



Striving for Excellence Canastota

Central School District • 120 Roberts Street, Canastota, NY 13032 • www.canastotacsd.org

A message from the Superintendent

Happy Fall! Our school year is off to a wonderful start and students and staff have all settled in nicely.

This is a time of new beginnings for students and staff. This year, it also signals a new beginning for me. As you know, I will be retiring as your superintendent at the end of October. I am proud of all that we have accomplished during my time in Canastota.

While superintendent, we were able to get new windows installed, have masonry repaired and have a new heating system put in at Peterboro Street Elementary School. We also completed mechanical upgrades, classroom renovations and installed new ceilings at the Roberts Street complex and renovated science and art rooms at the Junior-Senior High School.

We have seen a steady improvement in our graduation rates and our Regents' scores have been consistently strong. We have been named to U.S. News and World Report's list of Best High Schools in the bronze category for three consecutive years. I know these things are due to the hard work of our teachers and the strong, unwavering investment of the community. We now have three New York State Master Teachers on our staff. Roberts Street School teachers Cecile Retrosi and Jessica Fox have joined Sean Dwyer in earning this honor. We also have an award-winning Business Department at the high school with teachers Robert Esposito and Elizabeth Garofalo being recognized by the Business Teachers Association of New York State for their exemplary performance.

I was pleased to once again participate in the induction ceremonies for the Canastota Wall of Distinction. This year's inductees clearly illustrate the value of a sound education from Canastota Central Schools. If you want to learn more about what they accomplished head to our web site:

https://www.canastotacsd.org/community/wall_of_distinction/2018_honorees

Congratulations to Donald Ackerman, Augustine A. Albanese, Dr. Rosemary Bellino-Hall, Charles Cole, Frank Mariano and Scott F. Newberry.

I have been blessed to come to work every day and be surrounded by students and staff engaged in learning and committed to striving for excellence. I love Canastota and a piece of my heart will always be in this community. I leave the district in the very capable hands of Interim Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis, who will be starting Nov. 1. I wish you all the best for the future.

June C. Clarke

Superintendent of Schools



inside this issue

Fall 2018

Opening Day 2018	Page 2
All About Officer McCormick.....	Page 3
Homecoming 2018	Page 4
Special Olympics.....	Page 6
Meet our New Staff.....	Page 7



Opening Day 2018



Our students and staff couldn't wait for the first day of classes of the 2018-19 school year! There were smiles everywhere and just a few tears from some little ones who embarked on exciting new adventures. As always, our teachers hit the ground running and our buildings were filled with the sounds of classroom instruction!



Meet Officer McCormick

Schools across the nation have had to increase their focus on keeping students and staff safe in the wake of a number of events over the last several years. In Canastota, we rely on Officer Robert McCormick, who has been with the district for five years.

Officer McCormick came to Canastota after spending 21 years as a police officer in the city of Sherrill in Oneida County. "I took the job because I love kids and I knew I could make a difference," he said. He is quick to point out that his job is not just ensuring that things stay safe at all of our school buildings. "I really enjoy having the opportunity to act as a mentor to so many of these children."

Officer McCormick often has to reassure younger children and explain to them his role in the district. "I work hard to bring myself down to the level of the youngest students," he said. "Lots of times they are not aware of why I am at their school." He said some of the littlest students approach him with trepidation, "but for the most part, the little ones are not afraid of me."

Officer McCormick said his typical day starts early, with him arriving at the Roberts Street complex by 7:15. "When I first arrive, I check the perimeter of the buildings in my patrol car. Then, I usually park the car and come into the building to spend some time getting updates from the building principals." He said he then walks the halls, taking the opportunity to interact with students and staff during class changeovers and at arrival and dismissal.

"I think most of them like me," he said with a laugh. He also has to devote part of his day to doing security work and writing up reports in his office.

"A lot of people don't realize I am a real police officer," he said. "I can arrest people if necessary." Officer McCormick serves as the district's first point of contact during a crisis, "so police and others, like EMS and fire, reach out to me right away when something is going on at the school." He emphasized that "the safety and security of Canastota students and staff is of utmost importance and my first priority."

Officer McCormick is also available to assist with lockdown and fire drills and can help principals when it comes to carrying out searches.

