

LUMBERJACK LEDGER

WINTER 2024 - FAMILY UPDATES



DCS Families, today seems like the perfect day to send some winter updates. Until recently, it's been a mild winter and I'm hoping that trend continues. Although the temps have been mild, there's a lot of illness going around right now including RSV, Pneumonia, Flu, COVID...the list goes on and on. If your children have symptoms, please err on the side of caution and keep them home or feel free to call our nurses for guidance. As you know, these illnesses are highly contagious and we want to reduce the risk of spread as much as possible. Enclosed are just a few notes about things that are happening at school. Please reach out to me with any questions you might have. ~ Denise Cook, Superintendent
dcook@deposit.stier.org

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: Part of our annual capital improvement plan includes the upgrade of the HS auditorium due to age, wear, and safety hazards with flooring and seating. During winter break, the work in the auditorium began. The seating has been removed in order to prep for new flooring, aisle lighting, carpeting, and new seating. In addition, the stage front will get a makeover. We're hoping that the work will be completed by March. We can't wait to see the results! Thank you to our taxpayers who have taken the time each May to come out and vote on the budget and capital projects. Your support of our students is incredibly important, and the new, exciting spaces they are enjoying is a reflection of the care and dedication that this community has for all students.

IMPORTANT DATES

1/23-1/26: Regents Exams
1/26: End of Q2
2/7: Toddler Night 5-6:30 PM Elem Gym
2/9: MS/HS Fun Night from 6-8 PM
2/12: BOE @ 6 PM in Elementary Library
2/13: Senior Citizen Dance @ 6 PM
2/16-2/19: No School- Presidents Day



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SPECIAL PROPOSITION VOTE: On March 4, 2024, taxpayers will have the opportunity to vote on a few propositions. This is a separate vote from the annual budget vote in May, but operates in the same manner. Voting will take place in the band room from 3-8 PM on March 4th with a snow day planned for March 6th. More information will be provided at in-person meetings during the month of February. Dates for those meetings will be published in The Courier and on our Facebook and website pages. The propositions are as follows:

- **Prop #1:** The use of the capital reserve fund to a maximum of \$600,000 for improvements to the safety and security features in the district. Specifically, this is to upgrade our software systems and mechanical systems related to our lock-down equipment (badging/access control/public announcement systems) and our camera systems. This involves the district switching to a new vendor and the takeover of our current system. There will be **NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT** from the taxpayers. **ZERO** additional tax impact.
- **Prop #2:** Establishes a new capital reserve fund. Capital reserve funds are basically savings accounts that must be used for improvements to facilities. The accounts expire over the years and new accounts must be established. This is not related to funding the reserve for a specific amount, but just the permission to open the new account.
- **Prop #3:** Allows the district to transport all students in grades k-5 on district transportation regardless of mileage. Currently, we bus students in the elementary building if they live more than .5 miles from the school. MS/HS is established at more than 1 mile from the school. NYS requires transportation at the 2 and 3 mile marker. The District has to get voter approval in order to transport students who live in shorter distances than what they have established. The District is looking to offer transportation to all students in grades k-5 regardless of distance. All pre-k students are already transported despite transportation distances.

CAFÉ DEPO: The student café in the HS Library had a soft opening on Friday, January 12th. Business was booming and the students are already learning valuable lessons about running a small business, food service operations, and communication skills. Thank you to everyone involved including Mr. Hertzog, Mrs. Wehrli, and Mrs. MacDonald.

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NEW STAFF: Welcome, High School Math Teacher, Zachary (Zach) Schinasi (pronounced *skinazzy*)! High School Math Teacher, Amanda Chapin, left our district to start a new position in the Norwich School District and we wish her well. We're excited to welcome Mr. Schinasi as our newest Lumberjack. Zach has a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a Master's Degree in Math Education from Binghamton University. He's got a lot of enthusiasm for all things Math and he's ready to share his talent with our students. Please feel free to reach out and wish him luck and make him feel like part of the DCS family.



WELCOME, MR. SCHINASI
HS MATH DEPARTMENT

ELECTRIC BUSES: You may have heard the hype about the need for school districts to purchase electric buses or green buses in the year 2027. Some local districts have already purchased a bus with grant funding in order to be prepared. Currently, the expectation is that all new buses purchased in the year 2027 and thereafter will be electric/green. There are many problems with this proposition including the fact that the buses are prone to fires and will not travel far without needing to be charged. In our district, for example, we would only be able to use the buses to drive around the village. Additionally, there would need to be changes to the bus garage itself in order to accommodate the charging, lift, and storage needs. At this point, we are working with our architects to do our due diligence and conduct a study of the facilities so we are prepared with the knowledge of how these changes will affect our district financially. At the same time, we are not planning to rush into anything without additional information, a mandate, or financial backing from the State or Federal Government. You can read more at:

<https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/charging-forward-new-yorks-costly-rush-to-electrify-school-buses/>

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THE HS
AUDITORIUM
GETS PREPPED
FOR NEW
FLOORING,
LIGHTING, AND
SEATING!



**NOW
OPEN**

STUDENTS CHECK
OUT THE
NEW CAFÉ

