



# Striving for Excellence Canastota

Central School District • 120 Roberts Street, Canastota, NY 13032 • [www.canastotacsd.org](http://www.canastotacsd.org)

## A Message from the Superintendent

Over the past two months I have had the opportunity to work with children, staff, parents and community through my interactions at school events and meetings. I would like to thank everyone for being so welcoming and caring. This district continues to be a wonderful place for students to learn. We have so much to be proud of each day as our outstanding staff works closely with each child to ensure their success. We see partnerships between the community, families and the school as critical to providing a comprehensive program for children.



**Budget:** The district has started to work on our budget. At the January BOE meeting, we began the process of reviewing the 2019-2020 spending plan, which will be put forth to voters on May 21.

Recently, the Governor released his state aid proposals for schools. *Canastota's projection is a 1.36% increase in Foundation Aid*, which equals \$142,148. This news, coupled with the continuation of the tax cap, limits our ability to align projected spending increases with revenues for 2019-2020.

This year, we have been looking at ways we can drive new revenues to the district, renegotiate contracts with vendors, look to shared services with BOCES, and align staffing with enrollment declines by reducing through attrition. We believe that taking a proactive approach will help us maintain quality programming for our children. Our BOE members and I will meet with area Legislators this month to advocate for:

- Increasing Foundation Aid
- Providing relief from unfunded mandates
- Reforming the tax cap law
- Increasing Capital Outlay expenses
- Raising the reimbursement level for personnel shared through BOCES
- Increasing the fund balance allowable limits from 4% to 7% to allow schools the necessary funds to pay many of our bills at the beginning of the school year

We are confident that working collaboratively with school districts across the region will allow us to effectuate a positive change in the budget proposals from the state.

**NYSED Updates:** The State Education Department implemented new state assessments this past year and held true to the changes they promised by: including teachers in the development of these assessments, decreasing testing time, and ensuring these assessments are developmentally appropriate. In a survey of staff, many of our teachers

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## From the Board of Education

The Canastota Central School District is committed to the belief that an effective school program can only be accomplished by nurturing a strong partnership between the school and the community.

Among our many responsibilities, the Board establishes a long-term vision for our district and sets district policies and goals, while the superintendent and administration enforce policies and goals and manage day-to-day operation of the district. In addition, the Board conscientiously decides how best to use the district's financial resources to maintain and upgrade our facilities and provide the best possible programs for our students, both inside and outside the classroom.

Public understanding, participation, and communication are vital to maintain a successful education environment within our schools. Therefore, all community members are invited to the Board of Education Regular Public Meetings, held at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. All meetings are held in the Auditorium.

Recognizing how important the community is to our school system, the Board holds two public comment sessions during each meeting to hear community input. During these sessions – one near the start of the meeting and the other toward the end – community members may speak on any issue of interest or concern. Each speaker is allotted three minutes to address the Board, with additional time granted if needed. The Board respects our community and wants to hear from you to help us make wiser decisions.

Announcements of these regularly scheduled meetings and any meeting changes appear on our district website and message board. The Board agenda that lists the business to be considered at each meeting is available in the District Administration Office on the date of the meeting and is also posted on the district website. Agendas are also provided at the scheduled Board Meeting. Board members receive the agenda and supporting documents several days before the actual meeting, which allows time for members to review, discuss, and make qualified decisions regarding the monthly business.

Decisions made by your elected school board affect the education of our children and the well-being of our community. Your school board best represents its constituents when the members of our community take the time to observe the Board of Education in action, express their opinions, ask questions, and communicate their ideas and needs in a public setting. We thank you for your continued interest and support, which guarantees the excellence of our schools. The Board looks forward to seeing and meeting you at our future meetings.

