fall athletic season. It is an exciting time and there is nothing I love more than to attend our athletic events and cheer on our students as they compete. A heartfelt thank you to all of our coaches for their time and leadership.

Our new teachers have been working alongside our veteran members, learning and growing together as they study strategies for accelerating students' literacy growth. This program provides intensive professional development focused on literacy learning progressions, specific assessment tools, and a range of instructional strategies to meet the diverse needs of our students. It's been wonderful to see the relationships our new teachers are building with their colleagues.

One of my favorite days of the school year passed as quickly as it arrived — the first day when our students return to school. There's nothing better than witnessing the excitement as students meet their new teachers and embark on fresh learning adventures. I know you share in this enthusiasm, and I can't wait to connect with each of you throughout the year. I wish you all the best and look forward to a fantastic school year together.

Best wishes,

Heath Georgia

District Communication

District Communication Guidelines

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

For Questions About:	1st Contact	2nd Contact	3rd Contact	4th Contact	5th 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	Adviser	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
 Assistant Superintendent.....607-693-5713
 Business Office.....607-693-8120
 • Business Official.....607-693-8124
 • Personnel Clerk.....607-693-8124
 Special Education.....607-693-8104
 W.A.O. Elementary.....607-693-8115
 Jr/ Sr High School.....607-693-8105
 Guidance Office.....607-693-5734

Health Offices

• Elementary607-693- 8119
 • Jr/ Sr High School.....607-693-8118
 Athletics.....607-693-8133
 Food Services.....607-693-8127
 Transportation.....607-693-8100
 Facilities.....607-765-4145
 Family & Children's.....607-693-8123

New Faculty & Staff

Grace Buffington | High School Biology



Grace Buffington is thrilled to be joining Harpursville as the new high school biology teacher! As a proud 2018 graduate of Deposit Central School, she went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2022 and her Master of Arts in Teaching in 2023 from Binghamton University. Throughout her master's program and beyond, Ms. Buffington has gained valuable experience teaching students throughout the area. She loves sharing her enthusiasm for biology with her students and is always looking for ways to make science relatable and engaging. She believes that understanding the natural world helps students develop curiosity and critical thinking skills, which are important both in and out of the classroom. Outside of school, Ms. Buffington enjoys a life filled with nature and animals. Her family has five cats and a dog. She loves birdwatching, exploring trails with her dog, and spending quality time with family and friends. She is excited to be part of the Harpursville community and can't wait to help students discover the fascinating world of biology.

Phylicia Dunham-Fleming | W.A. Olmsted School Counselor

Phylicia Dunham-Fleming is thrilled to join Harpursville CSD as the elementary school counselor. She resides in Guilford on a small farm with her husband and their three daughters. In her free time, she enjoys reading, running, gardening, and engaging in art. This year marks Phylicia's 11th year in education as a school counselor and is proud to take on a student-centered and solution-focused approach. She looks forward to making meaningful connections with students and families and bringing fun and creativity to the learning environment. She encourages everyone to say hello when they see her out and about and can't wait to meet the community.



Nicole Knapp | W.A. Olmsted Special Education Teacher



Nicole Knapp lives in Greene, with her husband and their three children: two daughters, ages 17 and 12, and a son who is 11. The family stays busy with the children's involvement in sports and the arts. They enjoy their small farmette and the outdoor activities that come with it, including riding ATVs, snowmobiling, and spending time outdoors. They also love movie nights and playing games together. Nicole has been in education for 21 years, gaining experience from PK through college as a teacher, professional developer, and administrator. At Harpursville, she will be embracing new challenges as a special education teacher and is excited to meet the students and collaborate with her new teams in the elementary school. Community involvement is extremely important to Nicole, and she hopes to participate in local activities as much as possible. She welcomes any opportunities to extend her involvement in the community!

Kaydence Schultz | W.A. Olmsted Teacher's Aide

Kaydence Schultz is thrilled to be a teacher's aide at the school she graduated from in 2023. With a passion for working with children and helping them grow as individuals, she is currently a college student pursuing a career in Early Childhood Education. Her dream is to one day become a 1st-grade teacher. Kaydence is proud to be starting the first year of her journey at the Harpursville School District.



