



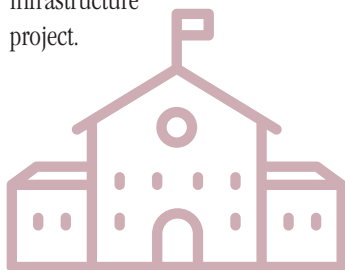
Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022-23 capital project: What to know

As we begin the new year, the FFCS will begin preparations to introduce important details related to the 2022-23 capital project that will be voted on by our school community on Tuesday, May 17. The upcoming capital project will center on safety and infrastructure improvement projects that will enable the district to strengthen our internal capacity to grow our classrooms into state-of-the-art learning spaces. Primarily, the capital project will center on specific areas involving our middle and high school infrastructure: building electrical efficiency and capacity for

our entire campus; replacing plumbing, updating bathrooms, replacing water heaters, creating a more efficient parking and drop-off area for the middle and high school, and relocating our kitchen to a centralized and more efficient area. Please stay tuned for additional communications related to this important infrastructure project.



FFCS receives funding to expand Universal pre-k program for the current school year

The Fonda-Fultonville Central School District has received funding to expand its Universal Pre-K program from three classes to four. The district was one of 31 school districts, selected from across New York state, to be included in the \$13.36 million in funding from the Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Expansion Grants. The funding will allow the FFCS to increase the opportunity for incoming students to receive access to prekindergarten services and support. The fourth class is already fully staffed and filled with students eager to learn and grow.



"We are fortunate that we now have the opportunity to expand our pre-K to four classes. We know there has been a need for this class, but this is the first year we qualified to apply for the Pre-K Expansion Grant," said Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Ciacio. "By having this opportunity, we are able to support 18 more families by providing their children with a program that will build a foundation for a successful and positive school experience."

Reading project transforms 'worldly' perspective of FFMS students

Reading can be a fun learning experience and it can transform a student's overall thought process. This year, those two learning objectives have been incorporated in the reading project involving the book ***A Long Walk to Water*** by Linda Sue Park. The book follows the transformation of an 11-year-old Sudanese boy named Salva Dut and his journey that eventually leads him to help his country access

its fresh water supply, while helping to strengthen his country's ability to be self-sufficient. Fifth grade students in Mrs. Osterhoudt's social studies classes and Mrs. Mahon's English classes, along with co-teacher Mrs. Manscuk, are taking two different approaches to understanding the plight of the book, and its main character, while translating that understanding to the classroom and beyond.

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FFHS computer applications class bringing interest to students

A strong curriculum can define the pathway of success for today's students. At FFCS, high school students are now experiencing technology in a fun and inviting way. The district is currently offering a Computer Applications and Computer Graphics course that allows students to create, design and express themselves with a multitude of computer applications. From Photoshop and graphic design platforms to the introduction of new computer software, students are learning and incorporating new opportunities to be creative.

"This program is allowing our high school students to take advantage of technology in the classroom," said FFHS Principal Mr. Grady. "The opportunity to refine their access to this technology and software is paramount to their success in today's workforce. While computer technology might not fit every student's future pathway, it does allow them to identify areas of interest, while expanding their overall educational opportunities."

Classes this winter continue to dive deep into the concepts of design and how different platforms can be applicable inside and out of the classroom for FFHS students to experience. "We are providing today's students with the ability to access and be proficient in digital platforms, while incorporating art and design into their work," said FFHS Computer Applications teacher Mr. Therrien. "By mixing technology and creativity, we continue to open doors for students to learn and communicate through multiple platforms while accessing new areas of interest for them to pursue."

Continue to stay updated on programs and stories on the district website at www.fondafultonvilleschools.org and follow the conversation on the district's social media accounts.



READING *continued from Page 1*

"Each year, we dedicate books to read with our classrooms that can be applied to both a social studies and English component," said FFMS English teacher Mrs. Mahon. "By doing so, we are able to create two learning curves and content area connections for fifth grade students that make our learning not only entertaining, but also broadens our scope, as we provide a differing viewpoint of the world around us."

