



Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Social and emotional learning (SEL) making an impact at the elementary level

For the past two years, elementary staff have continued to build upon their successes in implementing social-emotional learning outreach for elementary students. Its impact plays a significant role in engaging students and impacting their ability to learn. With each step, school officials continue to see rapid growth in how students are gaining confidence not only in the classroom but also in their ability to build positive relationships and set goals for their future.

At Fonda-Fultonville Elementary, staff have begun to see the work being conducted through SEL is leading to positive changes for their students and families, while increasing their ability to learn and grow.

“We are encouraged by the work being performed with social and emotional learning and how it’s shaping our student’s perspective on becoming stronger in the classroom,” said F-F Elementary Principal Mr. Romano.

“Our responsibility at the earliest stages of learning is twofold. We are working to develop the learning abilities of our students while ensuring they are creating opportunities to build positive relationships as they grow into themselves. It’s exciting to view their progression through this engagement.”

According to a recent study conducted by the Yale School of Medicine, students who participated in SEL programs do better in school, academically and socially. Students demonstrated increased academic achievement and school functioning including improved attendance and engagement in learning. At FFCS, those parallels are being shown in our district’s elementary classrooms each day.

At the beginning of the 2022 school year, the district introduced Ms. Rascoe to the elementary community as a school counselor. During that time, Ms. Rascoe has assisted students in kindergarten through fourth

grade creating social-emotional connections, strengthening student confidence in their schoolwork, increasing positive academic approaches for student success, and playing a role in supporting relationship-building opportunities in the classroom. The results have been significant for our youngest learners.

“We have continued to see positive results in our SEL outreach for our elementary students over the past several years,” said Elementary School Counselor Ms. Rascoe. “As a counselor, it’s encouraging to see how our elementary students are gaining confidence not only in our classroom but in building their growth opportunities. It’s exciting to see their progress in becoming stronger students and building positive friendships.”



At FFCS, Ms. Rascoe continues to work with elementary students to create positive opportunities to learn and grow.



FFCS selects new Valley Hawks mascot

On Thursday, Sept. 26, the Fonda-Fultonville community cast their vote for their new school mascot. For nearly two years, school administrators, a community-based stakeholder group, staff and faculty along with community members have worked to identify the next chapter for our district. The FFCSD has officially selected a mascot to accompany our Valley Hawks name and by a vote of 617 to 388, students, staff, faculty, and community members voted unanimously on the following mascot logo:

The mascot will go into place, effective immediately.

“We are thankful to our students, staff, faculty, community members, stakeholder committee members, and so many others who helped assist in this sensitive process,” shared Superintendent of Schools Dr. DeMallie. “We appreciate our community’s feedback and the work done during the past two years to begin this new chapter. I am proud to be leading the District through this historic moment in time. As we move forward, we will continue to embody the F-F Character Traits that make us so proud to be a part of the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District: Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Citizenship, and Perseverance.”



On Thursday, Sept. 26, the Fonda-Fultonville community cast their vote for their new school mascot to accompany our Valley Hawks name and by a vote of 617 to 388, students, staff, faculty, and community members voted unanimously on our new logo. The mascot will go into place, effective immediately. Stay tuned for how the district will continue branding our district with Valley Hawks branding and outreach.

Farm to School grant program to bring healthy food options and engagement

In July, the district shared that it had received a \$78,294 federal grant from the Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program. This was a significant win for the district, and its students, from both a sustainability and learning standpoint. As part of this federal grant, students will enjoy locally sourced foods for their 2024-2025 school day meals. The grant also provides learning opportunities for students to participate in educational activities ranging from agricultural courses to field trips to local farms.

“This grant will not only allow our students to receive healthy and local food options but also allow for future educational experiences with local farming communities,” said Superintendent of Schools Mr. DeMallie, Ed.D. “We look forward to implementing this grant on our campus and gaining new perspectives on food sources in our region.”

