



**ADIRONDACK
CENTRAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
Fall 2021**



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**TEAM
ADIRONDACK**

Update from Kristy McGrath, Superintendent



What's New at Adirondack

As you most likely know, New York State was awarded federal money through the ARP (American Rescue Plan) Act and CRRSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations) Act. **Adirondack Central School District will receive approximately 4.5 million dollars over the next three years through this revenue source.** A survey was distributed to Adirondack stakeholders in May 2021, with 256 community members participating, to help guide our planning of this funding. In addition, a public presentation was made at the June 2021 Board meeting.

There are parameters for how this money can be spent by the district, with a focus on:

- 1-safe return to in-person learning
- 2-fill gaps due to learning loss
- 3-plan for mental health issues
- 4-ensure the health and safety of students
- 5-accommodate technology needs of students
- 6-enhance instructional program
- 7-provide additional learning opportunities (summer, after school, vacations)
- 8-be cautious of a spending cliff in 3 years when the money's gone

The district identified the following goal/focus areas:

- 1-Increase Pre-School and Early Intervention Services for Children, 3&4-Year Olds
- 2-Increase Support at Primary Grades Due to Learning Loss, K-2
- 3-Ensure a Strong Core Academic Program in ELA and Math, K-8
- 4-Increase Social/Emotional Support, UPK-12
- 5-Increase Technology and STEAM Support and Opportunities, UPK-12
- 6-Purchase STEAM/Technology, UPK-12
- 7-Create Facility for a School-Based Health Center, UPK-12
- 8-Purchase Equipment, UPK-12
- 9-Offer Summer School and After School Programming

I'm pleased to update you on a summary of some of the new and exciting things we are offering at Adirondack. Most items mentioned are paid for out of the stimulus money and do not have a cost to the district out of the general fund over the next three years. When this money expires, the district will either need to discontinue the additions, or pursue other funding sources. **It is important that our school community realizes that we will not be able to sustain all of these items once the stimulus money runs out in September of 2024.**

Here's what's new:

1-STEAM Lab and STEAM Opportunities, K-12: We are excited to have Mr. Nick Palczak in the role as District STEAM Coordinator. In addition, the district has STEAM Aides, K-5 (Brenda Dowling, Nancy Lutz, and Jamie Benson). These positions support students and staff in using cutting edge technology, mapping out the Computer Science and Digital Literacy Standards, connecting students to career opportunities in STEAM, and support overall technology integration into classrooms. In addition, the district will utilize funds to sustain our 1:1 student chromebook plan, along with adding high tech equipment such as 3d printers, laser engravers, virtual welders, virtual reality, drones, robotics, and more. We plan to pursue more STEAM clubs and extracurricular/enrichment options for our students, including FLL, Jr FLL, & FTC Teams and eSports.

2-Expanded UPK Opportunities: We have been able to make our 4 year-old UPK classrooms full-day this year, along with adding a 3 year-old full-day classroom. It was exciting to see that we had an increased interest in our UPK programs when families found out they were full day programs. Each classroom is filled to capacity with a small number of students on a waiting list. The district has also applied for a UPK Expansion Grant, so if we are awarded this, it will secure our ability to continue full-day UPK beyond the 3 years of the stimulus money. Mrs. Heather Groff is our 3 year-old teacher, Mrs. Cheri Pulquerio teaches a combination of 3 and 4 year-olds at West Leyden, Mrs. Susan Merriam is a 4 year-old UPK teacher, and Mrs. Kim Corr also teaches 4 year olds. Thank you to our UPK Aides: Patricia Winters, Kristin McIntyre, MaryBeth Korman and Sally Ortlieb.

3-Increased Mental Health Support: The district is pleased to welcome Mrs. Rhiannon Hickox, who will begin as a Social Worker, based in the Middle School, starting October 15th. Currently the district doesn't employ a Social Worker, so we are excited to welcome her to our team. In addition, we are pleased to have Ms. Joanna Dailey join us, a Behavioral Health Specialist. Joanna comes to us through a partnership with Rubenzahl-Knudsen & Associates out of Watertown, allowing families to receive therapy in the district, without needing to travel. RKA does bill to insurance, but there is no out-of-pocket cost, and this service can be accessed via self-referral, parent referral, doctor referral, and /or principal referral. No students are seen by Ms. Dailey without parental consent. For any questions, Joanna can be contacted at x 4521. She's based out of the high school and begins October 1st.

