



Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Food Science: Understanding our food sources and its impact on our daily lives

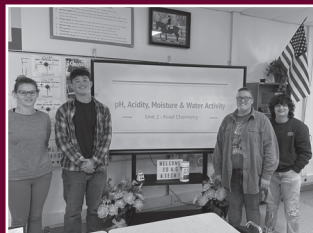
Food Science is an emerging field of study, examining nutritional trends and the journey food takes to reach today's consumers. At FFCS, Ms. Gifford, Junior FFA teacher and scientist, draws on her expertise to encourage discussions about healthy choices and to highlight the origins of our food through scientific research.

Students are learning the importance of how our food is being produced and its effect on our health. Everything is discussed from supply chain issues, understanding where certain foods are grown and the impact of climate change to developing new ways to build access to food sources. Gifford points out that understanding food production is essential for everyone and helps consumers make informed choices for future generations.

"At Fonda, students are learning about the science behind food and diving into the molecular level of foods as part of the district's Food Science course," said Fonda-Fultonville High School Principal Mr. Grady. "Each year, the FFA program introduces an important curriculum to students, allowing them to continue to learn and engage about the evolving impact of agriculture in our communities."

Access to healthy foods and nutrition is making an impact in how food is being delivered and introduced to today's food markets, and directly to our dinner tables through science. The Food Science curriculum empowers our high school students to have important conversations while learning how manufacturers scientifically produce food supplies and how today's consumer can stay informed.

In addition to that, it's also a national stage with headline after headline reporting on what contributions are being made to food sources, ranging from cold cereals, meat and poultry, and fish to fast food options that are readily available to order at the tip of our fingers.



F-F High School students are learning about the impact of Food Science and how it's changing the way we look at food sources through scientific research.

Academic Intervention Services: Making an impact at the elementary level



The Academic Intervention Services (AIS) team continues to work with students to allow them to reach their goals in the classroom. From left to right: Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Morrow, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Zajackowski and Mrs. Zumbolo.

Everyone learns differently but Fonda's goal remains the same: ensure that every student has the necessary resources to be successful in the classroom.

Enter the Academic Intervention Services (AIS) team. Staffed with teachers who have decades of experience and understanding, this group of educators works to build self-esteem and allows students to grow academically at their own pace and take advantage of their ability to grow.

In fact, the research is indicating that the process is working for today's students. In the last three years, students receiving AIS math support have met their typical growth on i-Ready in the following ways: during the 2022-23 school year, 61 percent of elementary AIS math students met their typical math growth timeline. In the following school year, 70 percent of students achieved their learning goals, and the 2024-25 school year saw that number jump up to 72 percent. For AIS reading, the percentage of growth matches their math counterparts. During the 2022-23 school year, 59 percent of AIS reading students reached their growth

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goal. In 2023-24, that mark slipped slightly to 56 percent and rebounded strongly at 66 percent for the 2024-25 school year.

How does AIS work?

The AIS team at Fonda-Fultonville specifically focuses on mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). Both are derived from the same pathway: ensuring students meet their potential to conquer challenges. Each school year, first grade students are tested in mathematics (grades 1-4); ELA testing begins in kindergarten (grades K-4). The initial testing allows teachers, working in coordination with AIS teams, to identify and assess students to offer the proper instruction to do their best. Testing is also conducted three times a year to monitor development and celebrate successes. Additionally, there are intervention sessions to work with families, teachers and students to set forth a gameplan if additional resources are needed. The district uses a number of learning platforms from i-Ready and Great Reading to Ready Math and XtraMath to build the learning process.

“The AIS teams provide the needed support to students who may need assistance in growing into stronger learners. They have a number of resources and institutional experiences that they can make adjustments for children who need motivation or help and build the confidence to be productive in their school work,” shared Fonda-Fultonville Elementary School Principal Mr. Romano.

Fonda-Fultonville Middle School makes its mark in Math/ELA proficiency

The Fonda-Fultonville Central School District announced that its middle school was named an i-Ready Super Stretch School for the 2024-25 school year – the only public middle school in New York State, and only one of three public schools in the State to receive this designation.

