A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Clinton School District Resident:

Our children continue to be recognized for their excellence in all areas, with standout individual and team performances in fall athletics both on the field and in the classroom with 100 percent of our teams being recognized as Scholar Athlete teams, and in the Arts on stage with many instrumental and vocal students qualifying for county and state-wide honors. Clinton students continue to lead the way with recognition for their academic accomplishments and for their connection to, and caring for, local causes and community programs as chronicled on the following pages.

We are proud of the accolades and recognitions that surround our schools and know they are a result of the extraordinary efforts of our students, faculty, staff, families, and community working together. However, more important than any external recognition is the feeling of support and admiration from each other, our students and families, and the community of Clinton as we continue to work together to help each child reach their fullest potential both academically and as a complete person of great character and empathy. Thank you for your support!

In the last few years there has been an incredible amount of attention on the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards combined with an annual change in the way the Governor, Legislators and the State Education Department feel we should be assessing our students and teachers. I want you to know that we are working diligently to refine our curriculum and instruction to give our students the best education and preparation for college and/or careers in a way that makes the best sense for Clinton. I assure you that our primary focus remains on children by responding to their individual academic and social/.

Clinton Girls Varsity Hockey

The winter sports season at CCS added a new team to its roster. In response to growing demand, Clinton is hosting a Regional Girls Varsity Hockey team that includes participants from ten school districts. The Town of Kirkland declared December 5, 2015, as “Girls Varsity Hockey Day.” The team is funded by the Sports Boosters program.

The Clinton girls’ hockey team helped families in need with holiday gifts, and helped make one little girl’s wish come true by participating in the Christmas cards for Safyre program. Safyre is an 8 year old burn victim who recently lost her home and family.

The varsity boys’ hockey team carried on its tradition of shopping for and wrapping gifts for a local family.
emotional needs within a safe and caring school climate and culture. While it is a challenge to deal with the continually changing laws, regulations, and politics associated with the assessments and the teacher evaluation system, we continue to control our implementation in a way that is best for Clinton; delivering on our promise to provide our students, families, and community the best schools possible.

One of the ways we are retaining focus in challenging times is by thinking, planning and acting strategically with clear goals defined at the district level, defined autonomy for principals and teachers to develop building-level goals and action plans, and providing the resources necessary to meet our local needs and the mission of the Clinton Central School District. I am proud of the educational plans that have been collaboratively developed at each level of the district (presented at recent board meetings) and look forward to developing a funding plan (our budget) over the remainder of the school year that will transform these ideas and goals into action and results for our children.

I look forward every day to continued growth and excellence as we work together to provide the best education and experience for all children in the Clinton school community. Best wishes for a safe, and hopefully warmer, winter season!

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Grimm, Ed.D.
Superintendent

New Staff at CCS

CCS is excited to announce that several qualified individuals have joined the instructional and administrative staff. Elementary School Principal Ellen Leuthauser joined us on August 1, replacing retired principal Steven Marcus. New teachers, also replacing those who retired or resigned, are Carly Schwarzkopf, music; Laura Pominville, Lauren Karas, Cheryl Cosentino, and Samantha DiPietro, elementary school; Samantha Smith, middle school; Jesse Mastracco, Marissa Rys, and Amy Randall, special education; Mindy Pavone, high school art; and Andrew Robert, high school social studies. Phyllis Saville, Jenna North, and Lauren Venetozzi are serving as long-term substitute teachers. New staff members spent several days over the summer working with their mentors in preparation for their new positions.

Newly appointed support staff includes Julianna Lillibridge, Middle School Office; Robin Sigsbee, Sean Tague and Karen Brown, Maintenance; Gary Zalewski, bus driver.

Welcome to the CCS community!

Sharpening Skills

Over the summer months, prior to the opening of school and several times throughout the school year, teachers gather to plan, and to learn new skills and strategies. Veteran teachers serve as mentors to newcomers throughout the first three years of the CCS career.
NHS Inducts Three Students

At the Board of Education meeting held on October 27, three students were inducted into the National Honor Society in addition to the 40 students who were inducted in the spring. They are, Mikel Quintana, Ehlanna Spink and Evan Wightman. These students exemplify the four tenets of Leadership, Scholarship, Character, and Service. Each student was presented with a pin by Dr. Grimm, Superintendent.

Letter of Commendation Awarded to Miranda Riley

Miranda Riley was recognized at the October 27 Board of Education meeting for receiving a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Miranda’s PSAT scores ranked among the top 50,000 nationally. Congratulations!

