



Raider Nation News

A publication of the Canastota Central School District

Summer 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As we near the end of summer, 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 2022-23 school year. After another 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 emerged from the pandemic as much as our graduation ceremony for the Class of 2022. The stars aligned to pave the way for a near perfect ceremony as commencement was held at the International Boxing Hall of Fame for only the second time ever – and what an awesome day it was! A special thanks goes out to IBHOF Executive Director Ed Brophy and his entire staff for all of their help in making the 2022 graduation such a special day!

The event serves as a perfect example of why Canastota is such an awesome place. During a pandemic, at a time when our school campus has extensive construction underway related to our current capital project, we still were able to celebrate the Class of 2022 right here in Canastota, at a venue that is uniquely Canastota. Again, just a tremendous way to close out another tough year!

As we look toward the new school year, there are several issues that will be frequently addressed in our newsletter and through a variety of district communication tools.

COVID Update

While COVID is hopefully winding down, it is still a factor in many aspects of our planning process. As I write this letter, we are still awaiting any new guidance from the New York State Health Department regarding guidelines and requirements for the start of the 2022-23 school year. As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will continue to evaluate the issue as the circumstances evolve and guidance is clarified. Two and a half years into the pandemic, we have a demonstrated record of success in navigating through this unprecedented challenge, and we will continue to use the judgment and strategies that have served us well as we get ready for the new year. I'd like to thank our entire school community for their patience and cooperation throughout the past two and a half years, it has been very much appreciated. We're hopefully nearing the end of the pandemic, and I'm confident that we'll emerge better than ever!

Capital Project

As the pandemic winds down, our capital project is heating up as it heads into its final phase. Extensive work throughout our facilities is occurring this summer and represents the culmination of a project that has been underway for the past eighteen months. After a year marked by numerous changes, all of our students will be back in their typical



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DISTRICT WELCOMES CONNECTED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Canastota is officially connected! The district hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony in May to formally announce its new partnership with Connected Community Schools, a Rome-based organization that supports students and families by linking them with resources and local agencies.

“Being a partner with Connected Community Schools means that we now have the opportunity more than ever to give our students and our families a sense of hope. Hope that some of the challenges they’re facing are not insurmountable challenges,” Superintendent Shawn Bissetta said. “CCS is a huge part of our attempt to say, you know what, we’re going to eliminate, as best we can, these distractors, these barriers to learning.”

Canastota’s CCS Site Coordinators have been working

in the district for several months in school-based hubs. The site coordinators and Program Manager Deborah Hirsch utilize an extensive network of businesses, agencies and community partners to provide resources that can help students overcome personal obstacles, such as housing and food insecurity, medical and dental issues, and mental health needs. CCS also provides classroom programming and family engagement activities.

Students, staff, administrators and community members attended the ribbon-cutting, where they heard from Bissetta, 2021-22 Board President Loran Crosby, CHS senior Ryan Aumell, educational consultant Otis Jennings, CCS Executive Director Melissa Roys and CCS Vice President of Integrated

Children’s Services Danielle Martin. Band teacher Steve Button led a brass ensemble in two short pieces for the ceremony entertainment, students Elena Tucci and Joseph Palkovic led the Pledge of Allegiance, and student Connor Russell donned the CCS koala mascot outfit for the event.

Martin said she was honored to be invited into the Canastota community to help students succeed. She stressed that CCS is a



collaborative agency that works to bring the entire community together to help students succeed.



“We don’t do this alone. This is not our initiative, this is not our connected school – it’s ours, all of ours. We do this all together, to do the work that we do and to have fun and to create a new school,” she said. “We’re not just a program. We’re creating a connected school.”

You may have noticed that this issue of our district newsletter looks different than it has in the past. We have updated our design to look more modern and to align better with the look of our new website, which we launched on July 1. Both platforms will continue to feature student and program highlights, critical information for our stakeholders and the best of what Canastota has to offer. We hope you enjoy reading this issue!



LIONS AWARDS

The Canastota Lions Club recognized 21 students from RSES and JSHS for their outstanding commitment to community service.

This year's Lions Young Leaders in Service Awards recognized students in grades 4-12 who earned 50 and 100 hours of community service between March 2021 and February 2022.

