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*Striving for Excellence*  
**Canastota**

## A Message From The Superintendent



As summer arrives, it's a perfect time to reflect on the past year and begin to anticipate some of the exciting things on the horizon as we approach the 2021-22 school year. After a very difficult and challenging year, I was so happy to see the year end on such a positive note. Nothing represented the sense of optimism as we emerge from the pandemic as much as our *graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021*. The stars aligned to pave the way for a near-perfect ceremony as commencement was held at the International Boxing Hall of Fame for the very first time – and what an awesome day it

was! The venue was so well-received that we have already secured the IBHOF for our 2022 commencement ceremony! A special thanks goes out to IBHOF Executive Director Ed Brophy and his entire staff for all of their help in making graduation 2021 such a special day! The event serves as a perfect example of why Canastota is such a special place. During a pandemic, at a time when our stadium is unusable due to construction, we still were able to celebrate the Class of 2021 right here in Canastota, at a venue that is uniquely Canastota. Again, just a tremendous way to close out a tough year!

As we look toward the new year, there are several issues that will be frequently addressed in our newsletter and through a variety of district communication tools. While COVID is hopefully winding down, it is still a factor in many aspects of our planning process. As I write this article, we are still eagerly awaiting guidance from the New York State Health Department regarding guidelines and requirements for the start of the 2021-22 school year. As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will continue to evaluate the issue as the circumstances evolve and guidance is clarified. A year and a half into the pandemic, we have demonstrated many successes in navigating through this unprecedented challenge, and we will continue to use the judgment and strategies that have served us well as we prepare for the new year. I'd like to thank our entire school community for their patience and cooperation throughout the past 18 months - it has been very much appreciated. We're nearing the end of the chaos, and we'll emerge better than ever!

As the pandemic winds down, our *Building Excellence capital project* is heating up. Extensive work throughout our facilities is occurring this summer, and that will continue throughout next school year and beyond. As I've noted in previous communications, the construction will necessitate several logistical adjustments this year, including the move of our 3rd graders to Roberts Street for the entire school year. Much more specific information will be coming out as school approaches, but rest assured, our students will be put in a position to succeed even as we navigate around the construction work. While there will undoubtedly be inconveniences associated with the project, it will be worth it when we have a terrific, greatly updated facility. Not only will the appearance of the buildings be greatly enhanced, but the safety and security upgrades will make any inconvenience seem minor. I'll update you



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## SCIENCE CLUB, NHS HOST SCIENCE EXPO

The CHS Science Club and National Honor Society teamed up this spring to host a district-wide Science Expo, a virtual presentation of science projects and research completed both at school and at home by students in K-12. Here are the winners:

### PreK-1

1st place: Isaac Hollibaugh

### Grades 2-3

1st place: Brandon Skinner

### Grades 4-6

1st place: Bailey Hollibaugh

2nd place: Parker Schmidt

3rd place: Kyan Santana

\*Honorable Mentions: Michael Halladay; 5th grade group report on crystals

### Grades 7-8

1st place: Cara Kitchen

2nd place (tie): Aidan Lum, Ty Hawkins

### Grades 9-12

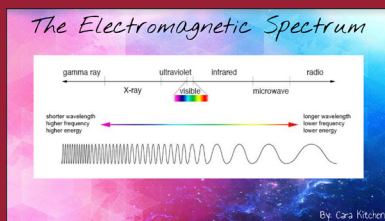
1st place: Aidan Mascareno

2nd place: Chase Moore

3rd place: Aidan Walsh

\*Honorable Mentions: Alasondra Campanaro, Payton Alpaugh

To see the winning projects and read more about the Expo, visit <https://sites.google.com/canastotacsd.org/canastota-science-expo>.



## 2022 Commencement To Be Held At Boxing Hall of Fame

Fresh off of a successful graduation ceremony at the International Boxing Hall of Fame, the Canastota Central School District announced this week that it has secured the same world-class venue for its 2022 Commencement Ceremony.

Canastota Superintendent Shawn Bissetta and IBHOF Executive Director Ed Brophy

both said they couldn't have been more pleased with the outcome of last month's event and look forward to repeating that success next year.