4-Added Support for Math and ELA Instruction: The district is implementing a new Math series at K-5 this year, Envisions. In addition we are providing our teachers at K-5 with training on The Science of Reading, supported by The Reading League, in Syracuse. We will be piloting and selecting a new ELA series for K-5 over the course of this year, to be in place for 2022-23. We were in need of new programs, as both that we have been using are outdated and not aligned with current standards and assessments. In addition, we have several new people who will be supporting staff members and students. Mrs. Jackie Layton is a Math Coordinator K-8. Jackie will support teachers in professional development as they implement Envisions. She will also analyze data and make recommendations on an assessment and intervention plan that is driven by student need and best practices. Finally, we have added Reading Intervention Teachers. Ms. Toni Trifeletti comes to us with many years of early intervention experience in Florida, and Mrs. Jill Bator (former West Leyden Kindergarten Teacher) is teaching AIS and Reading Intervention at West Leyden this year. The purpose of Reading Intervention is that our earliest learners missed a substantial portion of instruction during the remote period in the past year and a half. Our Reading Intervention Teachers will target our early grades to support small group instruction, based on The Science of Reading, to support early reading.

5-Summer School and Wildcat Camp: The district was able to get a summer school program operational for 2021, with hopes that it continues each summer. We are thrilled to announce that a total of 261 K-12 students participated, with 78 high schoolers earning credit for courses they would have otherwise failed. One Senior was able to receive a diploma due to courses completed in summer school. In addition, we held Wildcat Camp for our K-5th grade students, with over 160 students participating. We are hoping that the Village of Boonville will be able to resume this program in the future (Summer Rec). Between Wildcat Camp and Summer School, students were provided free breakfast and lunch, along with transportation. Students were treated to some really special presentations, such as Bubble Mania, Magic Rocks, Jeff the Magic Man, a ventriloquist, a Zoomobile, field trip to the Black River Canal Museum, Cornell Cooperative Extension "Healthy Eating," and bike safety with the Oneida County Sheriff's Department. A special thank you to our coordinators, Mrs. Dana Ely and Ms. Diane Ross, along with the many teachers, administrators, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, and camp counselors who made summer programming possible!

6-After School Program...Coming Soon (K-5): We are finalizing a partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County to offer a free afterschool program at Boonville Elementary (for up to 40 students) and West Leyden Elementary (for up to 20 students). Registrations and further information should be coming soon. The program will run after school each school day, with a focus on academics and enrichment. 4-H, STEAM, cooking, recreation, and more will be included, and students will be expected to complete homework if they are behind. Transportation is provided for those who cannot accommodate parent pick-up. Ms. Marina DeAngleo is the Program Supervisor. The district contracts with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), and they in turn run the whole program, so any questions about the program can be directed to CCE. Again, more information will be coming soon!

7-School Based Health Center: The district is in the initial phases of planning a School-Based Health Center. Many schools across the state have this in place. The concept is that it's a doctor's office, onsite, to make access to families easier. In addition, insurance is billed, but families do not pay any co-pays or have out-of-pocket expenses. No students are seen by the center unless parents have given permission. The partnering hospital submits all paperwork and handles the staffing and day-in and day-out running of the School-Based Health Center. The school's responsibility is to provide a space that meets the requirements, and we will help to distribute information on behalf of the School-Based Health Center. At this time, a possible timeline is September 2022 to have the School-Based Health Center operational.

8-District Nurse: The school district will be able to continue to support a District Nurse with our stimulus money. During the Covid pandemic, it is invaluable to have this person available to assist with Covid education, contact tracing, and soon-to-be Covid testing. Beyond Covid, the District Nurse can help support students with medical needs on field trips, provide sub coverage for school nurses when needed, and provide education to our entire student population on topics pertaining to health and safety. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Sandy Mercer to the District Nurse role this year, as Mrs. Mary Healt is now based in the Middle School.