The 11 Gold Award winners (100+ hours) are:

Grade 12: Rosario Brown, Rebecca McClure, Kara Winters

Grade 11: Helen Shear

Grade 9: Cara Kitchen

Grade 8: Bridgit Peck-Pino

Grade 7: Bailey Hollibaugh

Grade 5: Christina McClure

Friendship Baptist Homeschool Co-Op: Jasmine Rosati, Rose Rosati, Johnny Rosati

The 10 Silver Award winners (50+ hours) are:

Grade 12: Maya Tucci

Grade 11: Brooke Congden, Aireanna Wagoner, Kendra Wagoner, Adelyn Ward, Emma Wood

Grade 10: Chloe Curtis

Grade 9: Teagan Hopkins, Mackenzi Stevens

Grade 6: Elena Tucci

FIRST AMBASSADOR CLASS JOINS INDUCTION WEEKEND FESTIVITIES



During this year's IBHOF Induction Weekend in June, 30 CHS students in the new Student Ambassador program had ringside seats to all the action.

The students completed a nine-month leadership development program offered jointly through the Canastota district's badging program and the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Through the program, they learned about the entertainment, sports marketing and hospitality industries and gained critical leadership and communication skills.

Students put their skills and knowledge into action by spending the 4-day induction weekend volunteering as greeters, gift shop helpers, emcees, raffle and silent auction assistants and

membership booth staff. They had an opportunity to meet the inductees during a Friday luncheon at Theodore's, and they assisted with the banquet held at Turning

Stone Event Center on Saturday. They also hosted an assembly at the high school with boxer Christy Martin, a member of the first class of female inductees to the IBHOF.

As part of their preparations for induction weekend, Student Ambassadors spearheaded a fundraiser this spring to support Ukrainian children, due in part to their town's connection with two prominent Ukrainian boxers, the Klitschko brothers, who are both Hall of Fame members. Students announced that they raised nearly \$5,000 since April.



Next year, interested students will be able to dive deeper into the Sports Management & Entertainment Marketing industry through a new CTE course at MOBOCES that will be housed at Canastota High School.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN JSHS CAREER EXPO

Canastota High School hosted a Career Expo this spring to expose students to different career pathways and allow them to practice critical job skills with local employers.

Representatives from local businesses, colleges, government and community agencies, and school programs set up displays in the Media Center and were available to answer students' questions about training programs, employment preparation and career opportunities in the field.

Community members also volunteered to hold mock job interviews with students to help them practice answering questions appropriately and concisely when meeting with an actual employer.

Coordinator of Innovative Learning, Liz Garofalo, organized the event, primarily aimed at CTE students. The Expo built on the well-established Mock

Interview Day that the JSHS Business Department ran for many years, inviting community leaders in to help provide an interview experience for students. Students who participated in a mock interview earned a Career Expo badge.



SPRING BADGING SUCCESSES

Canastota students across the district have spent the year working on digital badging and microcredentialing efforts. Here are some of our success stories.



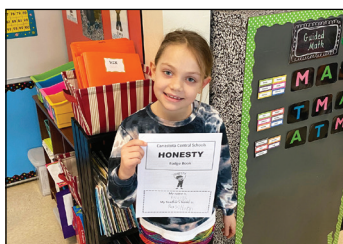
Fourth graders earned their Citizenship Badges.

Students who joined the Canal Clean Sweep event in the spring received a digital badge and community service hours for their efforts.



RSES students in grades 4-6 completed Recycling Badges.

Second and third graders completed their Honesty Badges.



CHS SENIORS RECOGNIZED AT BOCES

Several Canastota seniors who attend CTE programs at BOCES received special recognitions this June during year-end ceremonies.

Sophia Bolton - Scholarship from Rome Teachers Federal Credit Union

Ryan Aumell - Hired by Madison County Highway Department directly from a spring semester internship

Chase Moore and Maya Tucci - Part of New Visions Engineering team that created an award-winning video for the Rural Schools Association Student Video Contest.



EVERYDAY SEL

SSES launched a new Morning Greeting initiative this spring to help boost school climate and build student-teacher relationships. Teachers greet each student by name with a "Good Morning" and students can choose if they'd like to receive a high five, a peace sign, a smile, a wave, a dance or some other type of greeting. In return, students tell teachers "Thank you for being here with me today."