"The Boxing Hall of Fame proved to be an exceptional venue, and Ed Brophy and [media relations director] Jeff Brophy and the entire staff could not have been more accommodating throughout the entire process," Bissetta said. "It was a true celebration of what makes Canastota such a special place. We can't wait to return next year."

Canastota High School's graduation has typically been held at the school, either in the gymnasium or an outdoor space. The 2021 commencement marks the first time the school has ever held it off of school grounds. Bissetta said he has thought about having it at IBHOF since he arrived in the district two years ago. But the desire for an outdoor ceremony due to COVID concerns and the high school's athletic stadium undergoing renovations helped create the momentum to move the ceremony to the Hall of Fame this year.

"We knew we did not want to leave Canastota for graduation," Bissetta said. "We wanted to celebrate our seniors right here in our community, and we're lucky enough to have this fantastic venue right here, so this was really the perfect year to try it out."

Brophy, a 1976 CHS graduate, was happy to provide the space for the event and consulted on logistics and planning with the district's leadership, transportation and facilities teams. He was also able to secure Hall of Fame announcer Michael Buffer to remotely deliver a send-off message to the Class of 2021, as a "surprise gift" from the Hall of Fame.

"Everyone was really pleased and appreciative of all the efforts, and all the stars aligned for a great night," Brophy said. "I just have so much pride in this district and for this class and this administration. We're happy to do this for Canastota."

*Thank you to Facilities Director Nick Campbell and his team and Transportation Director Cindy Clark and her team for all of their work in making this year's graduation a success!*



# Workshop Kicks Off New Literacy Effort



Nearly 80 teachers across the district will complete an in-depth training this summer with The Reading League, a nonprofit focused on promoting research-based literacy instruction strategies. The training is part of a districtwide initiative to enhance literacy and language arts curriculum and instruction at all levels and increase student achievement.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Special Programs Chris Clancy said the district is continually reviewing its curriculum

and instructional practices, particularly in literacy because it is foundational to all subject areas. He said the new partnership with The Reading League will help bring a new perspective to the district's literacy efforts.

"There's really no specific tool or book that they focus on," Clancy said. "They really focus on teaching us about the research on how students learn to read so that we, as a district, can decide which resources are right for us."

The district plans to use the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) program at the elementary level, and teachers received training specific to that program last month. Clancy said teachers immediately saw the connections between the research that The Reading League shared and the specific curriculum in the CKLA guides.

This summer's Reading League trainings targeted K-8 ELA teachers and K-12 special education teachers. The training was offered in late June and will again be offered in August in addition to an online version to help accommodate summer schedules. Trainers will be returning throughout the upcoming school year to continue trainings and work with different groups on specific topics.



## WELCOME TO 'STOTA!

### **Maura White, RSES Principal**

We're excited to welcome Maura White as the new principal of Roberts Street Elementary School!

She has been the Principal of West Genesee High School since 2018 and has experience



implementing intervention programs to support students in both academics and social emotional areas. Prior to her principalship, she taught high school science for 17 years, in Liverpool and at Bishop Ludden in Syracuse. She will join us later this summer.

### **Mike Sales, Tech Coordinator**

Mike Sales is our new Technology Coordinator and will be overseeing districtwide needs related to computers, Chromebooks, phones, wireless and more.

Mike joined the district in May after 23 years with the Mohawk Regional Information Center. He



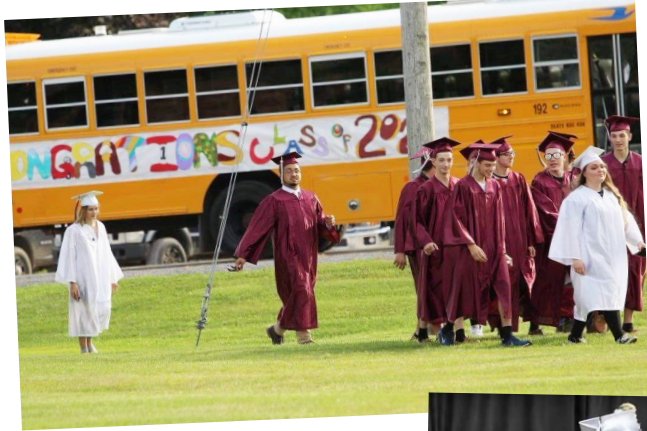
is an Air Force veteran and is completing his bachelor's degree in Cyber Security as well as other security certifications.