9-Miscellaneous Items: We are in the process of exploring the possibility of adding intramural opportunities for our 4th-6th grade students. We will also be planning to bring back Community Education opportunities for our entire community. A goal is to provide increased access to our newly renovated pool, which will be open by mid-October, along with our gyms and weight room. All of these are in initial planning stages, but goals of the district. Stimulus money will be utilized to purchase furniture for the District Office, Middle School and High School classrooms, along with what was needed for our new UPK Rooms. The district has a back-pack program, which provides food to families, and stimulus money will support this program. Any families who would like additional information on the backpack program shall contact their school nurse or Ms. Sharon Cihocki at x1831. Thank you to Mrs. Houser's Class for organizing, packing, and distributing the backpacks. Finally, stimulus money is allotted for expanding the field trips and assemblies that we can provide to our students.

In conclusion, there are many exciting things happening and "in the works" at Adirondack. If you have any questions about any of the information provided, please feel free to reach out to our administrative team. Thank you for your continued support of our entire school community. Adirondack is a great place to be. We are Team Adirondack!





Adirondack Welcomes New Faculty and Staff to our Team!



Kyle Swiecki

Mr. Kyle Swiecki, an Adirondack graduate. Mr. Swiecki will be the long term substitute for 7th grade physical science. He received his Bachelors in Wellness and Adventure Education and Masters in Health and Physical Education from Utica College. At Utica College, Mr. Swiecki broke the college record in the decathlon and was ranked nationally.



Jessica Marsh

Jessica will be working as a teacher's aide in Adirondack Middle School. Jessica previously worked as a therapeutic recreation aide at Sunset Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She is a graduate of Adirondack CSD and mother of two students in the district. Jessica has also been involved with Boy Scouts and Little League.



Raemicia Williams

Raemicia will be working as a teacher's aide in Boonville Elementary. Raemicia has been a substitute teacher's aide in the district for the past 8 years and is a long-standing volunteer at the Woodsman's Field Days.



Gail Hempel

Gail will be working as a teacher's aide in the High School supporting students in the Chinese classes. Gail previously worked as a Human Services Aide at Upstate Cerebral Palsy in Barneveld and is a photographer for the Boonville Herald. Gail has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education/Elementary Education from the University of South Florida.



Kaela McDaniels

Kaela will be working as a special education teacher in the Middle and High Schools. Kaela previously worked as a teacher's assistant at Camden High School and a long-term substitute Math teacher at Camden Middle School. Kaela earned her bachelor's degree from St. John Fisher College and master's degree from the State University of New York at Oswego.



Mareissa Lisowski

Another ACS alum coming back to her home school! Ms. Lisowski joins us at Boonville Elementary as an AIS teacher. She received her bachelor's from Nazareth College. After completing her student teaching at Boonville, she felt this is where she needed to be. Welcome, Mareissa!

Adirondack Welcomes New Faculty and Staff



Matthew Yoder

The high school is excited to welcome Mr. Matthew Yoder. Mr. Yoder is teaching Living Environment, Earth Science and Anatomy and Physiology. Mr. Yoder has six years of teaching experience. Students in his class will be able to observe one of his many fish tanks! He has a great passion for the outdoors.



BreAnne Ringwald

Mrs. Ringwald comes to Adirondack as a former graduate, local resident and owner of The Thirsty Painters art business. She is teaching elementary art at both Boonville Elementary and West Leyden Elementary. Mrs. Ringwald has previous teaching experience at many levels. We welcome her creativity and enthusiasm to our Adirondack team.



Jennifer Consiglio

Ms. Consiglio joins us this year as a 4th-grade teacher at Boonville Elementary. She received her bachelor's degree in Business & Economics from Empire State College and her master's in Childhood Education from Grand Canyon University. She previously taught 4th grade at St. Patrick's in Oneida. Ms. Consiglio is a horror movie aficionado. Welcome, Jennifer!



Toni Trifeletti

Ms. Trifeletti is a Rome native who has returned home after living and teaching in Florida for the past 14 years. Her experience as a special education teacher is a perfect fit for her as our new Reading Intervention Specialist at Boonville Elementary. Welcome, Toni!



Emily Swancott

Ms. Swancott is our new elementary counselor at Boonville Elementary. She is an ACS alum and lives in the district with her husband and son. Emily received her degree as School Counselor from Sage College. Ms. Swancott has several years of experience with students and is a wonderful addition to our counseling team. Welcome, Emily.

