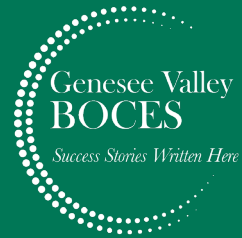




GENESEE VALLEY BOCES

Annual Report



Kevin M. MacDonald

District Superintendent



"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence" – Abigail Williams

Once again the past year has been filled with success stories at Genesee Valley BOCES. While many of the challenges that we faced due to the pandemic have eased, new challenges such as staffing and supporting the mental health needs of our students and staff have emerged. Educators and staff at Genesee Valley BOCES have worked tirelessly to ensure that our students continued to receive a high-quality education. Our commitment to supporting our students and core values has never been stronger, and it is evident in the many achievements of our students.

As educators, it is our responsibility to help our students recognize their own unique strengths and talents, and to provide them with the tools and support they need to reach their full potential. As Abigail Williams said "Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence. Similarly, as colleagues and members of a team, we all bring different strengths and perspectives to the table. By recognizing and valuing each other's contributions, we can work together to achieve great things. Collaboration and mutual respect are essential for creating a positive and productive working environment, and for ensuring that our students receive the best possible education.

We are responsible for creating a safe and supportive learning environment where every student feels valued and respected. By embracing and celebrating diversity, we can create a culture of inclusion where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. By nurturing our students' unique talents and abilities, we can help them develop the confidence and self-esteem they need to be successful.

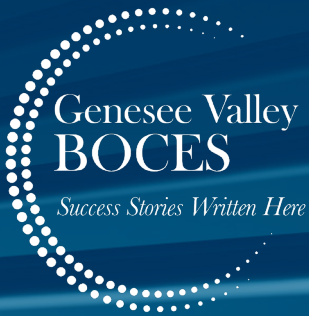
As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to build programs to support future students. We will continue to innovate and improve our programs to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our component districts, students and our community. None of this is possible without the support and collaboration of our staff, component districts, families, and community partners, and we are grateful for their partnership!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin M. MacDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Kevin M. MacDonald
District Superintendent



Kevin M. MacDonald
District Superintendent

80 Munson Street
LeRoy, New York 14482

Julie Donlon-Yates, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent

80 Munson Street
LeRoy, New York 14482

**Genesee-Livingston-Steuben-
Wyoming Board of Cooperative
Educational Services**

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(585) 344-7900 or 658-7900

www.gvboces.org

Alexander
Attica
Avon
Batavia
Byron-Bergen
Caledonia-Mumford
Dansville
Elba
Geneseo
Keshequa
LeRoy

Letchworth
Livonia
Mount Morris
Oakfield-Alabama
Pavilion
Pembroke
Perry
Warsaw
Wayland-Cohocton
Wyoming
York

Genesee Valley BOCES

The Genesee Valley BOCES functions as a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) serving more than 24,000 students in 22 school districts located in Genesee, Livingston, Steuben, and Wyoming counties in upstate New York. Genesee Valley (GV) BOCES offers a wide range of programs and services including career and technical education, special education programs and services, alternative education, instructional and technical support services, and management services. Each year, new programs and services continue to be developed in response to the emerging needs of area school districts. GV BOCES operates two campuses, one in Batavia, New York, and another in Mount Morris, New York, that offer career and technical education, special education, alternative education, and adult education programs. A specialized program for high school-age students called The Western New York Tech Academy is housed at Byron-Bergen Centrals Schools and a special education and Intensive Therapeutic Program for elementary-age students is located at Mount Morris Central Schools. The Genesee Community College Campus, located in Dansville, New York, is where special education programs, as well as, some career and technical education programs are offered to middle and high school-age students.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to lead collaboratively in creating quality solutions to emerging educational challenges.