New Faculty & Staff

LaKayla Herbert | W.A. Olmsted Special Education Teacher



LaKayla Herbert is excited to join the Special Education team at W.A.O. Elementary! They graduated from Union-Endicott in 2020 and recently earned a B.A. in Childhood Inclusive Education from SUNY Brockport. Over the past two years, they have gained experience working with students in various settings, including before and after school programs, summer camps, swim lessons, and volunteering at one of Brockport's elementary schools. LaKayla plans to begin their master's program in Fall 2025. Outside of school, they enjoy spending time with their nearly 5-month-old daughter, reading, painting, and baking. LaKayla is also thrilled to start their teaching career at Harpursville and can't wait to see what this year brings. Go Hornets!

Caroline Snow | W.A. Olmsted Special Education Teacher

Caroline Snow is excited to introduce herself as a new special education teacher at W.A. Olmsted Elementary School. A lifelong resident of Harpursville, Caroline takes great pride in being a community member and parent in the district. Her three daughters attend school in Harpursville, and her husband is also an alumnus. The Snow family loves the community deeply. Caroline has worked at W.A. Olmsted for the past five years as a special education teacher's aide, a role that has allowed her to build strong relationships with both students and staff. She looks forward to continuing her journey at W.A. Olmsted and exploring new ways to support the students. Go Hornets!



Amjad Khan | W.A. Olmsted 4th Grade Teacher



Amjad Khan is excited to join the Harpursville community as a Fourth grade teacher at W. A. Olmsted Elementary School. With two years of prior teaching experience in both private and public school systems, Amjad is currently completing a second Master's in Education program through Western Governors University. Amjad expresses gratitude to everyone in the community for the warm welcome.

Cassie Bakley | W.A. Olmsted 4th & 5th Grade Special Education

Cassie Bakley is excited to join W.A. Olmsted Elementary as a fourth and fifth Grade Special Education Teacher. A proud Harpursville alumna, she has spent the last two and a half years working in the Jr/Sr High building as a Guidance Secretary. She looks forward to collaborating with her new colleagues and working with the elementary students. Cassie appreciates the warm welcome and is excited to continue being a part of the Harpursville Central School District family.



New Faculty & Staff

Kimberly Gray | W.A. Olmsted Teacher's Aide



Kimberly Gray is delighted to be joining Harpursville as a Teacher's Aide! Kimberly's close friends and family call her Kimmie. As a proud 2012 graduate of Sidney Central High School, Kimberly went on to earn her Associate of Science degree in Early Childhood Education in spring of 2023 and she is currently furthering her education to get her bachelor's degree in Special Education. At first Kimberly was undecided on what major she wanted to go for in college starting with a Culinary Arts major but decided just before school started, she wanted to help give children a voice especially those with special needs. Kimberly struggled with learning in high school and felt she had no help so that powered her decision to go to school for special education to help children with all learning capabilities express their need for help. Outside of school, Mrs. Gray enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Kimberly has been happily married for eight going on nine years and has five wonderful children. Along with her family Kimberly has a Great Dane named Tynie (tiny), a kitten named Tiger Lilly, a bald python named Poseidon, and 16 chickens. Kimberly enjoys going on short walks with her dog, going on trips with her family even if it is to just go apple picking or to Cole Park for swimming, and looking at pictures of Highland cows. Ever since Kimberly watched the movie Ferdinand with her children her favorite animal has become a Highland cow and her favorite flower is the sunflower.

Community Site

Want to know what's happening in the area? Check out our 'Community' tab on our website. Here you will find events, fundraisers, and resources for Harpursville and the surrounding municipalities.



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Community

Harpursville Central School District Home

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LOCAL EVENTS AND CONTACTS:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS that have asked that we share their information with you can be found below:

Area Links

- [HCS ALUMNI Information](#)
- [Nineveh Public Library Four Counties Webpage](#)
- [Nineveh Public Library Facebook Page](#)
- [Broome-Tioga BOCES / Harpursville Homeschool Liaison Service Information](#)
- [Colesville Dollars for Scholars](#)
- [BOCES](#)

News In The Schools

Thank you, Harpursville CSD School Board Members!



October 14-18, 2024, is School Board Recognition Week as declared by the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA). The Harpursville Central School District joins all public schools across the state to honor local board members for their commitment to our schools. Pictured: Mike Rhodes, Bernie Scott, Kacie Huston, Michelle Noyes, Tom Fargo, Nicole Robertson, and Nicole Weist.