## Class of 2021 Post-Graduation Plans

Ackerman, Luke	SUNY Binghamton	Long, Michael	Employment
Agerter, Bailey	LeMoyne College	Marris, Robert	Employment
Anderson, Aiden	Job Corp	Marsala, Dylan	Employment
Baker, Gavin	Employment	Martin, Kadin	SUNY Albany
Bartholomew, Ayden	Marines	Michels, Haley	Hamilton College
Becker, Carly	SUNY Geneseo	Michels, Hunter	SUNY Polytechnic Institute
Besaw, Olivia	Phlebotomy Program	Milks, Jada	Utica College
Biddlecome, Corey	SUNY Morrisville	Miller, Xander	SUNY Morrisville
Blanchard, Makayla	Utica College	Miller, Zachary	Employment
Bonaventura, Mattison	MVCC	Mitchell, Kimberlee	MVCC
Bovair, Jonathan	HCCC	Morris, Ashton	LeMoyne College
Bowling, Rose	Red Rocks Community College	Niles, Jacob	SUNY Morrisville
Brown, Richelle	LeMoyne College	Niles, Jesslyn	Elmira College
Bruinsma, Jessica	Employment	Noble, Amber	MVCC
Card, Clarence	Employment	Nodine, Rocky	MVCC
Casolare, Kaidyn	SUNY Fredonia	O'Dell, Kaitlyn	SUNY Binghamton
Cesario, Chelsea	Utica College	Patterelli, Julia	Employment
Cesario, Holly	Employment	Quinn, Patrick	St. John Fisher College
Chase, Jeffrey	Employment	Quinn, Tyler	Heavy Construction Academy
Coleman, Zyiasia	Cazenovia College	Retrosi, Matthew	SUNY Morrisville
Crandall, Damon	Unknown	Ricketts, Caleb	SUNY Morrisville
Dansby, Amelia	MVCC	Ridgeway, Katrina	Employment
Davis, Kimberly	Cazenovia College	Robotham, Kyle	Employment
Debrucque, Ethan	Olympic College	Rowe, Carson	University of Buffalo
DeKing, Cole	Culver-Stockton College	Schermerhorn, Aileen	LeMoyne College
Delaney, Dominique	Employment	Sharkey, Maxwell	Marines
DeMarzio, Madison	MVCC	Slawsky, Sapphire	Florida State University
DeNeve, Michael	SUNY Morrisville	Snow, William	Clarkson University
Denney, Juliana	University of Buffalo	Snyder, Emily	SUNY Purchase
Devine, Jared	SUNY Morrisville	Sorbello, Gabriel	Employment
Domena, Angelique	Employment	Stevens, Kyle	IBEW Electrician's Union
Doxtater, Bailey	SUNY Cobleskill	Stevens, Lucas	Employment
Evans, Caitlyn	Keuka College	Stevens, Taylor	LeMoyne College
Evans, Jessica	Mercy College	Stokes, Konnor	Employment
Evans, Kendra	St. Thomas Aquinas College	Suppa, Laura	MVCC
Evans, Kyle	Roberts Wesleyan	Titus, Joseph	Unknown
Farwell, Xavier	SUNY Alfred State	Tolen, McKenzie	Employment
Garcia, Jade	Employment	VanSlyke, Carolyn	OCC
Grzeszczuk, Connor	MVCC	Wagoner, Breannah	SUNY Cobleskill
Hart, Isabell	LeMoyne College	Watkins, Cierra	MVCC
Holloman, Breanna	Unknown	White, Connor	Navy
Holloman, Jordan	Employment	Whitmeyer, Jakob	Employment
Johnston, Colin	Employment	Williams, Kyle	Unknown
Kaiser, Christopher	Employment	Wood, Carley	Clarkson University
Kimball, Jessica	SUNY Morrisville	Wood, Nathan	St. John Fisher College
Lawton, Kalin	SUNY Brockport	Zoeckler, Azeria	Employment