To qualify, students must surpass academic goals set in the prior year in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). Data compiled by Curriculum Associates, which oversees the i-Ready program, supported the Super Stretch goal.

“We are honored to be named an i-Ready Super Stretch School,” shared F-F Middle School Principal Erica Wardell. “Although my time here has been short, I can already see the commitment and dedication towards academics from our teachers, students, and families.”

Data compiled from the 2024-25 school year indicated a significant acceleration for students who were below grade level and are now on a path toward proficiency. Additionally, those already at or above grade level are maintaining advanced proficiency in mathematics and English Language Arts.

The following i-Ready data support the district in its goal to have students in grades 5-8 be proficient or accelerated in mathematics and ELA:

- i-Ready Super Stretch Schools have 200+ students and at least 55 percent meeting Stretch Growth® goals last school year.
- Out of nearly one million students using i-Ready across New York State only three schools received the Super Stretch goal from data compiled for the 2024-25 school year.
- FFCSD is the only public middle school to have achieved the i-Ready Super Stretch School designation in New York State.

“We are incredibly pleased to see the acceleration of learning for our middle school students,” shared Superintendent of Schools Dr. Richard DeMallie. “As educators, we are always working towards our students reaching their academic goals. This recent data proves that our students are becoming more engaged in the classroom and are becoming stronger in mathematics and ELA. We couldn’t be prouder of their success.”

About i-Ready

The i-Ready program is an educational platform for reading and mathematics developed by Curriculum Associates and launched in 2011 to provide personalized learning for K-12 students. It features a diagnostic assessment that adapts to each student's skill level to identify their needs, followed by personalized online lessons that provide instruction tailored to their unique learning pathways.



At FFCSD, our goal is to exceed our academic goals from reading and science to mathematics and more.

Lunch Hero of the Year in our midst!

Congratulations, Mrs. Gulick! Recently, FFCSD Food Service Manager, Jill Gulick, was named the recipient of the 2025 Lunch Hero of the Year award by Chartwells for the Mid-Atlantic region. Mrs. Gulick was recognized for her time and dedication towards providing healthy and nutritious food experiences for students as a member of the Fonda-Fultonville Food Services department. You also may have found her on WTEN being featured for her recognition for her impact on our school campus!

Her passion is unmatched, and she continues to work towards building our community into a stronger and healthier world each day.



Congratulations, Mrs. Gulick (seen left)! As a district, we appreciate your dedication to ensuring students have access to healthier food options while being a trusted member of our school community.

District adds new assistant principal

The district is pleased to announce the appointment of Evan Melanson as the new assistant principal at Fonda-Fultonville Elementary School. Mr. Melanson was officially appointed on Monday, September 22 by the Board of Education and will officially begin his duties on Monday October 27. Mr. Melanson brings nearly 14 years of education experience to the district.

Prior to his appointment to FFCSD, he worked at Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District as a physical education teacher. He previously held several other positions, ranging from substitute teaching and coaching to serving as an intervention specialist in classrooms.

As assistant principal, Mr. Melanson will assist with day-to-day building operations and student engagement.

"We are pleased to add Mr. Melanson to our district administration team," shared Superintendent of Schools Dr. DeMallie. "His experience and ability to engage with students and staff will ensure our elementary school maintains the expectation of academic excellence and continues to offer positive learning experiences for our students."

Mr. Melanson holds a Master of Science degree in Physical Education from Canisius College and a Bachelor of Science in Health Education from the State University of New York at Cortland. In addition, he received his Educational Policy and Leadership certification from the University at Albany. Mr. Melanson is looking forward to continuing the legacy at Fonda-Fultonville while adding his experience for students to reach their goals in the classroom.



Welcome to the Fonda-Fultonville team, Mr. Melanson! Mr. Melanson joins the elementary staff as the new assistant principal beginning Oct. 27.



Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Sign-up for ParentSquare

 ParentSquare

Stay up-to-date and connected with important communication from FFCSD! 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.



Around Campus. All things are possible at FFCSD! From Home Repairs to research and beyond!

Assessment Update

The district has updated information regarding tax rates increasing in some of our townships. Please stay informed and follow the conversation on the district's Budget & Taxes page. You can locate that information by visiting: www.fondafultonvilleschools.org.