SENIORS EARN SECTION 3 AWARDS



Seniors Rebecca McClure and Aidan Mascareno received this year's Section 3 Scholar Athlete Awards for Canastota. Rebecca participated in field hockey, indoor track and field and softball. Aidan participated in soccer, volleyball and track and field.

ART SHOW AWARDS

Congratulations to the students who received special awards for the artwork they submitted to this year's Districtwide Art Show!

Teachers Awards

- Kindergarten - Lennon Iannon "Sunset" and Reid Smith "Underwater Animals"
- 1st grade - Sam Benedict "Fish Bowl" and Paislee Coonrod "Mexican Folk Art"
- 2nd grade - Tylas Showalter "Solar System" and Mackenzie Schiavetta "Cool Cat"
- 3rd grade - Amethyst Robinson "Landscape" and James Williams Jr. "Landscape"
- Xavier Campbell "Hot Dog" and "Landscape"
- 4th grade - Lily Vaughn "Primary Abstraction"
- 5th grade - Avery Halsey "Scream Parody"
- 6th grade - Brelynn Halsey "Peace Poster"
- 7th grade - Carter Crosby "Parody"
- 8th grade - Brooke Roberts "Color Painting"
- Studio in Art Whalen - Bryson DeMott "Still I Rise"
- Studio in Art Boisen - Emma Farwell "Neurographical Art"
- Studio in Art Buneo - "Portrait of Logan"
- DDP - Ethan Fuller "Stop"
- Drawing & Painting - Adelyn Debrucque "Sunflower"
- Ceramics/Sculpture - Michelle Bartlett "Sunflower Bas Relief"
- Mixed Media - Zack Doxtater "Save Our Shells"
- Digital Photography - Mattingly Clarke "Joyous"
- MVCC FA101 - Gloriana Stumpff "Forgiveness"

Alumni Awards

- Ash Ward - "Sunflowers"
- Kayliana Betz - "Bridge"
- Brooke Roberts - Perspective Words

Administration Awards

- Superintendent's Award - Mattingly Clarke "Olive"
- Assistant Superintendent's Award - Mya Rizzo "Watercolor Tree"
- Principal Awards - Alex Seeber "Extinct" and Breeah Shaw "Figure Drawing"
- Assistant Principal Award - Mattingly Clarke "Megan"
- Assistant Principal Award - Zack Doxtater "Dragon"
- Principal Award - Abigail Maiura "Bedroom"

View the gallery of award-winning pieces on our Facebook page.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Our Building Excellence districtwide capital project will continue this summer and wrap up during the fall semester. Here's a look at some of the major work you'll see happening this summer and some of the work that was completed this spring.

THIS SUMMER'S WORK

- *Roberts Street Complex:* District Office, Media Center, Pupil Personnel Office, Playroom Gym, High School Band Room, Forum Room, Faculty Room, Technology Classroom and Shop, 2nd floor bathrooms
- *Peterboro Street:* Front Entrance, Roofing, Additional Parking, Playground
- *South Side:* Cafeteria ceiling, New Parking Lot Light Poles, Exterior Doors
- *Bus Garage:* Demo Work, Grounds, Bathrooms
- *All Sites:* Parking Lot Paving



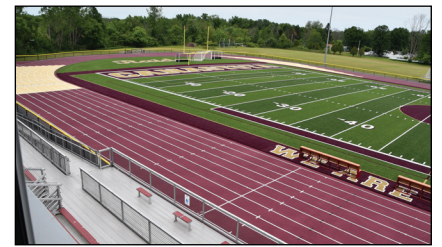
Significant work was completed at South Side (above), including new tiling in the hallways, updated bathrooms and ADA-compliant classroom doors.



The Main Office, Guidance Office and Nurse's Office at the High School have been completed renovated.



The high school parking lot has been repaved.



The track at the new Athletic Complex officially opened in the spring for both student and community use.

