



# Fonda-Fultonville

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Fonda-Fultonville Elementary School named National Blue Ribbon School

On Tuesday, September 21, the Fonda-Fultonville Elementary School was officially recognized as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Fonda-Fultonville Elementary School is one of 325 public schools nationwide – and one of only 19 schools in New York state – to receive this prestigious honor which identifies schools that are models of successful teaching, engaging curriculums and learning.

“We are incredibly honored to be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School,” said Principal Eric Romano. “This is a direct reflection of the dedication and hard work provided by our teachers, faculty and staff. We continue to deliver quality educational opportunities for today’s

students and families, especially during the pandemic. This is a prestigious award that recognizes the work being delivered for our students, district families and school community – which has always established academics as a priority.”

To be named a National Blue Ribbon School, the U.S. Department

of Education requests nominations from the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Nominated schools are then invited to apply and must submit an extensive application for



consideration. This is the second time Fonda-Fultonville Elementary School has received the Blue Ribbon designation; the first time was in 2008-09.

**BLUE RIBBON** continued on Page 2



### NYSPHSAA names FFCSD a school of excellence for 2020-21 school year

The Fonda-Fultonville High School was named a School of Excellence by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) for the 2020-21 school year. Fonda-Fultonville High School was one of 18 schools in Section II to earn the honor.

To be named a School of Excellence, 75% of a district’s varsity teams must achieve scholar-athlete status. For a team to achieve scholar-athlete status, 75% of the roster’s cumulative average GPA must be greater than or equal to 90.

**NYSPHSAA** continued on Page 3





# Creating opportunities for today's students

In 2020, the FFCS – in partnership with Fulton-Montgomery Community College – created a program to provide students with the opportunity to pursue a debt-free college degree. The process is dedicated to allowing today's students to pursue higher education without the debt associated with attending a two-year or four-year college/university.

“We are fortunate to have this partnership with Fulton-Montgomery Community College to provide our students with access to affordable educational opportunities in our region,” said Superintendent of Schools Thomas Ciaccio. “By enabling our students access to educational and employment pathways, we are creating opportunities for the future of our community through this partnership.”

How does it work? Established during the 2020-21 school year, FFHS students can participate in the Advanced Pathway College Credit Program (APC) and graduate from high school with up to 25 credits toward an associate's degree from FMCC. Program participants have the option of taking select College in the High School courses for free, so long as they meet the program's criteria.

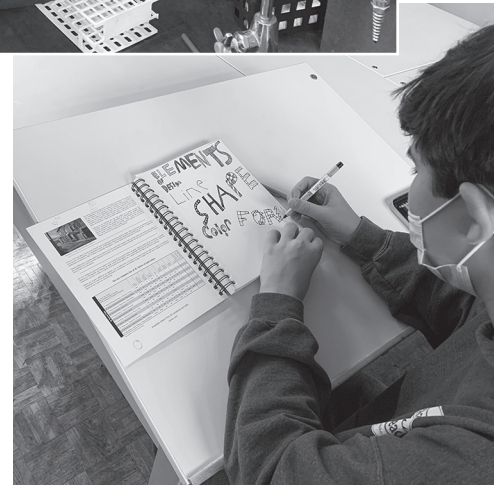
This program is the first of its kind in the region under a new partnership between FFCS

and FMCC. The program is geared toward students who expect to attend FMCC after they graduate from high school. The APC credits that FFCS students earn in high school can be transferred to FMCC for up to two years after graduating from high school.

The APC program builds upon FFCS's existing College in the High School program that is offered to students in partnership with FMCC.

FFCS already offers a wide variety of College in the High School courses to all students who qualify academically and meet the program's existing prerequisites. Students who take College in the High School courses have the option of paying reduced-rate tuition to earn college credits, many of which are transferable to other colleges.

To learn more about this program, visit [www.fondafultonvilleschools.org](http://www.fondafultonvilleschools.org) or contact your student's guidance counselor for additional information.



**BLUE RIBBON** *continued from Page 1*

According to the U.S. Department of Education website, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year, the U. S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, schools demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels. Now in its 38th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed almost 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools. The coveted National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

The application process was led by former FFES Interim Principal Megan Collins, who coordinated with school officials to review information and data to submit the application to be considered as a National Blue Ribbon School. “We are very excited to receive this recognition,” said Collins, who is now the district's Director of Curriculum. “Becoming a National Blue Ribbon School is a testament to the work completed on behalf of our teaching staff, students, faculty and administrators. Without their dedication and compassion for our students, this award would not be possible. Our staff continues to go above and beyond for our students and the Fonda-Fultonville community.”

FFES is one of only two schools to be honored as a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School in the greater Capital District region.

“This recognition should be celebrated by our entire school community,” said Fonda-Fultonville Central School District Superintendent Thomas Ciaccio. “The Fonda-Fultonville Elementary School is a unique place where our youngest students begin their educational journey. Inside its walls, the elementary school has an established tradition of creating a positive learning environment that develops successful habits and a love of learning. On the outside, FFCS has a school community in which families value education and model the importance of supporting one another.”

Representatives from the district will be honored at a recognition ceremony hosted by the U.S. Department of Education on Nov. 4-5 in Washington, D.C.

**NYSPHSAA** *continued from Page 1*

“As a district, we are proud of our student-athletes who continue to excel both on the field and in the classroom,” said Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Ciaccio. “The ability to transcend their talents from a competitive landscape into today’s classroom is incredible and it continues to showcase the quality of students and staff that represent our district and the Fonda-Fultonville community.”

During the 2020-21 school year, the following varsity teams earned scholar-athlete status:

- Football
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Volleyball
- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Cross Country
- Golf
- Cheer
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Bowling
- Baseball
- Softball
- Boys Track & Field
- Girls Track & Field

A special congratulations goes out to our teachers, coaches, families and students for this recognition!



## FFMS BUILDING A CULTURE OF KINDNESS AND EMPATHY

The FFMS continues to focus on the importance of self-awareness and understanding within our school community. As part of this initiative, the FFMS will bring together the No Place for Hate and character education programs to build on our welcoming culture and ensure everyone who passes through our doors feels a sense of belonging. In November, the school will introduce both programs to keep those narratives in focus for FFMS students.

The No Place for Hate program is in its third year at the middle school and brings together students to discuss specific themes related to building a positive school culture. This year, the program will focus on helping students to understand the

importance of empathy and kindness, while providing access to the social emotional tools that students may need.

In addition, the character education program is designed to reinforce the Fonda-Fultonville Brave Traits which include: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, perseverance and citizenship. As students increase their awareness of these pillars, they will continue to build upon the positive impact they can have as citizens in our school community.

The district will highlight some aspects of the program throughout the year. Be sure to watch our district website and Facebook page.



## Capital project vote slated for spring 2022

The FFMSD will be pursuing a capital project to be voted on by district stakeholders in the spring of 2022. The proposed capital project will look to replace and update areas within our existing infrastructure, specifically plumbing, electrical, paving and structural upgrades. This project will set the stage for future state-of-the-art learning spaces that will enhance the FFMS instructional program. Please note there will be no tax increase associated with the project. Stay tuned for additional information as we share important updates and information with our school community in preparation for the capital project vote, which will coincide with the annual school budget vote on Tuesday, May 17.



# Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*Produced in cooperation with  
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## FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

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## SCHOOL SPIRIT



School spirit was in full swing during the high school's Oct. 15 pep rally, complete with fun competitions and performances by the pep band, cheerleaders and color guard.