This engaging learning process also connects the fifth grade classes with the FFMS 'No Place for Hate' campaign and allows the students to gain empathy for those facing considerable strain in their home country or day-to-day lives. Students are able to host conversations and work to problem solve opportunities for others to benefit their success and future progress. "The students have completely been engaged through this project," said Mrs. Mahon. "You can see that they are invested in the story and it's opening their eyes to the impact they can have on others."

As part of this class interaction, students reading ***A Long Walk to Water*** are initially

introduced to the book and are provided with different approaches to the story's pervasive problem of locating a water source during the Sudanese civil war and beyond. The social studies classroom views it through a socio-economic and human rights approach to understanding the culture behind the book's problem, which allows the students to understand why and how the main character needed to search for clean water resources and what drove that approach. It identified topics such as poverty and the importance of natural resources, and it touched upon the politics that shaped the book and how the story was created and defined.

"As a social studies teacher we look to identify factors that play into our human rights content," said social studies teacher Mrs. Osterhoudt. "We can get a better idea of what's happening in our world as we learn it through the eyes of a character in the story students are reading. The students are really responding through this process and it helps them understand the importance of empathy and kindness for others."

As students switch from social studies to English language arts, they are then learning more from a comprehensive side of the process. They delve into the writing style and storytelling aspect as they apply critical thinking skills to generate applicable themes and access a stronger vocabulary in this process. In addition, the fifth graders are getting involved in a philanthropic effort to assist the book's main problem of obtaining safe and healthy water supplies in Sudan. Students are raising money each week when they walk with Mrs. Osterhoudt. Students are working hand-in-hand to engage in fundraising efforts to sponsor wells being created in the main characters' country.

The district continues to keep students' perspective geared towards learning and understanding perspectives outside of our region. This project allows FFMS students to learn about our world and the impact we can have in other communities – whether they are far or close to home.

FFCSD FALL SPORT TEAMS EXCELLING ON STATE AND REGIONAL STAGES



For the 2021-22 school year, FFCSD fall athletic teams excelled in their respective sports. Recently, the boys cross country team sent seven runners to the state championships in Chenango Forks, NY. The team delivered a third place finish in the team standings and FFHS junior Bennett Melita placed fourth overall (individually) in the Class C race with a final time of 16:50.1.

On the hardwood, the girls volleyball team made great strides and continued a successful season by qualifying for the NYSPHSAA girls volleyball tournament final four for the first time in school history. To qualify for the final four, the Lady Braves competed hard and captured the first sectional title for girls volleyball in FFCSD history! It was a fantastic season that concluded with the Lady Braves placing third in the statewide competition.

As a district, we are proud of our student-athletes for representing our school and continuing to display the Brave Traits of Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Citizenship and Perseverance.



Every FFCSD fall athletic team received NYSPHSAA recognition

The Fonda-Fultonville High School fall athletic teams



were recently recognized by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) as student-scholar recipients for the 2020-21 athletic season.

According to the NYSPHSAA website, to receive Scholar-Athlete team recognition with a certificate, the team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00.

"We are proud of our student-athletes for continuing the strong tradition of excelling in the classroom and putting forth their best effort in competition," said Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Ciaccio. "The ability to balance the demands and rigor of our academic programs and still maintain a high level of commitment and dedication to a sport is not an easy task. This is a recognition our entire school community should be proud of."

During the 2020-21 fall athletic season, the following varsity teams achieved student-scholar status:

- Football – 91.85 ▪ Girls XC – 97.92
- Boys Soccer – 91.59 ▪ Golf – 93.69
- Girls Soccer – 95.66 ▪ Cheer – 94.92
- Volleyball – 95.10 ▪ Swimming – 95.32
- Boys XC – 95.19

We want to thank our staff, coaches and families for supporting our student-athletes as they strive to reach their athletic and academic potential!

"We are proud of our student-athletes for continuing the strong tradition of excelling in the classroom and putting forth their best effort in competition."

— Superintendent Thomas Ciaccio



Fonda-Fultonville

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WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

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AROUND CAMPUS

The FFCS continues to keep our learning fun, while preparing our students for their future pathways.

#BraveStrong