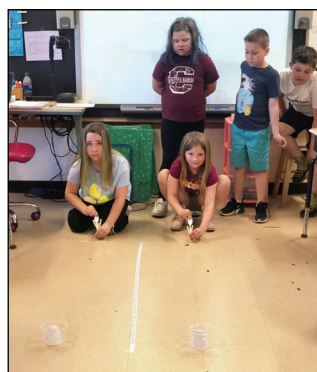


STUDENTS ENGAGE IN STEM LEARNING

Students across our elementary buildings have been incorporating hands-on STEM-based learning into their work this spring, both in and out of the classroom. Teachers said these activities help keep students more engaged in the lesson and provide opportunities to practice inquiry, research, teamwork and communication skills.

Some of the activities that occurred this spring included:

- 4th graders works in teams to create circuits
- 3rd graders worked with partners to create catapults
- 2nd graders visited Jake's Greenhouse and planted flowers
- 3rd and 4th graders visited the Great Swamp Conservancy to learn about animals, habitats and the local environment.
- For Earth Day, SSES students planted a tree, and RSES students held a school cleanup and met with the Madison County Recycling Coordinator to discuss conservation efforts.



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

buildings in 2022-23 - our 3rd graders will return to South Side Elementary and Peterboro Street Elementary will once again house Pre-K-1st grade students. We appreciate everyone's patience as we navigated through all of the movements that occurred last year and into this summer. The improvements in our facilities will be worth the inconveniences. Not only has the appearance and functionality of the buildings been greatly enhanced, but the safety and security upgrades will make any inconvenience seem minor. From the enhanced security features, to the numerous infrastructure upgrades (new roofs, parking lots, bathrooms, etc.), to what is now frequently called the best home field in Section 3 (due to our stadium track and field renovations), we have an updated facility that will serve the needs of our community for years to come.

New Initiatives

With the 2022-23 school year just around the corner, we are excited about our many upcoming initiatives. As we all know, literacy is the foundation upon which all successful schools build their academic programs. Our leadership team and staff are in the process of implementing a comprehensive, research-based approach to our K-12 instructional program to ensure that this foundational skill is a priority throughout the district. 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. Last

year was a year of many instructional changes. This year, we will focus on refining our practices and settling into our shared, consistent approach to building and maintaining a top-notch core academic program.

As we continue to focus on the basics, we also are taking steps to ensure that our students have every opportunity to excel and reach their full potential. Not only have we worked extensively on developing our academic intervention and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programming, but we've introduced programming that is unique to Canastota. The upcoming year will mark the first full year that Connected Community Schools partners with Canastota, and we are proud to be only the 13th district in the state to receive this designation. We're also proud to announce that we are the host district for a Sports and Entertainment Management program (the only one in our region) offered in conjunction with Madison-Oneida BOCES, and that we continue to expand our Badging/Micro-credentialing program to allow students to learn important skills valued by regional businesses and community organizations.

I look forward to sharing with you all of the exciting ways that our students and families will benefit from these critically important district initiatives. Stay tuned. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and go Raiders!

Sincerely,
Shawn Bissetta, Superintendent

FBLA AWARDS



Congratulations to our FBLA students who earned top places at the State Leadership Conference this spring, qualifying them for the National Leadership Conference!

Nicole Aumell, grade 10: 2nd place in Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure and 3rd place in Journalism

Makayla Betsinger, grade 8: 1st place in Elevator Speech

Gage Krom, grade 8: 1st place in Business Etiquette

Colton Smith, grade 5: 2nd place Financial Literacy (alternate for nationals)

Colton is the first 5th grader in Canastota's FBLA chapter and he was the only 5th grader at the state conference, competing against junior high students.

In addition Nicole was elected during the conference to serve as the NYS FBLA State Vice President for District 7 for the next school year.



WESLEY HOOD, Board President
KATHLEEN NILES, Board Vice President
SCOTT BLANCHARD, Board Member
LORAN CROSBY, Board Member
BILL HADDAD, Board Member
DEBORAH NEW, Board Member
MAUREEN WOOD, Board Member

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GRADUATION 2022

Congratulations to our newest Raider alumni!



STEPPING STONES SUMMER ENRICHMENT

More than 100 K-6 students are reinforcing their math and ELA skills through fun, hands-on activities in our Stepping Stones elementary summer enrichment program. This year, we have added a weekly STEM lab for all participating students to help teach key science concepts.

We are also hosting an Extended School Year program to support our special education students who need additional time in school.