### BOARD COMMITTEES FOR 2018-19

**Academic Committee:** Trustees  
Tim Bazan & Kathleen Niles,  
Board President Deborah New

**Audit Committee:** Trustees Doug  
Gustin, Bill Haddad, Wesley Hood

**Facilities Committee:** Trustees  
Loran Crosby, Bill Haddad,  
Wesley Hood

**Policy Committee:** Trustees  
Loran Crosby, Doug Gustin,  
Kathleen Niles

**Safety Committee:** Board  
President Deborah New

## Welcome, Mr. Faustino!

Michael Faustino has joined the district as the new principal of Roberts Street Elementary School.

Mr. Faustino has been teaching in the Utica City School District since 2004 in the early primary grades and has worked at the middle school level as an Academic Intervention Specialist at John F. Kennedy Middle School. He is certified as a New York State School Building Leader and holds permanent certification as an elementary teacher. He is on the Executive Board of the Association of Math Teachers of New York State.

Mr. Faustino's experience as a professional development leader is strong and he has worked as an assistant football coach at Utica College, Blackburn College and Gettysburg College. We are very happy to welcome Mr. Faustino to the Canastota Central School District family.



## Fox, Retrosi Named Master Teachers

Fifth grade teachers Jessica Fox and Cecile Retrosi were accepted this fall into the New York State Master Teacher Program, joining the ranks of the state's top educators – and the first cohort of top elementary school teachers. The 2018 class was the first time that K-5 teachers have been eligible for the program.

Through the program, which the state launched in 2013 to recognize STEM area educators and increase teacher retention, Mrs. Fox and Ms. Retrosi will have access to intensive professional development, statewide networking and opportunities to engage in peer mentoring.

"I'm able to work with educators who are passionate about what they do and who are constantly looking for ways to push the boundaries of their craft," Ms. Retrosi said. "That was a really attractive piece to me."

Both teachers began the application process in February 2018, completing essays, taking written tests, securing recommendation letters before they were accepted for an in-person presentation and interview at SUNY Cortland. There, they each had to present a unique 10-minute lesson that they were not already using in their classroom.

"It had to be something above and beyond your grade level, not part of your curriculum," Mrs. Fox said.

They finally learned in October that they were accepted into the program, joining fellow Canastota teacher Sean Dwyer, a high school physics teacher.

The program is a four-year commitment and includes 50 hours per year of professional development and plans to help build connections across disciplines.

South Side Elementary School Principal Melissa Stanek is one of the people who encouraged Ms. Retrosi and Mrs. Fox to apply for the program when it was first opened to elementary teachers. At the time, Mrs. Stanek was acting principal at Roberts Street Elementary School. She said both teachers are leaders in the building and always look for new ways to incorporate project-based learning, STEM activities and other engaging ideas into their classrooms.

"They are both reflective about their teaching practices and are always striving to find new, innovative ideas that motivate and help students thrive academically, socially and emotionally in their classrooms," Mrs. Stanek said. "They are very deserving of this opportunity and others will benefit from the expertise that they share."



(Above) Fifth grade students wrote congratulatory notes to Ms. Retrosi (left) and Mrs. Fox after they were accepted into the New York State Master Teacher Program; (below) A congratulatory bulletin board at RSES this fall.



## Pre-K Displays STEM Skills

Jackson and Ava, from Robin Pierce's pre-kindergarten class, have a long and detailed conversation using a paper cup telephone during playtime. Their classmate Bella made the phone at home using a STEM kit she borrowed.

## KG CELEBRATES PUBLISHING BOOK



Kindergarteners in Diane Schmidt's and Rebecca Emmerich's class published their own books on patterns, which they completed during a writer's workshop. To celebrate their achievement, they read their books to first graders in Ms. Scheftic's and Ms. Emmerich's class. After the readings, both classes enjoyed cookies.

## STUDENTS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY SHOP



Elementary students across the district showed their community spirit during the holiday season by collecting food, donations and other items for the Opportunity Shop in December.

PSES and SSES raised \$1,404 and donated winter clothing and household items, and they donated to Toys for Tots.