*Listing includes plans that were self-reported by students to CHS Guidance Office by graduation.*

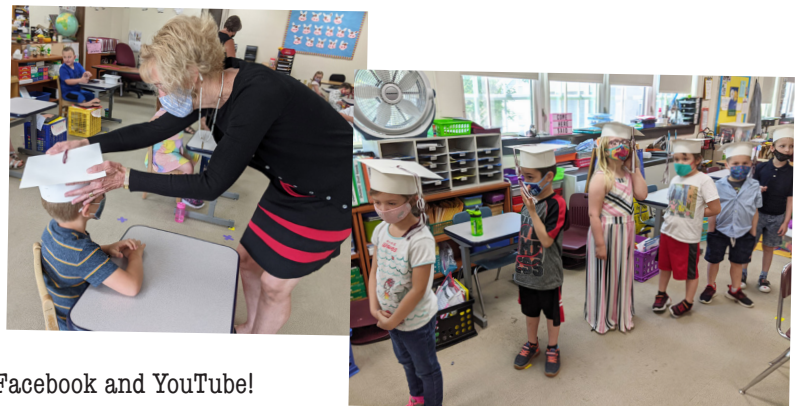
# Congratulations, Seniors!



## 6th Grade Graduation



## Kindergarten Graduation



Find more graduation photos and videos on our website, Facebook and YouTube!

## GRADE LEVEL MOVES FOR 2021-22

Due to the capital project, construction work will occur in all of our buildings at different times during the 2021-22 school year. To accommodate this work and keep students and staff safe, please note the following:

- **3rd Grade** will be located at RSES for the entire school year.
- **2nd Grade** will begin the year in their current wing at SSES and will move to the 3rd grade wing for the second semester.
- **1st Grade** will begin the year at PSES and move to SSES later in the year.
- **Kindergarten & PreK** will remain at PSES but may move to different rooms later in the year.

We thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding!

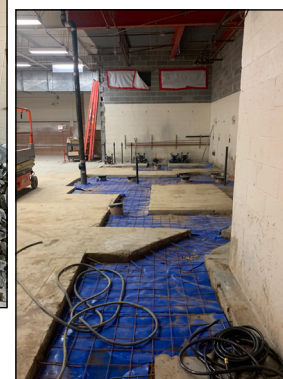
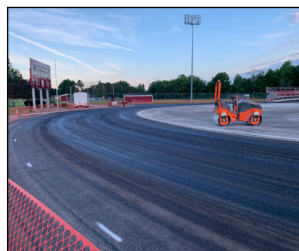
## UPDATE ON TAX PAYMENTS

The Canastota Central School District has partnered with Community Bank N.A. as the primary holder of the district's financial assets. Community Bank N.A. will now collect tax payments for district residents.

In-person tax payments will be accepted at the Canastota branch, located at 104 South Peterboro Street, Canastota, NY 13032.

## Capital Project Scenes

Our Building Excellence capital project is in full swing this summer. Here's a quick look at what's going on. Stay tuned for updates and visit our Facebook page and website for more photos and information.



*continued from page 1*

## Superintendent's Message

frequently as we move throughout the year on the progress of this important capital project.

I'd like to end my comments today by informing you of an extremely exciting initiative underway in the Canastota Central School District – our K-12 Literacy initiative. As we all know, literacy is the foundation upon which all successful schools build their academic programs. Our district is in the process of implementing a comprehensive, research-based approach to our K-12 instructional program in order to ensure that this foundational skill is a priority throughout the school. I can assure you that there is nothing fancy about what we are doing – it is all about establishing consistency and high expectations through every grade level and building in our school. I look forward to sharing with you all of the exciting ways that our students and families will benefit from this critically important district initiative. Stay tuned.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and Go Raiders!

Sincerely,

Shawn Bissetta, Superintendent

# Elementary Students Earn Badges

Nearly 400 Canastota students demonstrated mastery of positive character traits and earned badges this spring through the district's new Badging and Microcredentialing initiative, helping to pave the way for a formal roll out of the program at the JSHS in the fall.

Students at the K-6 level worked all year on badging booklets that helped them learn and promote traits like kindness, fairness, leadership and goal-setting. Successful students earned a badge and certificate to celebrate their accomplishments.

