



FULTON IN TOUCH

FULTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL/WINTER 2020

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear FCSD Families & Community Members,

Thank you for the continued honor and privilege to serve the families, students, staff, and the community of Fulton! The 2020-21 school year has been characterized by the unique and ever-changing challenges associated with COVID-19. Our FCSD "Return to Learning Priorities" have been at the

center of every decision this school year and are at the core of our Reopening Plan. Those priorities are: Health & Safety; Social-Emotional Well-Being; and Teaching and Learning.

I want to extend my gratitude for the hard work and dedication of all our students, families, faculty, staff and administration, and for their daily support of our health and safety protocols including temperature screenings, wearing of masks throughout the day, practicing good hand washing hygiene, supporting one another, and teaching and learning in unique and different ways. Our FCSD community working together keeps each one of us and collectively, all of us, safer and stronger!

Unique and challenging times often result in more focused directions, deeper knowledge and understanding, creative solutions by working together, and the heightened importance of sharing feedback to ensure all of our students get the best possible experience! I have had the opportunity to observe teachers, staff, and administrators stretch themselves in ways one could never imagine just a year ago! Their energy and commitment to the FCSD is truly extraordinary. Coupling that with the support of our families, students, and community, the outcome is a framework that provides the best possible opportunities for teaching and learning in a very different environment.

As you are aware, COVID-19 cases in our region increase after special times, like holidays, when we most want to be with our family and friends. We must be sure to follow all safety precautions recommended by the Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control to stop the spread of the virus while trying to ensure the connections to those who mean so much to us. Please stay home and avoid gatherings whenever possible; wear a face covering that covers your mouth and nose when around others in public; maintain at least six feet of physical distance; and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently. Together we can protect the health and safety of one another, our families, and our community.

There are so many great things happening in the FCSD. I look forward to continued progress as we work together to prepare each and every student for success now and in the future. Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a time for hope and renewal!

Respectfully,

Brian T. Pulvino

Superintendent of Schools

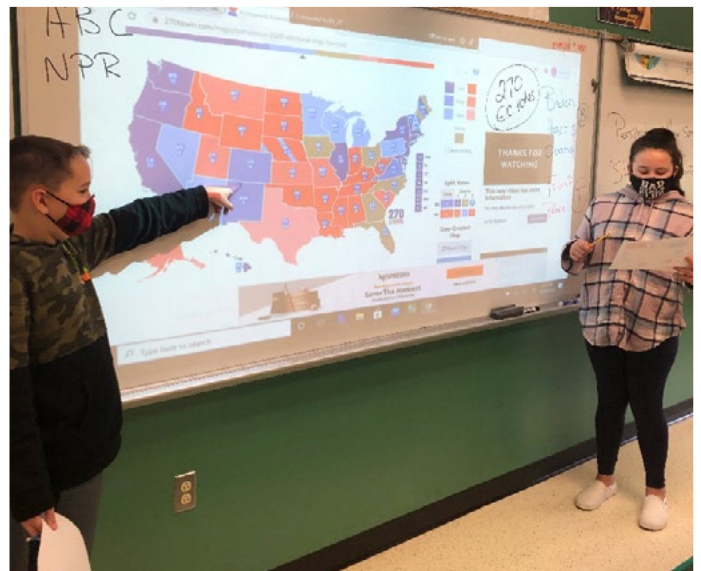
Volney Elementary Fifth-Graders Get a Lesson in US Civics, Hold Mock Election

Mr. Cahill's fifth-grade students at Volney Elementary are among the few 26 percent of Americans who, according to a 2017 survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center, can correctly name all three branches of government, as well as future active citizens who will exercise their right to vote.

The fifth-graders began their journey into civics in September by learning about the U.S. Constitution and how it shapes our country's power structure. They watched CNN10, a news format designed for young viewers, and learned about the positions of major candidates President Donald J. Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden, the Electoral College, swing states, red states, blue states and the definition of a ballot. They were also challenged to determine why presidential candidates were spending more time campaigning in some states more than others.

"They did well with that, and it was impressive how they were able to put those pieces together," Mr. Cahill said. "The Electoral College is always kind of a mind-blowing thing for them, knowing that the popular vote doesn't elect the president."

To wrap up the lesson, students participated in a mock election, where they put their research to use and voted for the candidate whose views best aligned with their own.



Cadie Shepard and Collin Denson analyze the Electoral College map leading up to the 2020 presidential election.



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Classroom Technology, Wellness in Focus during Superintendent's Day

Fulton City School District educators were offered a variety of resources on a recent Superintendent's Day, to stay informed about the latest classroom technologies and mental health wellness strategies.

The district's Virtual Education and Professional Development Day began with a welcome from Executive Director of Instruction and Assessment Dan Carroll, Executive Director of Human Resources and Student Services and Title IX Compliance Officer Geri Geitner, and Chief of Operations and Innovation Dominic Lisi.

More than 400 educators spent the morning participating in their choice of technology integration-themed breakout sessions that included everything from Google Meet training to using Pear Deck and Jamboard to teach math virtually.