New York State Board Members by the Numbers

- About two-thirds of board members spend 6 + hours or more per week on board matters/events.
- Board members are public elected volunteers that perform critical work with no compensation.
- The Board works together with leadership to create a budget to present to the community.
- Regional BOCES board members range from 7-15 members and are elected by local school board members.

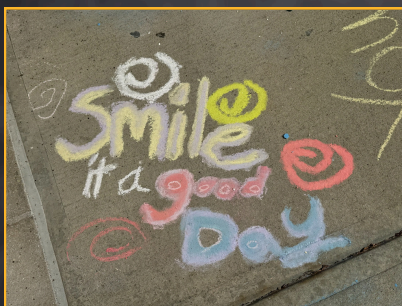
Information Provided by NYSSBA

Number of public schools in New York State	688, not including NYC/Yonkers, 37 BOCES
Number of School Board Seats in New York	5,096
Male Board Members: 49.2%	Female Board Members: 50.8%
Board Member Tenure:	46.4% have served 5 years or fewer 50.8% have served 6 years or more

Mental Health Awareness Month

'Chalk The Walk'

The Harpursville Central School District is honored to have participated in this year's BC SAFE 'Chalk the Walk.' The event takes place in September which coincides with 'Suicide Prevention Month.' the initiative aims to raise awareness about mental health and the resources available to the community. In a recent interview with FOX 40, event organizer Heidi Mikeska emphasized, "This is more than just a set of dates on the calendar; it's a crucial part of our shared journey toward understanding and addressing mental health, mental wellness, and suicide prevention."



SUMMER ENRICHMENT AT W.A.O.

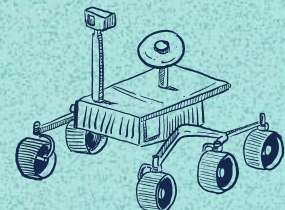
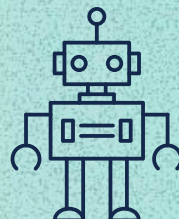
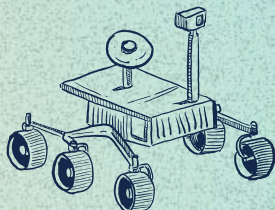
This summer, Harpursville Central School District's four-week enrichment program engaged students from kindergarten through sixth grade in a variety of educational activities centered around the book *The Wild Robot Escapes*, the sequel to *The Wild Robot*, which they read last year.

Participants explored themes from the book through hands-on experiences, including STEM activities like robotics, arts and crafts, and chess. The program aimed to keep students active and learning throughout the summer months, weaving the book's themes into various components of the curriculum to enhance engagement and understanding.



Personal Health, Safety, and Wellness are integral to a healthy lifestyle and creating lifelong enjoyment for students to stay active. My job as a physical educator is to teach these objectives in a fun, meaningful, and relatable way. Teamwork and cooperation are vital both in and out of school. During the Summer Enrichment Program at Harpursville Central School District, students practice these skills through activities like recess games, water day, tag games, and robot games. It's wonderful to see the joy these simple activities bring.

This summer was a blast seeing old friends and meeting new ones! We are thrilled to celebrate your students' creativity, problem-solving skills, and development of teamwork. The K-2 classes engaged in various group activities throughout our time together that showcased their ability to collaborate, cooperate, and persevere. In the last week of our program, we held our own Olympics where students applied everything we worked on over the summer. Kudos to all the students for their hard work and dedication!



W.A. Olmsted Elementary



This summer our summer program students enjoyed reading "The Wild Robot Escapes". They took part in many fun activities. In Mrs. Grencer's "How to Draw" class we learned how to draw major characters, or events from the book. The students followed step by step instructions to complete their drawings. Once their drawings were complete they added landscape details, and characters from the book. Some of our drawings consisted of a robot, a barn, a wolf, and a tornado. The students did an amazing job!

The Wild Robot Escapes by Peter Brown is the sequel to *The Wild Robot*. It follows Roz, a robot who had adapted to life in the wild, as she is captured and forced to work on a farm. Roz yearns to return to her animal friends and son, Brightbill, while adjusting to new challenges in a human-controlled environment. With intelligence and compassion, Roz plans her escape and faces the question of where she truly belongs.