Adirondack Welcomes New Faculty and Staff



Michael Faustino

Mr. Michael Faustino, Director of Technology, Curriculum & Instruction -- Mike, a former College Football Coach and School Principal, comes to the Adirondack Central School District with a wealth of practical experience in data analysis, Restorative Justice, and delivering high quality professional development. Originally from Philadelphia, PA, Mike taught Kindergarten for 15 years while serving in many leadership positions throughout his instructional career. As an elementary school principal, Mike collaborated with the New York State Education Department's support teams to identify root causes, increase student growth, and provide extended learning opportunities for all students. He is deeply committed to the Adirondack community and is excited to be a part of an amazing administrative team.



Elise Armstrong

Mrs. Armstrong is the new Kindergarten teacher at West Leyden Elementary school. She has several years of experience in early childhood education. She lives in Lowville with her husband and children where she helps with the family trucking business. We welcome Mrs. Armstrong and her enthusiasm for teaching to our Adirondack team.



Bea Joslin

Bea Joslin is a Food Service Helper in the HS. She lives in Boonville. She has worked in the HS cafeteria in the past, and also as bus monitor in the past. She helps care for her elderly mother. Bea has grandchildren attending here and she enjoys going to their sporting events.



Rhiannon Hickox

Rhiannon Hickox is a licensed clinical social worker and will be joining the Adirondack Middle School. She has extensive experience working in the field of human services and social work and will bring a new perspective to the district. As an Adirondack alumni, Rhiannon received her Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from SUNY Institute of Technology, and her Masters in Social Work from Binghamton University. Welcome!

We are excited & grateful to welcome back...



Pat Fiorenza
Interim Athletic Director



The following Adirondack employees were recognized for their years of dedicated service:

5 years of service

- Patricia Croneiser
- Ashlynn Czepiel
- Alexandra de Jong
- Courtney Foll
- Claire Haile
- Nancy Lutz
- Brian Rhone
- Michael Santa Maria
- Lisa Schoff
- Joan Sturtevant
- Michelle Zeigler



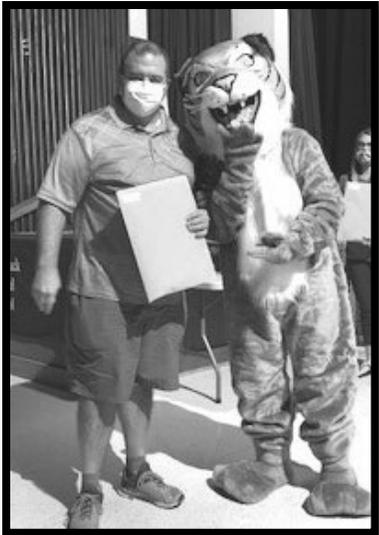
10 years of service

- Stephen Bala
- Jill Bator
- Dennis Gillett
- Sandy Mercer
- Philip Puleo
- Sheri Reed
- Edward Ryder
- Tammy Smith
- Robert Tanner



20 years of service

- Jamie Benson
- Richard Cotton
- Melanie Hastwell
- Kendra Hopsicker
- Colleen Isenecker
- Wendy Muller
- Robin Roberts
- Jill Rowlands-Will