"Folks could go in to whichever one they wanted, essentially on their own schedule, drop in and out to talk about a focus topic," Mr. Lisi said. "This day was a real success and we are hopeful that the fruits of these sessions ultimately benefit our students as well as our teachers."

Granby Elementary Celebrates Veterans Day, Spirit Week

Granby Elementary School recently marked Veterans Day as students dressed up in camouflage in honor of our veterans' service. The following week Granby held School Spirit Week, celebrating Pajama Day, Character Tuesday (pictured), Wacky Wednesday, Team Day and School Spirit Day to celebrate their Granby and FCSD pride.



FCSD's Early College High School Program Adds Health Sciences Option

Fulton City School District's Early College High School Program has expanded to allow freshmen to earn free college credits toward an associate degree in health sciences from Cayuga Community College upon graduation from high school.

Forty G. Ray Bodley freshmen have already enrolled in the health science program, offered for the first time this year through a five-year grant from the New York State Dept. of Education, through partnerships with CCC, Oswego Health and Oswego Opportunities Inc.

"Immediately, they're enrolled in personal health, which is a college health course," Early College High School Medical Services Program Coordinator Nathan Murray said. "As far as the other benefits of the program, they're really going to be held tight to specific courses they will be taking."



Students who have been enrolled in the Early College High School Program's instructional technology course, formed two-years ago, say the program goes above and beyond in preparing high school students for college. The IT program also includes a partnership with the Oswego County Workforce Development Board.

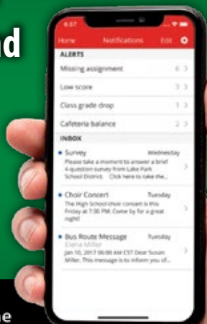
"It's a partnership we're really proud of that we think is going to benefit our kids,"

Early College High School Program Coordinator Sean Broderick said. "Our partner agencies are part of a steering committee that meets monthly to talk about the progress of the grants and how we make the experience better for the kids."



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Students Show 'Exponential Growth' in Reading and Writing Skills through New Humanities Initiative

English and social studies at Fulton Jr. High School have said "I do" this school year as the two subjects have been married through a new humanities initiative which educators say has improved students' reading and writing skills.



Social studies teacher Denise Rodriguez and Jennifer Meloling, who teaches English, have wanted to include humanities in their

classes since they began teaching together 18 years ago. This year, they were finally able to meet that goal.

"This was the silver lining for in this whole pandemic," Meloling said. "We were just trying to find ways to kind of blend English and social studies which people have been doing for a long time."

Rodriguez, whose own child is a student in her class, says she has witnessed the success of including humanities as both a parent and a teacher.

"What we're noticing already is we have seen more growth in their writing and reading skills in just a few weeks that normally would take a half

to a whole year for them to do," she said. "These kids, while they're in a pandemic, they really are getting an amazing education getting the setup we have here at Fulton Jr. High."

Both Rodriguez and Meloling agree the success is most evident in a current research project on immigration for which students are required to provide in-text citations and a bibliography, as well as the social studies-focused content.

"They're learning proper research techniques, citations, and how to paraphrase, and it's blending in with the ELA skill because they're going to take that research and bring it into an essay form," Rodriguez added. "It's just been a really awesome opportunity."

Capital Campaign 'Seamless,' Moving On Track

Sitework at Lanigan Elementary School is nearing completion as part of the Fulton City School District's \$15 million capital improvement project.

Pavement reconstruction at Lanigan Elementary, as well as infrastructure improvements at Volney Elementary and Fulton Junior High School, are all included in the first phase of the 2019 Capital Improvement Project which administrators say is running smoothly.

"It's been seamless, and the workers have been great and really considerate," Lanigan Elementary Principal Jeff Hendrickson said. "Weather has been the only issue that has gotten in the way and I think they did a nice job of working through that."

Administrators, in late summer, discovered bids for the first

phase came in nearly \$1.5 million above the expected cost due to the increased cost of building materials amidst the pandemic. District officials, however, were able to refocus and reprioritize the project to keep costs in balance.

"We went back to the drawing board and refocused the project and bid it again in separate components," Superintendent Brian Pulvino said.

The next areas the district will focus on is bidding additional work for building door replacements, masonry and concrete work, and updating fire alarm systems.

PHASE TWO PROJECTS:

Education Center

G. Ray Bodley High School

Granby Elementary

Fairgrieve Elementary

ARE EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED BY THE NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN LATE SPRING 2021



Fulton City School District

FCSD District Offices
129 Curtis St.
Fulton, New York 13069

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Amazing Artwork At Fairgrieve

Check out these creative creations from Fairgrieve Elementary School students, which is being shared and showcased on the school Facebook page under photos and "20-21 Fairgrieve Artwork Album." Art classes may look a little different this year, but students are still showing off their tremendous talents! If you'd like to showcase your artwork, send it to Mrs. Suhr.



Help Stop The Spread
WEAR A MASK



**STAY HOME WHEN
YOU ARE SICK**



FOR MORE INFO:

www.fultoncsd.org/covidinfo