What an adventure we had this summer! I did Stem Success with 3-6th grade. We started out with Fireworks in a jar using household items to learn about density and solubility. Oil is less dense than water so it floats to the top. The food coloring dissolves in water but not in oil so as the color slowly sinks to the bottom you have a cool firework effect. We made a banana peel and blueberry tea fertilizer to help our playground garden thrive. The banana was mashed up and frozen then blended to produce a fun treat. The kids also enjoyed exploding ice cream cones which taught us about the chemical reaction between baking soda and vinegar. Class was a blast!

What was Roz's experience like at Hilltop Farm with Mr. Shareef, Jaya, Jad, and their dog Oscar? Students in grades 3-6 explored this by reading the first three chapters of *The Wild Robot Escapes*. They identified key features of the farm, sketched their visions, and collaborated in small teams to create a shared concept. Students chose roles like builders, scenery creators, or animal/robot designers. Using materials such as pipe cleaners, clay, and popsicle sticks, they crafted their ideas and worked together to place each element of the farm, bringing it to life through teamwork and creativity.



W.A. Olmsted Elementary



The summer fitness program has been packed with activities, and participants have shown incredible attitudes. After a morning jog and stretch, groups head to the weight room for anaerobic exercises. The 2.5-hour routine wraps up with a sport like basketball, football, volleyball, floor hockey, or pickleball. Participants showed daily growth in emotional resilience and confidence. Many noted vast improvements in physical conditioning, which will benefit their fall sports. In the month-long summer French program, students quickly learned to communicate in French through hands-on activities. This early exposure prepares them for future LOTE experiences and supports HCS's success with the NYS Seal of Biliteracy.

This summer, students in the Summer Zone program were provided the opportunity to go fishing at there different locations: Cole Park, the Ouaquaga boat launch and the Afton boat launch. Students were allowed to use their own poles or use one of the ones provided by the school. Some students have never fished before and some were experts. Even though we did not catch many fish, the fishing stories were great. One student caught the Ouaquaga bridge, which was the largest thing anyone caught this summer. Overall, it was a great trip and the students had a great time. Thank you to Visions for providing us with a \$500 grant to purchase fishing poles and fishing supplies .We are hoping to start a fishing club in the school this year.



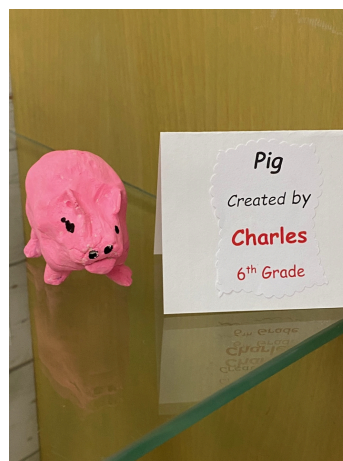
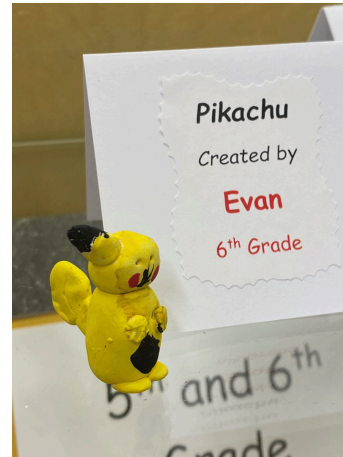
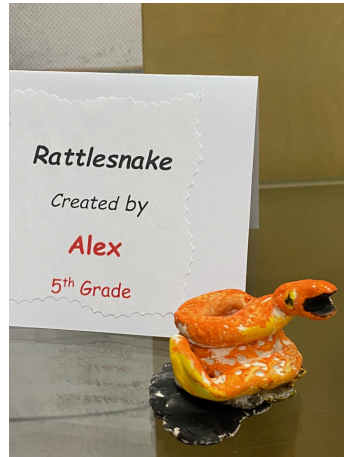
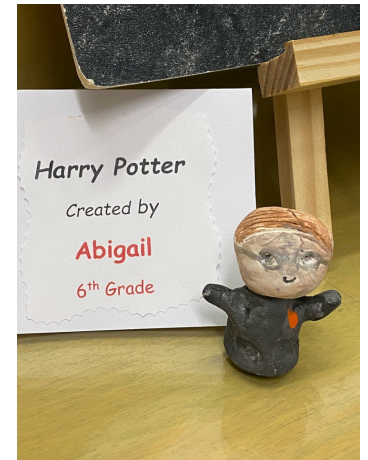
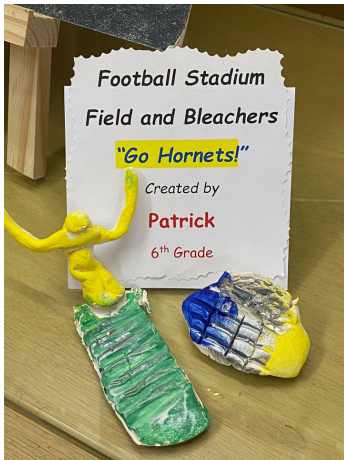
Harpursville UMC Donates School Supplies

