

# Fonda-Fultonville

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



### AI making inroads at FFCSD

AI, or better known as artificial intelligence, is changing the way we think, strategize, communicate, and much more. Just as Google emerged in 1998 and introduced new ways to search and obtain information, AI is transforming how learning is conducted in schools for today's students.

At Fonda-Fultonville, the district is empowering staff and students to integrate AI into instruction and learning. With safeguards in place, students are introduced to its possibilities. AI is viewed as a tool for enhancing and personalizing the student experience. This includes conducting research, brainstorming and exploring concepts and ideas. This results in increased engagement, and building skills that will be in demand in future careers.

In the classroom, high school students in Mrs. Brown's U.S. History class were able to use the technology to converse with King George, thereby understanding how he would revisit past moments in world history, and



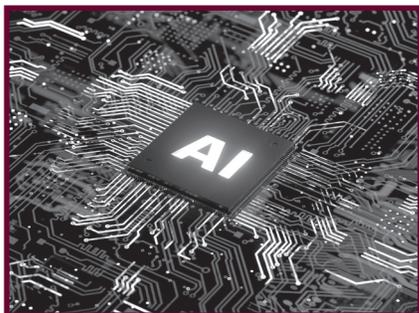
At FFCSD, students are eager to learn and collaborate with their peers.

even asked his perspectives on TikTok and the Declaration of Independence. The AI version of King George developed responses based on compiled data, and the experience brought a new perspective on learning while integrating a fun approach to experiencing AI and history in the classroom.

"By embracing AI, we are equipping our staff and faculty with the most advanced tools available. We want them to have every resource as they work to support each student," shared F-F IT Director Jarrod Baker.

How is the district introducing AI into the classroom? Instructional Technology Specialist Danielle Hinrichs plays a key role in assisting participating educators in the instructional role of implementing AI in their classrooms and how it can impact students.

Beginning last school year, a group of Fonda-Fultonville teachers was selected to participate in a district initiative dubbed "AI Tech Trailblazers." This initiative provides teachers with access to the latest AI tools available. These "trailblazers" work closely with Hinrichs, finding successful strategies which can then be shared throughout the district.



### By the NUMBERS

- The Fonda-Fultonville Central School District was recently listed as one of the **Top 25'** school districts in the Capital Region for 2026. The data, compiled by school and neighborhood review website Niche, reviews updated data for nearly 93,000 public schools and 11,000 school districts nationwide.



- The Fonda-Fultonville Elementary School is listed as one of the **'Top 10'** elementary schools in the Capital Region. The U.S. News & World Report has released its 2026 Best Elementary and Middle School rankings, and the district's elementary school ranks #10 in this year's report.

- 100 Women Who Care donates \$20K to backpack program



- The Fonda-Fultonville 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.

continued on pg. 2



**AI MAKES INROADS AT FFCSD**  
- continued from pg. 1

AI is creating noise in multiple sectors. From the financial sector to how newsrooms operate, and how local and state governments are expanding their presence in day-to-day instruction in schools globally. The impact of AI is growing, and the ability to transfer that knowledge to students and teachers continues to be important in the years ahead.

Safety and privacy is a top priority as these new tools are introduced. Since 2023, the district has created a safe and responsible foundation to support AI in the classroom. This includes a defined Board policy for AI, as well as guidelines for security and protection of personal information for both students and staff.

“As a district, we continue to monitor educational trends and career opportunities to keep our students at a higher level of learning,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Richard DeMallie. “Working in coordination with our Information Technology department, we are embracing opportunities to share instructional value and guidance with staff and faculty, while allowing our students to become better suited for careers impacted by AI.”

## Restorative approach making an impact with students

In the past three years, the district has implemented positive “restorative” measures to engage students to become better citizens, gain perspectives on how to engage one another in a positive manner, and respect classmates when difficulties arise. It is a direct process to allow students to work through interpersonal issues and create opportunities for understanding and collaboration. The process is simple, but effective.

The core principles of the restorative program are to create healthier relationships, develop empathy, and improve interpersonal communication. All three areas are important for student growth, both from an educational and social-emotional standpoint. The main priority is to help strengthen the school community while minimizing behavioral issues.

According to the FFCSD Assistant Principal Mr. Roberts, “The restorative approach relies on building relationships with students and enabling students to approach and trust staff in the process,” he said. “At Fonda-Fultonville, we have a community that cares and wants to build opportunities not only through academics but through social-emotional connections to have students become better citizens and improve themselves every day.”

As students’ progress through elementary to middle school, situations arise that involve simple disagreements, conversations, or differences of opinion. Restorative practice can be put in place to better understand how to diffuse those scenarios.