He said during the time he has been in Canastota he has noticed that students have warmed up to him. He admits, "social media makes this job so much harder. The kids are constantly sniping at each other and bicker back and forth" but, he says he does his best to keep it under control.

"I work hard to ensure that students are not being bullied and that we solve little problems before they become bigger problems."



Homecoming 2018

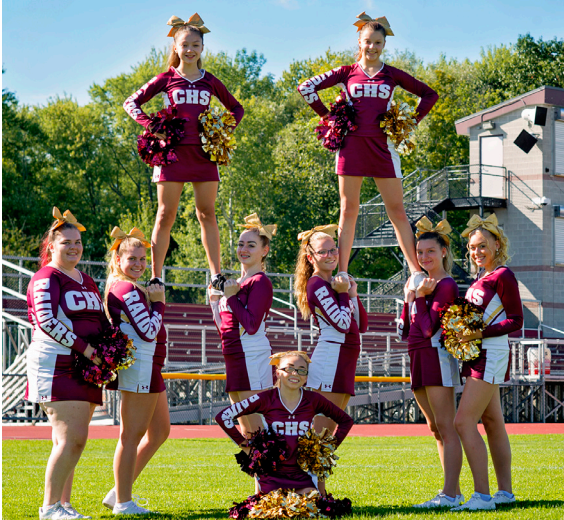
Community members lined Peterboro Street to watch our annual homecoming parade on Oct. 4. Students, administrators, staff and board of education members participated in the event.

Our Raider football team played hard at the homecoming game against Little Falls on Oct. 5 and we had a wonderful homecoming dance on Oct. 6. Our Homecoming King was Colbey Bixby and our Homecoming Queen was JoAnna Musacchio. Samuel DiGeorge was crowned Homecoming Prince and Loryn Wilcox was Homecoming Princess.

Others nominated were: Patrick Armstrong, Lucas Barnello, Kenneth Coe, Sam Debrucque, Ethan Findlay, Samuel Snow, Kacey Cashel, Jennifer Fiore, Taylor Kutzuba, McKenzie Leahey, Mackenzie Mitchell and Devin Lee Robinson.



Fall Raider Athletics



Cheerleading



Varsity Field Hockey



Girls Varsity Soccer



Varsity Cross Country



Girls Varsity Tennis



Boys Varsity Soccer



Varsity Football

Special Olympics 2018

Hundreds of student-athletes and staff members from schools throughout Madison County took part in the 2018 Special Olympics at Canastota High School. Canastota students volunteered for the event, which opened with a parade around the track. Parents and family members were in the stands to offer encouragement and schools also brought their own volunteers who served as buddies for the athletes.

The Olympics offered activities for students of all abilities including a softball toss, the long jump, the 50, 100, 200 and 400-meter dashes and adaptive bowling. Once they finished competing, student-athletes enjoyed a tasty lunch and had time to play kickball and other games.

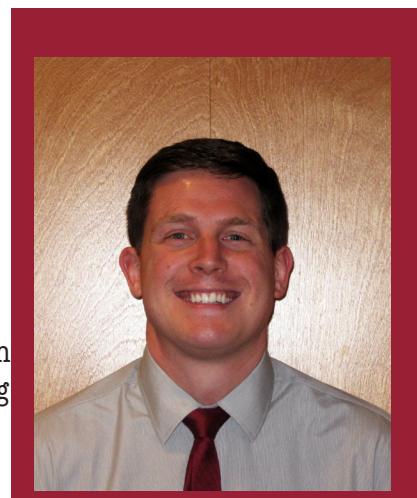
Event winners received ribbons for their efforts.



Welcome Mr. Kennedy

Andrew Kennedy, the new assistant principal at the Junior-Senior High School, is a graduate of Trinity College. He earned his degree in Biology and Environmental Science and was a part of the school's track and field team for two years.

Mr. Kennedy spent his junior year of college abroad, visiting New Zealand for five months, Australia for five months and traveling to Cambodia, Malaysia and Taiwan for one month. Upon graduation in 2010, Mr. Kennedy returned to Central New York and enrolled in night school at Utica College. He spent his days working as a long-term substitute teacher in Holland Patent. He received his Master's degree in Adolescent and Special Education and in 2012 began his teaching career as a 6th-8th grade special education science teacher at Whitesboro. He earned his School Building Leader and School District Leader C.A.S. from the State University College at Cortland. Mr. Kennedy's hobbies include hiking, working out and volunteering. He has spent the past 16 summers volunteering on Martha's Vineyard at Camp Jabberwocky, the oldest sleep away camp for people with disabilities in America.