30 years of service

- Kimberly Baker
- Kimberly Carrock
- Shelly Pfeiffer

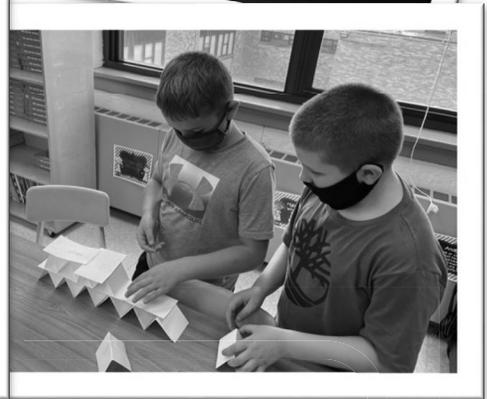
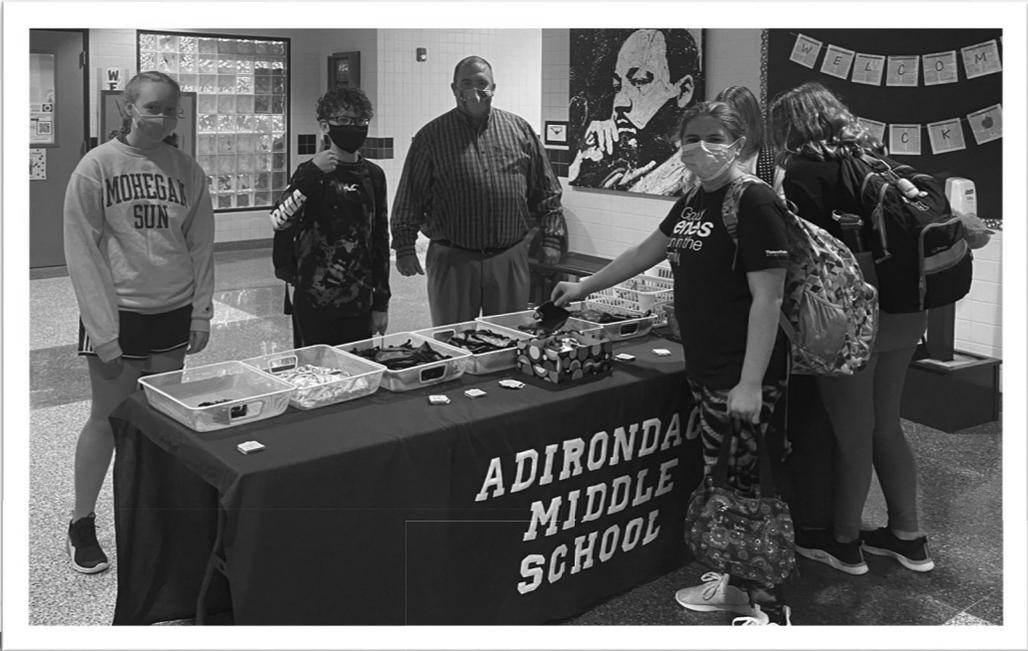


Most years of service

Pam Fauvelle



**We had a wonderful opening to our school year.
Here's a glimpse into some 1st day photos.**



CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE



The work at the High School is almost done. The pool will be finished the first week of October. Then F-Wing hall walls/ceilings will be worked on. The next work will be up at the Bus Garage.



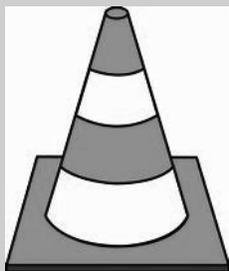
F-Wing Hall under construction



New Signage



New Exit Lighting building wide in the High School



High School Pool Area





New Middle School Locker Rooms



Large Group Instruction



Media Center



Technology, Curriculum and Instruction

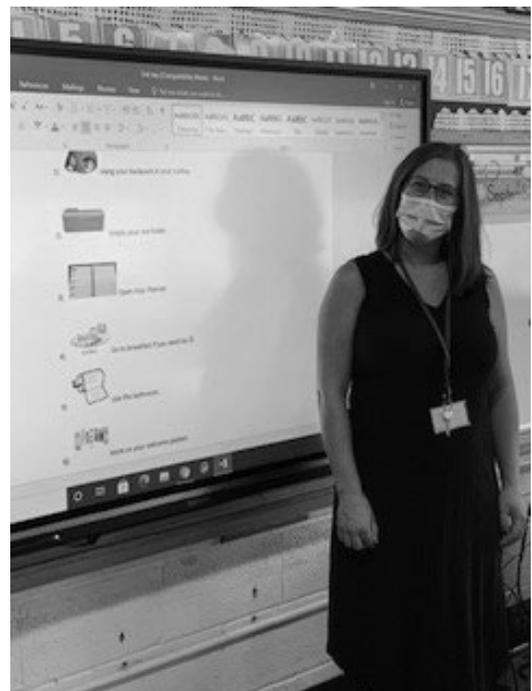
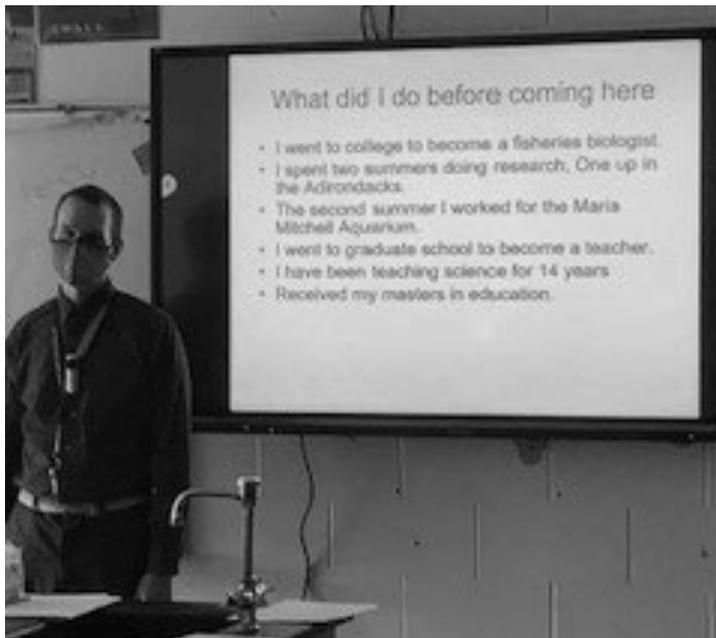