At RSES, students collected more than 500 items through their annual food drive to benefit the Opportunity Shop.

## Second Graders Raising Salmon Eggs

Second graders at South Side Elementary have begun their study of life cycles. Jack Gramlick, a local environmentalist, spoke with students recently about the unique characteristics of the salmon life cycle.

Students are now raising 50 eggs that they plan to release this spring into Canastota Creek. Over the next few months, students will monitor the eggs in a fish tank that has been placed in a refrigerator to mimic their natural habitat. They will observe the eggs' weekly growth and the temperature of the water to determine when they'll be ready to move to their new home.



## Beginning Band Performs First Concert

RSES students performed in the Beginning Band Concert in January, showing their family and friends about some of the music techniques they have learned – including



rhythm, echoes and solfege. The 36 band members played a memorized Concert B Flat scale and then played "Hot Cross Buns" and "Rolling Along."

## History Club Conducts Research at SU



Before the break, social studies teacher Carrie-Ann Ronalds took History Club students to Bird Library at Syracuse University to conduct research for CNY Regional History Day event, coming up in March. Students had the opportunity to work with the university's educational research librarian to begin preparing their projects.

## FFA Students Attend Leadership Event

Three FFA students attended the FFA District 5 Jr. High Leadership Day, held in December at Stockbridge Valley. The event included leadership-building workshops and activities. Tim Collins and Paul Campanella participated in the event, and Canastota Chapter President Kyle Hale volunteered to help the state officers and SVCS chapter officers set up and put on the workshops.



# ROUNDUP

## Five FBLA Students Qualify For States



Congratulations to our 24 FBLA students who competed at the annual Spring District Meeting in January at SUNY Morrisville against eight other area chapters. The event included written and performance competitions in a variety of business and technology categories. Of the 46 categories that our students competed in, Canastota earned 1st place finishes in 16 of

them and 2nd place finishes in 14! (Full listing on our website.)

Five students will move on to the State Leadership Conference in April: Bryson DeMott (Basic Decision Making), Matt McDermott (Client Service), Emily Case (Job Interview), Ryan Aumell (Introduction to Public Speaking) and Gabbie Edwards (alternate in Public Speaking). We wish them the best of luck!

In addition, Emily Case, Carley Cashel, and Matt McDermott served as District Officers and were able to assist the State Vice President for District 7 with the meeting portion of the event.

## Art Students Earn Regional Honors

Congratulations to the five Canastota art students accepted into the 2019 Scholastic CNY Art Award Exhibition! Each will receive an award and their artwork will be on exhibit at Onondaga Community College through March 1st.

- Nick Leinberger received a Silver Key for his Art Portfolio.
- Honorable Mentions were given to Nick Leinberger, Tyler Lynd (won 2), Whitney Marshall, and Carly Becker.

## 2019-20 School Registration Dates

### Pre-Kindergarten Registration

February 5, 8am-6pm

For children turning 4 by Dec. 1

### Kindergarten Registration

March 1 – by appointment only

For children turning 5 by Dec. 1

Both registrations at Peterboro Street Elementary, (315) 697-2027

Please bring with you:

- Completed registration packet (available at the school)
- Birth certificate (original)
- Immunization record from doctor
- Proof of residency: current telephone/cable/electric bill, signed lease or purchase offer
- Parent photo identification
- Any other relevant documentation

## BUSINESS STUDENTS ATTEND TRADE FAIR

Fifteen students from the business department participated in the Northeast Virtual Enterprise Trade Fair in December at the University of Rochester. The trade show is a way for students in school Virtual Enterprise programs to showcase their companies in a professional, collaborative, real-world setting. Canastota was one of 14 schools at the event, and students participated in six different competitions related to businesses and trade shows, including Booth Design, Sales Materials and Business Plan.