Emily Bacher



Caitlin Brewster



Michael Cieply



Paige Culver



Tanya Cziesler



Kelsey Hatch



Michael Marr



Ryane Martino



Megan Miller



Kimberly Sheedy



Rebecca Emmerich



Megan Geariety



Michael Winchell



Corey Zlatniski

New Staff

Emily Bacher is the school psychologist at Roberts Street Elementary School.

Caitlin Brewster is a special education teacher at Roberts Street Elementary School.

Michael Cieply is a music teacher at Roberts Street Elementary School.

Paige Culver is a special education teacher at Roberts Street Elementary School.

Tanya Cziesler is a special education teacher at South Side Elementary School.

Rebecca Emmerich is at Peterboro Street Elementary School as a long-term substitute teacher in special education.

Megan Geariety is serving as a long-term substitute, teaching sixth grade at Roberts Street Elementary School.

Kelsey Hatch is the speech language pathologist at Roberts Street Elementary School.

Michael Marr is teaching history at the Junior-Senior High School.

Ryane Martino is at the Junior-Senior High School working in special education.

Megan Miller is teaching history at the Junior-Senior High School.

Kimberly Sheedy is a fourth grade teacher at Roberts Street Elementary School.

Michael Winchell is an English teacher at the Junior-Senior High School.

Corey Zlatniski is also teaching English at the Junior-Senior High School.

Substitutes Needed

Instructional - Certified and non-certified teachers

Support staff - Bus drivers, bus attendants, food service, nurses, secretaries, cleaners, school monitors, teacher and library aides

Go to our website to find applications.

Mail to:
Canastota School District
Office
120 Roberts St.
Canastota, NY 13032

district

administration

Ms. June C. Clarke
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Jason Mitchell
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Ms. Cara Stevens
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Mr. Jay Altobello
Jr./Sr. High School Principal

Mr. Andrew Kennedy
Jr./Sr. High School Assist. Principal

Mr. Stanley Congden
Athletic Director and Jr./Sr High School Assist. Principal

Ms. Melissa Stanek
Roberts St. Elementary School Principal

Ms. Jennifer Carnahan
Peterboro St. and South Side Elementary School Principal

Ms. Carolyn Ortolano
Director of Special Programs

Ms. Cynthia Clark
Transportation Supervisor

Mr. Christopher Clancy
Director of Instructional Technology

Mr. Nick Campbell
Facilities Leader

Freshmen Attend Workshop

Nearly 100 students participated in this year's "Empowering Freshmen Workshop" in late September. The event, which took place at Theodore's, is the brainchild of teachers Kelley Brenon, Liz Garofalo, and Lisa Visalli. Freshmen girls talked about self-confidence and self-esteem and freshmen boys discussed respect, teamwork and integrity. Canastota Police Chief James Zophy spoke to both groups about how to safely use social media. Other guest speakers included School Board President Deb New, Coach Jake Smith, Don New and Marcia Laidlaw. Emily Case, a member of the class of 2020, also spoke with the freshmen and gave a presentation on bullet journaling. Several team-building events were part of the workshop and members of Kids Oneida provided activities for the students in the afternoon. Faculty who joined Ms. Brenon, Ms. Garofalo and Ms. Visalli, at the workshop included school psychologist Brenda Jenkins, guidance counselors Brandi Bostic and Bob Mengucci, Principal Jay Altobello, Assistant Principals, Drew Kennedy and Stan Congden and teachers Sean Dwyer and John Slater. Members of the school's FBLA chapter helped prep for the event by creating invitations, certificates, thank you notes and helping to assemble the folders that were handed out to each student who attended.



- Junior Emily Case provided information for this report

board of

education

Ms. Deborah New
President

Mr. Bill Haddad
Vice President

Mr. Timothy Bazan

Mr. Loran Crosby

Mr. Douglas Gustin

Mr. Wesley Hood

Ms. Kathleen Niles

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Ms. June C. Clarke

Canastota CSD

120 Roberts St.
Canastota, NY 13032

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #16
Canastota, NY 13032

POSTAL RESIDENT
Canastota, NY 13032