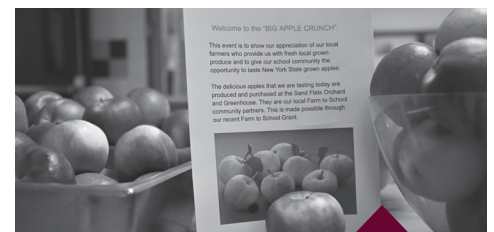
As part of the grant, high school students will be offered the opportunity to take a course that aligns with the Agriculture Business curriculum. At the middle school, students

will participate in activities like composting, animal care, raised-bed gardening, and field trips. Prekindergarten through grade 4 students will engage in various educational activities, including lifecycle education, field trips, and guest speakers. Each school will have a designated coordinator called a “champion,” who will oversee planning and implementation, as well as facilitate cross-grade collaboration.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have this grant support our efforts to educate students on locally based foods in our community,” shared K-12 Curriculum Director Mrs. Radez. “We will continue to work with our community partners and local agriculture resources to educate students on how food is grown and its importance to staying healthy and strong.”

The grant application for the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District was written by members of the Capital Region BOCES Grants & Development Service, our champion AG teachers, and support from the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Farm to School movement began in the late 1990s when a handful of schools across the country started responding to the rising levels of processed food in their cafeterias. Every year, the USDA awards competitive Farm to School grants that support planning, developing, and implementing farm-to-school programs.



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Building pathways for Life Skills students

At FFCS, we have several programs that prepare students for their pathways — whether it's Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs, college preparation for two or four-year college programs, or highlighting curriculum areas that will build interest for them in the years to follow high school. One program allows Life Skills students to gain opportunities in the workforce to build their lives outside of the school campus.

Life Skills students are getting a jump on how to process and find their next step. By utilizing the Unique Learning online system students are getting that introduction for tomorrow. Each Tuesday, students learn about professions to learn more about the backgrounds of jobs ranging from financial services to healthcare, and food services. In one school year, Life Skills students are introduced to nearly 130 different types of jobs to review throughout the school year.

“Our main goal is to allow our Life Skills students to get better informed about jobs that

might interest them. We not only introduce them to new opportunities but provide them with background information on the job and how they might fit best into that role,” shared Life Skills teacher Mrs. Young.

A new twist for students this year will be an introduction to job fields through partnerships with Fonda-Fultonville vendors. Students will receive first-hand experiences to explore, learn, and engage with members of the community in fields ranging from production to landscaping. Students will also be able to participate in tours to get additional details on how those jobs impact our community.

“We continue to work from the elementary level through high school to enable our students to become engaged and follow areas that interest them the most,” said Life Skills teacher Mr. Geniti. “We are finding opportunities to strengthen their abilities in the classroom while preparing them for the real world.”



At FFCS, we have several programs that prepare students for their pathways. Life Skills students are also getting a jump on how to process and find their next step. By utilizing the Unique Learning online system, students are getting that introduction to learn about careers and how they can find their employment goals for tomorrow.

FFCS wears red for Big Apple Crunch event

On Thursday, Oct. 10, the district participated in the 2024 FarmOn! Big Apple Crunch! Building by building, our students, faculty, and staff brought out the excitement to participate in this unique event to take a synchronized bite of a New York apple. We've captured all the fun and have shared it on our district website and Facebook page. In addition, we would like to recognize our community partners Sand Flats Orchard & Greenhouse for their locally grown apples that were used in this year's big event. Learn more about the FarmOn! Foundation by visiting their website, here: <https://farmon.org>.





Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Sign-up for ParentSquare

Stay up-to-date and connected with important communication from FFCS! If you are not receiving email notifications from us through ParentSquare, please be sure to update your contact information at www.parentsquare.com or with your child's school.

Distance learning bringing computer science program to FFCS

Over the past several years, distance learning and the sharing of resources between districts have grown to allow today's students to access programs not readily available in their district. The distance learning program strengthens options for today's students to build their interests and find opportunities for career pathways.



Did you know? Parent Portal and how is it different from ParentSquare

If you are a parent or guardian, you will want access to both of these important resources. Below is a summary of how each is used within our district. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to your student's main office. We hope you find this information helpful.

Parent Portal is part of our student information system and can be used by parents to access information like grades, attendance, report cards, schedules, and discipline. You can find the Parent Portal on the main page of the district website under the CONNECT section.

ParentSquare is a communication tool that can be used by parents to receive news, messages, and updates from teachers and the school district. More information on ParentSquare can be found under the CONNECT section on the district homepage.