Office of Technology, Curriculum and Instruction -- On September 7, 2021 the Adirondack Central School district completed an extensive technology upgrade project where each and every instructional staff member's classroom was equipped with a new and vastly improved ViewSonic instructional "Smartboard". The Adirondack Central School district was granted "SmartSchools" funding to improve upon existing technology structures aimed at increasing student engagement. 116 ViewSonic Boards were installed over the course of the installation project along with 5 mobile trolley carts that can be utilized in various instructional spaces such as in gymnasiums, cafeterias, presentation rooms, and instructional support learning spaces.

Teachers and Instructional support staff were provided with two specialized training sessions before the beginning of the new school year. The first professional learning session was offered on August 23 and the second session was offered during our Superintendent's Conference Day on September 1, 2021. ViewSonic experts delivered both sessions from within our school district in order to directly support teachers, consult with teachers in their classrooms, troubleshoot software concerns, and answer any and all questions. The Viewsonic project was a major step forward for our entire learning community, and we will continue to capitalize on the lessons learned during our remote, hybrid, and in-person instructional models of last school year.

Mr. Mike Adams, Mr. Shane Youngs, and Mrs. Crystal Leichty have been collectively supporting teachers and administrators. As a reminder, here are the email links if you need technology assistance: helpdesk@adirondackcsd.org or chromebook@adirondackcsd.org

#Team Adirondack



BOYS & GIRLS

Fall Sports Schedules

For digital, up-to-date sports schedules go to: schedulegalaxy.com/schools/6

Boys Varsity Soccer: *Coach Maxwell Dorrity*
Asst. Ed Swiecki

Date	School	Site	Time
09/28	Sauquoit Valley	Home	4:30 p
09/30	West Canada Valley	Away	4:30 p
10/02	Frankfort-Schuyler	Home	10:00 a
10/04	Utica Academy of Science	Away	4:30 p
10/06	Town of Webb	Home	4:30 p
10/08	Herkimer	Home	4:30 p
10/12	Remsen	Away	4:30 p

Boys Modified Soccer: *Coach Elroy Moore*

Date	School	Site	Time
09/27	Utica Academy of Science	Home	4:30 p
09/30	West Canada Valley	Away	4:30 p
10/02	Frankfort-Schuyler	Home	10:00 a
10/04	Utica Academy of Science	Away	4:30 p
10/06	Town of Webb	Home	4:30 p
10/08	Herkimer	Home	4:30 p
10/12	Remsen	Away	4:30 p
10/18	West Canada Valley	Home	4:30 p
10/20	Frankfort-Schuyler	Away	4:30 p

Boys/Girls Cross-Country: *Ryan Jennings*
Glen Roberts (modified)