Now, it's time to move the program up to the 7-12 level. Program Coordinator Liz Garofalo said she anticipates introducing work-based learning and service learning badges with students in the fall. She also plans to work with advisors on introducing club-based badges to students.

"We've continued to work with community members and develop these badges over the past year and the community remains very supportive of this effort," Garofalo said. "Our community members have validated that the skills we're focusing badges on are the skills our kids need to be successful."

She had a soft rollout of two high school badges this spring – one for participation in a Canal Clean Up Day and one for writing articles in the Engage Canastota newsletter. The soft launch helped her to assess the process, gauge student interest and iron out any glitches.

This summer, Garofalo will assist Leadership Team advisor Lisa Visalli with a one-day Summer Leadership Academy for incoming class officers. There, she will introduce some badging efforts on the horizon. Students who participate in this will also be eligible for a badge.

A home-grown badging program like this one are, ultimately, limitless in their potential, Garofalo said, but she wants to focus on quality over quantity.

"There is a lot of excitement, a lot of interest in where we're going next," she said. "This could get very big, but we want to be mindful of keeping a high level of quality in what we do."



## YEARBOOK EARNS NATIONAL AWARD



The CHS Yearbook Staff earned a Silver Level Award in the Josten's National Yearbook Program of Excellence for their 2020-21 publication!

Staff members include: Bailey Agerter, Amelia Dansby, Bailey Doxtater, Caitlyn Evans, Kendra Evans, Kyle Evans, Jada Milks, Amber Noble, Taylor Stevens, and Laura Suppa. Teachers Denise Whalen and Kelley Brenon serve as advisors.

## DISTRICT OFFERS FREE SUMMER MEALS

Canastota is once again offering FREE meals this summer to all children ages 18 and younger. The program will run Monday through Friday until August 25 from 9am to noon. Breakfast and lunch are available.

This year's program will be located at Peterboro Street Elementary School and will be pick-up only. Please be mindful of one-way entry and exit.

Meals are available to those 19 and over at a cost of \$4 per meal.



Congratulations to Engage Canastota Coordinator Liz Garofalo and Superintendent Shawn Bissetta on being selected to deliver a presentation on the badging initiative at the 2021 NYS Rural Schools Association Conference in July in Cooperstown!

# district

**Mr. Shawn Bissetta**  
Superintendent

**Mr. Christopher Clancy**  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Instruction & Special Programs

**Mr. Nicholas Panuccio Jr.**  
Executive Director of Finance  
& 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

**Ms. Maura White**  
Roberts Street Elementary  
School Principal

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

**Ms. Vanessa McClowry**  
South Side Elementary School Principal

**Ms. Cynthia Clark**  
Transportation Supervisor

**Mr. Nick Campbell**  
Facilities Leader

**Ms. Kathie Palladino**  
Assistant Director of Special Programs

**Ms. Karen Henner**  
Instructional Support Services Director

**Mr. Michael Sales**  
Technology Director

administration

## Schools Partner on Reading Initiative

The three elementary schools teamed up for a community-wide reading initiative this spring to reinforce literacy skills and the home-school connection.



Through Canastota Reads, students in K-3 read “The Mouse and the Motorcycle” while RSES students read “Dear Mr. Henshaw.” Both books are by noted children’s author Beverly Cleary, who recently passed away, and SSES Principal Vanessa McClowry said the selections were meant as a tribute.

“She’s so well-known and has so many books for this age group that we wanted to expose students to her work,” she said.

Throughout the three-week challenge period, students read the book at home and answered trivia questions at school, earning prizes like Zem’s gift certificates. The schools also had themed days – Crazy Hat Day and Sports Day – to encourage

participation in the reading effort.

RSES classes worked with librarian Mary Laverty on culminating projects with a STEM focus, including collapsing canapé boxes to catch the book’s lunch thief.

Canastota Reads builds off of the One School, One Book initiative, but it included a larger community involvement piece. CHS student Quinn VanLone even designed a series of posters to help promote the effort, both in the schools and in the community.

“It was important for us that the community be involved in something like this,” McClowry said.

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