Character Building

Each month, elementary school students focus on a character building theme. Since the beginning of the school year, themes explored were responsibility, determination, tolerance, and generosity. In November, students learned to show respect for the practices and traditions of others, whether they are the same or different from their own. Students are also learning to make positive choices regarding their treatment of others to combat bullying. Helpful strategies can be found at http://web.mit.edu/bystanders/strategies/index.html.

December’s focus on generosity was expressed through food, gift, hat and mitten collections for local families in need. Kindergarteners collected “Coins for Caring” and donated the money that they earned from doing chores to purchase food boxes at the local Hannaford. The students then took a trip to Hannaford to help them comprehend the depth of their donation, and to scan the boxes that were purchased. We are so proud of the students, families and teachers. The donations are truly needed and appreciated.

Scholar Athletes

For the first time, all CCS fall varsity sports teams received the designation of scholar athletes for maintaining a team GPA of at least 90%:

- Boys Cross Country - 94.6%
- Girls Cross Country - 94.9%
- Girls Varsity Tennis - 94.4%
- Football - 90.1%
- Girls Soccer - 93.7%
- Boys Soccer - 91.9%
- Field Hockey - 91.8%
- Tennis - 93.1%

Sydney Pavlik and Carly Sinclair competed in state qualifier doubles for tennis, while Gabrielle Dewhurst and Eva Borton finished 16th and 39th respectively in state level cross country competition. Both girls and boys varsity soccer teams made it to sectionals. Football finished with a record of 6-3, the best in 25 years!

The Clinton Central School District recognizes that athletics is an extension of the classroom experience, designed to support and enhance academic achievement, and strives to involve as many students as possible to maximize opportunities to support moral, social, and emotional growth of student athletes.

Congratulations to all of our athletes for a great fall season!
CCS Wins the Allstate Sign & Plaque Contest

Thirty middle school students in Mrs. King’s health class created posters that generated messages to discourage bullying. Works submitted by three students were selected by a panel of teachers to represent Clinton Middle School in a contest sponsored by Allstate Sign and Plaque. Schools receiving the most online votes would be eligible for a $2,000 grant. With the help of the PTA, the Kirkland Town Library, and members of our CCS family, the three students secured 1070 votes; enough to win the grand prize!

Additionally, two of the contestants will have their posters made into professional signs that will be displayed at the school. Mrs. King, along with all of the middle school staff, is extremely proud of the students’ work and is hopeful that these messages will promote healthy behaviors!

Model UN

The Model UN club attended the Upper Mohawk Valley Model UN (UMVMUN) conference on December 12 at SUNY Poly. Through Model UN, students develop public speaking and research skills as they plot strategy, negotiate with supporters and adversaries, resolve conflicts, and navigate the rules of procedure to resolve international problems as representatives of a country other than their own. Delegates from CCS held their own in committee discussions and contributed to the passing of resolutions. This conference was a first for two club members, Emma Novak and Christopher Militello, who won best new delegate awards. A new category of awards were distributed this year based on Aristotle’s triangle of rhetoric - Ethos (ethical), Pathos (empathetic), and Logos (logical). CCS student Eric Smith (10th grade) won the Pathos award for his committee.

Career Readiness

All students in grades 6, 7, and 8 participated in Career Day on December 18. The day began with keynote speaker, Zach Lewis, after which each student attended four sessions from 26 offerings to learn about various careers from local professionals.

Students were asked to “Dress for Success” and received information on what constitutes appropriate business attire. Many thanks to the School and Business Alliance (SABA), teachers and staff, area professionals, the Dessert Booth, Mr. McCoy, Mr. DeStefanis, Dollar General, and the PTA for their efforts to make this event a success!
Fire Safety

In addition to regularly scheduled fire drills, elementary students learned about fire safety procedures during a visit from the Clinton Fire Department. Students practiced Stop, Drop, and Roll and Stay Low and Go. Thank you to the Fire Department, including CCS employees Jim Scoones and Eric Mosher, for taking the time to reinforce safety rules.

CMS Hangin’ with Hamilton

The first “Clinton Middle School Hangin’ with Hamilton” night of the 2015-2016 school year was a tremendous success! More than 50 Hamilton College and Clinton Middle School students attended the event, engaging in activities that included problem solving, dancing, games and leadership development. Food was provided by the college students.

The hope is that “CMS Hangin’ with Hamilton” will become a recurring event.