Harpursville CSD extends its heartfelt gratitude to Ron Shaw for his generous donation of book bags, and to Lori Jo Hawkins for her invaluable help in coordinating the collection and delivery of supplies to W.A. Olmsted Elementary School. We also want to thank The Harpursville United Methodist Church, Nineveh Public Library of Colesville Township, The Colesville Rotary, The Pantheon Restaurant, and the many community members who contributed school supplies for HCS. Your support is deeply appreciated!



W.A. Olmsted Elementary

New School Year, New Artwork!



ART



Jr/ Sr High School

Students and Staff Return for the School Year

The new school year is underway at Harpursville Jr/Sr High School, with students returning to classrooms filled with excitement and energy. Teachers and staff were eager to support students in both academic and extracurricular activities as they settled into their routines. With a renewed focus on learning, growth, and community involvement, the school prepared for a successful year ahead. The principal and staff emphasized creating a positive, inclusive environment to ensure that every student felt welcomed and prepared for the year to come.



French Club Travels to St. Martin

The beginning of August saw a group of HCS French students embark on an international journey to St. Martin in the Caribbean. The immersive week offered a myriad of events ranging from: catamaran, zipline, 4-wheel, snorkeling, pilot your own boat and horseback riding in the ocean. They bargained for souvenirs at the open market and dined en plein air overlooking the Atlantic. While visiting local islands (Anguilla, Prickly Pear, Tintamarre and Saba) they interacted with the iguanas, saw where The Bachelor was filmed, and swam above the reefs. The beautiful weather lent itself to evenings on Baie Rouge for bonfires, dancing, star gazing, karaoke and group time poolside. The eclectic and memorable trip was equally engaging and eye opening to a wonderful culture.



Jr/ Sr High School

Harpursville Alum Returns to Paint Hallways

While students were away, the halls of Harpursville Jr/Sr High School received a makeover, thanks to the hard work of staff. Alumna Mackenzie Whidden (Class of 2020) freehand painted a hornet, bringing new life to the school's walls. Everyone was eager to see the finished masterpiece!



Throwback: Our Senior Class in 6th Grade

Now they are the leaders of the school, but it wasn't long ago when these seniors were still in 6th Grade. Let's flashback to their field trip, where they explored, learned, and made lasting memories together. It's hard to believe how far they've come since those days, now stepping into their final year at Harpursville Jr/Sr High School.



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Harpursville Central School District
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Wednesday, November 6, 2024



9:00 am - 3:00 pm



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Athletics

Harpursville Athletes Shine at Conwicke-Stock Invitational

Harpursville athletes made a strong impact at the Conwicke-Stock Invitational in Endicott. Despite the scorching heat, the BGAH Cross Country team rose to the challenge. The Varsity Girls team, led by Amber Kolb, took first place in the small school division. Connor Rowe, racing in the hottest part of the day, demonstrated his continued improvement. In the modified girls race, Gabby Gross and EmmaLynn Dunivant contributed to one of the team's best performances yet. The athletes are showing that hard work and determination truly pay off!





HARPURSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Upcoming Fundraisers

The Giving Bean: 9th Grade Class – September 16th – October 4th

Krispy Kreme Donuts: STEM Club – September 20th – October 5th

Cherrydale Fundraising: Senior Class – November 1st – November 28th

Flower Power: French Club – January 16th – January 30th