To put it into perspective, the restorative program is implemented in the middle school through a period called “exploration stations” monthly. Every month has a different focus, such as accepting differences in culture, creating conversation surrounding bullying, and identifying ways to problem-solve peer-to-peer conflict. Students participate in diverse groups based on homeroom assignments and teacher recommendations. Teachers oversee circles of conversation, introduce game workshops to better understand sensitive topics, and introduce mediation activities to resolve disputes. The goal of this interaction is to utilize these “learning” moments to allow students to be good citizens inside and outside of school.

Additionally, the activities are introduced into the academic curriculum, allowing students to experience the social-emotional aspect and allowing them to collaborate with teachers to be better school citizens. Some examples are the creation of “entry circles” in a classroom, which helps introduce a new student to the district or provide a student with a chance to share individual experiences related to learning or something happening in their life that might be affecting their day.

“By utilizing restorative outreach, Fonda-Fultonville is enabling students to engage with one another and build the skillsets to counter one-on-one issues and keep their composure in difficult times or situations,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. DeMallie.

## Wilson reaches 1,000-point milestone

Records continue to be reached at FFCS D during the 2025-26 school year. As we drew to the close of 2025, Fonda-Fultonville senior Riley Wilson reached the 1,000-point milestone in his varsity basketball career. The capstone moment occurred during a game versus Middleburgh.

But this wasn't just a personal milestone. It was a family affair. You see, Riley's recent accomplishment put him in the same rare air as his grandfather and father, who each achieved the

1,000-point milestone in their respective high school careers.

With such a personal and family accomplishment, this season has marked the next steps for Riley as he pursues opportunities after his time at Fonda-Fultonville. We were able to sit down with Riley and learn more about his goals, how the 1,000-point mark changed his perspective on basketball, and its impact on his future opportunities moving forward.



On December 12, Fonda-Fultonville senior Riley Wilson reached the 1,000-point milestone in his varsity basketball career. Please note: At the time of print, Riley has become the all-time leader in points for the boys' basketball program.

### Q What does the 1,000-point mark mean to you and your family?

It's special because my grandfather and father both have the same record, and I was able to keep the tradition going. I've always had it as a goal since my freshman year. It is always about the team and our record, but that milestone drives my focus.

### Q What type of work do you put into your effort on the court?

I started playing AAU travel basketball during my freshman year, and that has helped me stay motivated throughout the regular season and prepare for each upcoming season. I've played AAU throughout high school, which allows me to play with really good players from throughout the region.

### Q Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

I'm hopefully going to have a good college career and do well in my classes to prepare for what's to come. In college, I plan on studying exercise science. I'm going to pursue a career in physical therapy after college.

## + Health & Safety Corner



Our district's priority is the health and safety of our students and staff.

As winter continues, we are likely to see a continuation of cold and flu-like illnesses. As a district, we continue to review our health and safety practices daily to ensure we are doing everything we can to mitigate the spread of viruses throughout our schools. We are asking that all families continue to remind their children to wash their hands frequently. Proper hand washing is important to limit the spread of illness. We ask that if your child is experiencing fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cold, or flu-like symptoms, please contact your child's physician or the health office. Any questions or concerns can be shared with the district's school nurses.



# Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

112 Old Johnstown Road  
PO Box 1501  
Fonda, NY 12068-1501

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Fonda, NY  
Permit No. 25

## Board of Education

Matt Sullivan, *President*  
Adam Sullivan, *Vice President*  
Bonnie Couture  
Dennis Egelston  
Michelle Isabella  
Jessica Munson  
Brooke Cuddy

For more information on the Board of Education, agenda items, or questions about meeting minutes, please contact the District Clerk, Lori Maves, (518) 853-4415, Ext. 4230.

Richard R. DeMallie, Ed.D.,  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Richard Meddaugh, *Editor*

*Produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES Engagement & Development Services.*

[www.FondaFultonvilleSchools.org](http://www.FondaFultonvilleSchools.org)

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

### WINTER 2026 NEWSLETTER

## In this EDITION

- 1 ■ AI making inroads at FFCSD
- 1 ■ By the Numbers
- 2 ■ AI making inroads at FFCSD (cont.)
- 2 ■ Restorative approach making an impact with students
- 3 ■ Wilson reaches 1,000-point milestone
- 3 ■ Health & Safety Corner
- 4 ■ ParentSquare: Keep informed about FFCSD



Around Campus: Collaboration and loving to learn makes a difference at FFCSD.



## ParentSquare: Keep informed about FFCSD

ParentSquare is the main communications system for the district to engage with our school community. Please monitor your mailbox for district communications and continue to keep updated on district and building news through ParentSquare. If you're unaware of the Parent Square platform and do not currently have an account, please visit our district website and click the ParentSquare icon under the "Connect" section. Stay connected and be a part of the Valley Hawk conversation!