CCS Singers Attend Conference All-state Music Festival

Senior Katie Schlosser and junior Kehela Reeves attended the Conference All-state Music Festival in Rochester in early December. Both students were selected to participate by receiving perfect scores on their performances at the NYSSBA Solo Festival the previous spring, with Madeline Soults qualifying as an alternate. The weekend-long festival was held at Kodak Hall at the Eastman School of Music where students had the opportunity, under the baton of highly qualified conductors, to prepare intensively for a final concert. This is a great honor for CCS and a wonderful achievement for Katie, Kehela and Madeline.

Kate and Kehela pictured with vocal music teacher Jenna Wratten  
Performance at Kodak Hall
Past, Present, Future: The Lessons Learned from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Two seventh grade students discovered a creative medium with which to express the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Their sculpture was created during Mrs. Pape’s study hall for the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fine Arts Display in Albany sponsored by the NYS Education Department’s Office of Diversity and Access. The students said the sculpture shows the lessons learned from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The base looks like a solid stone foundation with his initial on it. We used antique books and homemade books to represent each of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Six Steps to Nonviolent Social Change (see right):

Each book has the name of a step on it. We chose books because most people associate books with learning.

The middle section represents the present. We placed masks coming up from the books to represent the victims of the June 18, 2015 tragedy in South Carolina. We chose these people because they have learned from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but were killed because of a person who did not. Their names are on the red scroll that wraps around the sculpture. Our country has learned, but still has a way to go. The top of the sculpture comes to a point to show we are growing and positive. The top also resembles a book to show we are still learning. Positive messages are engraved on the gold to show the bright future.

Modern Language Learning Lab

New to the LOTE (Language Other Than English) department this year, the language lab was made possible by grants and funds from the Hamilton College Town-Gown Fund, the Clinton Central School District Foundation, the Clinton Central School District, and the local efforts of the Clinton School facilities and foreign language departments.

The purpose of the language lab is to encourage students to actively participate in language learning exercises and to provide the opportunity to practice more frequently than would be otherwise possible in a traditional classroom environment. The lab is utilized at all levels of language offerings from grades six through 12.

The Modern Language Lab contains a teacher computer that functions as a command center of operations. Students are equipped with durable, simple to operate audio panels with high quality digital audio and headphones that are ideal for language learning. Students can record their own voice and play back the recordings, interact with the teacher, and store their results digitally for a number of teaching and learning uses.
Thank You
CC&O
Foundation

In addition to partial funding for the Modern Language Lab, the CC&O Foundation contributed funds during the 2014-15 school year to purchase electronic probeware for high school science classes, microscopes for the middle school and a sound console for the theatre.

High School Science Fair

The High School Science Fair held on December 10 enjoyed 29 participants entering 27 projects. Sixteen judges from area colleges saw fit to send 10 projects on to the regional competition at Utica College in April.

Mathletics

Congratulations to the Mathletics Team who is currently in 3rd place overall out of 14 schools involving nearly 160 students. So far this year, Clinton has had three perfect papers - a rare accomplishment! Eighth grader, Nick Gale has had perfect scores at two high school meets and Jeff O’Neil had a perfect paper at level two. The Mathletics team is advised by high school math teacher Nancy Zumpano.

The National Honor Society received this note of appreciation for their efforts.
Students Make Spirits Bright at Shoppers Stroll

Student groups provided seasonal music at the Clinton Village Shoppers Stroll on November 27 and 28. Students singing holiday songs rode a decorated school bus in the parade.

Each school building presented a concert during the month of December that was well attended and enjoyed by all. The month ended with a beautiful performance of Beethoven’s ninth symphony by the Clinton Symphony Orchestra of the Mohawk Valley.

Clinton Girls Varsity Hockey Team Participates in the Shop with a Cop Program

Money raised each year through the Thomas Lindsey Foundation provides more than 100 area children with $100 to use for Christmas shopping under the supervision of police and community volunteers.

“Shop with a Cop” is held at Target stores across the country on the first Saturday in December. A Utica police sergeant remarked how he is amazed each year by the selflessness of the recipients as they tour the store using their money to buy for family members rather than for themselves. Pictured are the police and hockey team members at Target in New Hartford.

The Spirit of Giving

Middle School National Junior Honor Society, Student Council, Rachel’s Warriors, and Family and Consumer Science classes collected food and clothing to support families in need and the rescue mission. Students gathered more than $1,000, 1,300 food items, coats, hats, and mittens. Student Council hosted a Holiday Dance charging admission of a toy. Dozens were donated to Toys for Tots.

The Chamber Singers perform Christmas Carols at the Union Station Farmer’s Market.
The Clinton Central School and Clinton Central School District Foundation Hall of Distinction is designed to recognize and celebrate graduates and retirees of the school district for their accomplishments, as well as to inspire current students to future success.