Date	School	Site	Time
09/29	Mount Markham, Cooperstown		
		Away	4:30 p
10/06	Sauquoit Valley, Little Falls, Dolgeville, Owen D. Young	Away	4:30 p
10/13	Clinton, Oriskany	Away	4:30 p
10/16	DeRuyter	Home	8:00 a
10/16	TBD	Home	9:00 a
10/16	Vernon-Verona Sherrill	Home	9:00 a
10/16	Waterville	Home	9:00 a
10/16	Whitesboro	Home	10:50 a
10/30	Central Valley Academy	Home	TBD

Varsity Football: *Coach Rob Hennessey*
Asst. Darrel Gray, Stephen Bala

Date	School	Site	Time
10/01	Pulaski	Home	7:00 p
10/08	Beaver River	Away	7:00 p
10/15	Cato-Meridian	Home	7:00 p
10/23	Notre Dame	Away	1:00 p

Modified Football: *Coach Michael Santa Maria*
Asst. Bryan Waterman
Asst. Jason Cossar

Date	School	Site	Time
09/28	Clinton	Away	4:30 p
10/02	South Lewis	Away	11:00 a
10/07	Beaver River	Away	4:30 p
10/12	Sherburne-Earlville	Away	4:30 p
10/19	Holland Patent	Home	4:30 p

Girls Varsity Soccer: *Coach Susan Case*

Date	School	Site	Time
09/30	Frankfort-Schuyler	Home	4:30 p
10/02	Frankfort-Schuyler	Away	10:00 a
10/05	Herkimer	Away	6:00 p
10/07	Dolgeville	Home	4:30 p
10/09	Holland Patent	Away	10:00 a
10/10	TBD	Away	10:00 a
10/12	Lowville	Away	6:00 p
10/13	Utica Academy of Science	Away	4:30 p
10/15	West Canada Valley	Away	4:30 p

Girls JV Soccer: *Coach Meagan Riopelle*

Date	School	Site	Time
09/29	Canastota	Away	4:30 p
10/01	Holland Patent	Away	4:30 p
10/05	Poland	Away	4:30 p
10/07	Little Falls	Home	4:30 p
10/15	Dolgeville	Home	4:30 p
10/16	Hamilton	Away	11:00 a

Girls Modified Soccer: *Coach Jason Croniser*
Jennifer Shoemaker

Date	School	Site	Time
10/01	Frankfort-Schuyler	Away	4:30 p
10/05	Herkimer	Away	4:30 p
10/07	Dolgeville	Home	4:30 p
10/13	Utica Academy of Science	Away	4:30 p
10/15	West Canada Valley	Away	4:30 p
10/19	Frankfort-Schuyler	Home	4:30 p



Varsity Swimming: *Coach Elizabeth Ritter*

Date	School	Site	Time
09/28	Utica Proctor	Home	4:30 p
09/30	West Canada Valley	Home	4:30 p
10/07	Cooperstown	Home	5:15 p
10/14	Whitesboro	Home	5:30 p
10/19	Rome Free Academy	Home	4:30 p
10/21	Utica Proctor	Away	5:00 p
10/22	Holland Patent	Away	5:00 p
11/4	Post Season Sectionals	TBD	5:00 p

Modified Swimming: *Coach Mitch Maryhugh*

Date	School	Site	Time
10/01	Invitational	Away	4:30 p
10/04	South Lewis	Home	4:30 p
10/06	Holland Patent	Home	4:30 p
10/08	TBD	TBD	4:30 p
10/13	Invitational	Away	4:30 p



Emergency Closings/Early Dismissals/Delays



This district is no longer using our school messenger calling service we previously used. When bad weather or other emergency conditions require school closure or delayed opening, official notice will be given to staff, parents and guardians via Parent Square – only staff, parents and guardians. All others please check radio, Facebook and television stations:



Tune in to the following Radio and TV stations for information on school closing , delays or early dismissals:

WBRV-AM (900) WIBX-AM (950)
WBRV-FM (101.3) WLZW-FM (98.7)
WFRG-FM (104.3)

WKTV-2 (Utica) WNYF-7 (Watertown)
ABC 50/The CW - (Watertown)

When schools are closed due to inclement weather conditions, **all** other activities, including sports practices, athletic competitions, student activities, and community-related activities, will be canceled.



Adirondack Central School
District Office
110 Ford Street
Boonville, NY 13309

FALL 2021



Adirondack Excellence

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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or **Current Resident**

Adirondack Wildcats!!!