## FOUR SELECTED FOR ALL COUNTY BAND

Congratulations to the four Canastota students selected for the All-County Band Festival in January - Rachael Case and Austin Gilkinson from the junior high and Kyle Evans and Devin Marsala from the senior high!

Next up: All-County Chorus. Good luck to our students auditioning for that festival this spring.



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said they do see value in these tools. They provide important data that we use in conjunction with formative assessments and classroom performance to provide a clearer picture on how we can assist learners.

Data drives instruction on so many levels. Our administrative team and staff look at overall student cohort data to allow us to make significant curricular changes for present and future classes. It allows us to provide targeted instruction for individual learners. It is also helps inform decisions about student readiness for success towards the standards and graduation. This year, we will be intentional as we use these results to look deeper into how we can do things differently to ensure all students are passing.

The State Education Department recently notified districts regarding school accountability determinations, as required by the federal and state Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plans. Schools can earn a score of 1 to 4, where 1 is the lowest and 4 is the highest, for each ESSA accountability indicator. These indicators include: student achievement in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies; student growth in ELA and math; 4-, 5-, and 6-year graduation rates; student readiness for college, career, and participation in civic life; acquisition of English proficiency by English language learners; and chronic absenteeism.

*Roberts Street Elementary has been identified as a Targeted School* based on data from the 2017-18 school year. This designation will require the school to participate in the following actions, based on a district-level needs assessment, any school-level needs assessments, and data collected and analyzed by the district:

- Identify initiatives that will be implemented to positively affect student learning and to address the accountability measures for which the district has been identified
- Identify resource inequities
- Explicitly delineate a plan to annually increase student performance with a focus on the accountability subgroup(s) and measures for which the district and its schools have been identified

Additional funding will be provided to the school for required change initiatives. We need everyone working together as we move through this plan to ensure every student is successful.

**Capital Projects:** The district is finishing phase three of our capital project. The project was a great success! Highlights include:

- Window replacements and flooring upgrades at Peterboro
- Flooring upgrades, window replacements (partial), and ventilation and plumbing upgrades at South Side
- Roof replacement (partial), ventilation upgrades, science wing renovations, and restroom renovations in the gym wing at the Albanese Educational Complex

We are presently working on upgrading the fire alarm system at Peterboro Elementary as part of our Capital Outlay project and anticipate completion in June 2019. This work is important to the safety of our school.

Keeping our facilities upgraded and safe for our children to learn is critical. The Facilities Committee recently met to look at remaining items that need to be addressed in each of our buildings. We surveyed all staff to help develop a comprehensive long-range facilities plan. We want to hear from our families and community members too, so *we will be putting a link on our website for anyone who would like to submit their thoughts.*

NYS voters approved the Smart Schools Bond Act in 2014-2015 to help address facilities upgrades specifically related to technology and safety. Districts were required to submit investment plans for state approval. *The state has approved Canastota's \$1,357,966 plan*, and we can now begin planning the construction phase of this project. We anticipate work beginning in the spring and continuing through the summer.

Again, I want to thank everyone for their care and concern of our students. We truly appreciate the time, dedication and support from our community and families.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Kathleen M. Davis, Interim Superintendent

# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

## Wrestling Team Honors Coby Stevens



The Wrestling team had a great showing at this year's Fallen Heroes Tournament in January, with two individual first place finishes and an overall second place finish for the team.



Mike Leibl and Nice Rouse both placed 1st in their respective weight classes, and 10 other students finished within the top 6 in their weight classes. (Full listing on our website.) Overall, the team finished second of 14 teams, posting 181 points and topped only by Jamesville-Dewitt/Christian Brothers Academy.

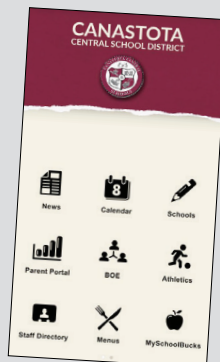
This year's tournament included a special recognition of Coby Stevens, who passed away this past summer in a car accident. Coby, who would have been a junior, had been a member of the varsity wrestling team since 7th grade.

Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Stan Congden called Coby a loyal friend, teammate and student-athlete who always looked out for his friends and could put a smile on anyone's face. As an athlete, he was competitive, hard-working and dedicated.

"Coaches who had the privilege of working with Coby knew he was not afraid of anything or anyone and you would always get his best. He was a fierce competitor on the fields and mat. Coby will never be forgotten by family, friends, teammates and coaches," Congden said. "It was our privilege to honor Coby and his family at the tournament as one of Canastota's Fallen Heroes."

## Download Our Mobile App

Canastota's new mobile app is available in the Apple and Android stores. The free app gives users quick access to the most popular information from our website, including: news, calendar, parent/student portal, BOE website, Athletics, staff directory, lunch menus and Facebook. Users can customize the app so they receive news, building and School Messenger alerts from the district.



## VOLLEYBALL HAS UNDEFEATED SEASON

The Girls Volleyball team is currently undefeated in their division with four wins and has a 10-1 records overall this winter.



## B'BALL WINS HOLIDAY TOURNEY



The Boys Basketball team finished first in this year's Madison Holiday Tournament in December. It was the team's first year participating in this annual two-day tournament, and they beat Madison 67-34 on Day 1 and Hamilton 57-54 on Day 2. Nathen Wood earned Tournament MVP and Edquan Brooks was named to the All-Tournament Team.

# district

## administration

**Dr. Kathleen Davis**  
Interim Superintendent

**Mr. Jason Mitchell**  
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

**Ms. Cara Stevens**  
Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

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

**Mr. Andrew Kennedy**  
Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal

**Mr. Stanley Congden**  
Athletic Director & Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal

**Mr. Michael Faustino**  
Roberts Street Elementary School Principal

**Ms. Jennifer Carnahan**  
Peterboro Street Elementary School Principal

**Ms. Melissa Stanek**  
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

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## education

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President

**Mr. Bill Haddad**  
Vice President

**Mr. Timothy Bazan**

**Mr. Loran Crosby**

**Mr. Douglas Gustin**

**Mr. Wesley Hood**

**Ms. Kathleen Niles**

## Sophomores Launch Suicide Education and Prevention Awareness Campaign

Sophomores Amelia Dansby, Cierra Watkins, and Breannah Wagoner led a successful school-wide service and awareness initiative on suicide prevention.

Through their health class, taught by Linda Bonczek, students learned about the high rate of mental illness among teens and the link between mental health and suicide. They also learned about references and resources from the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program, a national organization, including their "Ask 4 Help" cards. Amelia, Cierra and Breannah printed, laminated and distributed those cards throughout the Junior/Senior High School to students, counselors, psychologists and nurses, and they placed cards in restrooms.

The three students followed up the distribution with an email to all staff, informing them about the project and indicating what they should do if a student approached them with one of the Ask 4 Help cards.

"I am very proud of these students for advocating for the health of our community of students," Mrs. Bonczek said. "It takes a great deal of maturity and caring."

*If you need an additional card, clip the one at right or visit [www.yellowribbon.org](http://www.yellowribbon.org).*



**THIS RIBBON IS A LIFELINE!**

It carries the message that there are those who care and will help! If you are in need and don't know how to ask for help, take this card to a counselor, teacher, clergy, doctor, parent or friend and say:

**"I NEED TO USE MY YELLOW RIBBON"**  
The Yellow Ribbon Program is in loving memory of Michael Emme

**BE-A-LINK® - SAVE A LIFE!**

*If you have received this Card, it is a Cry for Help:*

- Stay with the person - you are their *lifeline!*
- Listen, *really listen*. Take them seriously!
- Get, or call, help *immediately!*

*It's OK to Ask 4 Help!®*

1-800-273-TALK (8255) TEXT 'HELP' TO 741741

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## Canastota CSD

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