Graduates or retirees eligible for consideration will have exemplified the school district’s educational philosophy throughout their lives. Candidates must have made an enduring contribution to society, have or had an outstanding professional career, and/or have demonstrated a high level of commitment to the school and community.

Four individuals were inducted on November 28. They are:

John B. Allen, Jr., Class of 1953
Raymond Ingersoll, Class of 1987
Thomas Owens, Class of 1976
Caroline Kim Tihanyi, Class of 1988

Plaques for each are permanently displayed on the second floor of the theatre lobby.

After reading Tim O’Brien’s short story, “Where Have You Gone, Charming Billy?”, set during the Vietnam War, Mrs. Doggett’s ninth grade students wrote letters thanking veterans for their service. These letters were distributed and read aloud at a dinner held on Veterans Day at the New Hartford American Legion. One letter in particular was selected to be permanently displayed on a plaque at the New Hartford location.

Additionally, Mr. Waskiewicz and Mrs. King’s middle school students participated in a project to research, write about, and honor Veterans. The wall outside the Superintendent’s Office served as a display area.
Caring for Our Students

Working closely with instructional staff and administrators, several dedicated individuals attend to the wellness of our students in a number of crucial areas.

Guidance Counselors Renee Keyser, Kelly Zegarelli, and Jackie Snizek provide students with counseling, information, and opportunities for current and future academic pursuits through the use of the Naviance system, a planning portal for students and families that includes self-discovery assessments, goal-setting, college research tools, course planning, career exploration resources, and individual learning plans.

Our team of school nurses provides daily and long-term health and emergency services to all of our students. Alicia Walker and Cindy Smiegal serve students in the high school and middle school, and Liz Hobaica serves in the elementary school.

Social workers Monica Moshier and Mary Hosey-Pardi help families and students navigate through a wide scope of situations that contribute to their academic and social success. Thank you to this essential team for supporting our students.

College Credit Offerings at CCS

CCS has partnered with MVCC to offer college credit courses to students in high school classrooms in a number of subject areas. Students are given the opportunity to experience college level learning, explore possible career areas and accumulate college credits at no cost to parents. Courses offered include AP Calculus, English 12, French IV, Intermediate Algebra, Spanish IV and Statistics. Students may also choose from 14 advanced placement course offerings which may be accepted by a number of colleges at their discretion.

CTEC Visit

On January 5, eighth grade students toured OHM BOCES Career and Technical Education center. The tour offered information about careers, as well as a wide variety of educational opportunities that will be available to them as they enter high school.

CCS students are eligible to enroll in programs offered at The Career and Technical Education Center programs at OHM BOCES. CTE students pursue career pathways toward college degrees and industry recognized certifications, connecting classroom and hands-on learning with employment expectations. More information can be found at www.oneida-boces.org.

CCS PTA

The Clinton Central School PTA provided $300 in funding to support the Olympics of the Visual Arts Program. Our very active PTA also compiles a weekly electronic newsletter and maintains a Clinton Central School Facebook page to help facilitate parent and community communication. CCS Spirit Wear can be purchased through the PTA and order forms can be found at www.ccs.edu in the quick links section of the homepage. Thank you to the many ways that the PTA supports the CCS family.

Safety Update

In accordance with state regulations, CCS has formed a Safety Committee that, with the assistance of BOCES safety experts and area law enforcement personnel, developed a District-wide Safety Plan. Staff members are receiving training on how to respond to possible emergency situations and building level plans are being implemented. The plan also includes safety updates to aging buildings and on-going evaluation that will benefit and protect all of our students and staff.
What Drives Policy

The Clinton Central School Policy Manual receives continual review and revision by the Board of Education, under the guidance of the New York State School Board Association’s Policy Service, to ensure compliance with New York State Education Law. Policies, in turn, guide district staff and administration in the execution of their duties and decision making. The policy manual can be found at www.ccs.edu, under the District tab, under Board of Education.

New Procedures

The 2015-16 school year saw some changes in the way that information is distributed to the CCS family.

Blackboard Connect now serves as our emergency contact and announcement system. Messages can be sent by phone call, email or text (optional). Recipients have the ability to opt out of text messaging if it causes them to incur additional charges. If your contact information has changed, or if you would like to add an address or phone number to our database, please contact your student’s building office.

Academic communications, including report cards, are now available to high school and middle school parents through the SchoolTool parent portal. More information about obtaining this access can be obtained through the building offices.
Postal Patron
Local

Cast of Middle School musical, “Elf Jr.”