Core Values

We Believe

- All people have something to contribute
- Learning enriches life
- Accepting responsibility for choices and actions is essential for growth
- Quality relationships require honesty, trust, fairness, openness and mutual respect
- Embracing diversity enriches the individual and strengthens society

Strategic Goals

- Design systems to nurture innovation and expand services
- Utilize data to support student performance and organizational effectiveness
- Enhance services to ensure alignment with component district and community partner needs
- Maximize academic learning time to make every minute count

Non-Discrimination Notice

In accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the amendments to that act, it is the policy of the Genesee Valley BOCES to not discriminate in the treatment of students, employees or others in any program or activity on any illegal basis. Illegal bases include sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, race, color, national origin, and disability.

2022-2023 Board of Education

Norbert Fuest, President

Edward Engel, Vice President

Christy Crandall-Bean

Matthew Crane

Robert DeBrycker

David DeLaVergne

Ernest Haywood

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Roger Kosticky

Edward Levenstein

J. David Woodruff, DDS

2022-2023 Central Administration

District Superintendent Kevin MacDonald

Deputy Superintendent Julie Donlon-Yates, Ed.D.

Chief Financial Officer Daniel N. Groth

Chief Legal Counsel Stephen Mahoney, Esq.

Director of Instructional Programs Jon Sanfratello

Director of Professional Learning Services Patrick B. Whipple, Ph.D.

Executive Principal, Batavia Campus Rachel Slobert

Executive Principal, Mount Morris Campus Matthew Flowers

Professional Learning Services

The Professional Learning Services Department is comprised of several different departments within the Genesee Valley BOCES Organization: Enrichment, School Improvement, School Library Systems, and the Student Support Services Center. Each of these services, and their adjoining services, focus on improving teaching and learning across the PK-12 continuum.

The Enrichment Department facilitates programs to support and improve the learning experience of students across our region. Much of the work is provided directly to the students in schools and supports a wide range of academic areas. A key function of Enrichment work is providing additional avenues for enhancing student literacy through programs like Page Turners, Writers in

Improvement spends much of its time tailoring professional learning for the needs of districts, schools, and teams of teachers that are delivered in an embedded fashion to reflect the best practices determined by researchers in the area of professional development. As the profession transitions from isolated event-based professional learning, School Improvement has looked to improve its delivery model to enhance its impact across the region. For example, the cohort model has been one of GV BOCES' most successful delivery methods for regional professional learning- at least, from an anecdotal perspective. Over the past two years, established cohorts have been engaging with Breakspear and Jones' (2021) Teacher Sprints Framework to enact an action research oriented process for professional learning focusing ambitious teaching practices in the classroom. This shift in how SI



Residence, and the annual Interscholastic Competition in English. Additionally, Enrichment provides STEM education through programs such as Ready For, Interscholastic Math, and Genesee Valley Robotics programs.

Recently, the Enrichment Department facilitated a First Lego League Regional Qualifier as part of the robotics program. Regionally, seven districts participated in the event that focused on building and programming robots to complete pre-determined tasks. For each event, the First Lego League Competition centers around a particular theme; the recent theme was "Superpowered." Students worked in teams to design and create robots that embody the theme- in this case, where does energy come from, and how is it stored, distributed, and used- and successfully complete three different rounds of tasks. Teams were judged on the Core Values of FLL: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork, and Fun.

School Improvement explicitly focuses on the professional learning needs of instructional staff as a means for improving educational outcomes. Typically, there is a mixture of in-person and virtual offerings designed broadly for the region. Additionally, School

approaches cohort meetings has been a team success!

As a result of the reimagined cohort model, district leaders can expect that classroom teachers will learn evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies to use in the classroom, methods for collecting data/progress monitoring, and reflecting on the practice and data to make informed decisions regarding instruction to support continued implementation of new teaching practices. Such shifts embody one of the most significant challenges to professional learning- ensuring that professional learning results in increased student learning.

School Library Systems continues to make an impact regionally and nationally. Over the past year, SLS was awarded a Libraries Today National Leadership Grant. The focus of the grant, which received approximately \$150,000 over the scope of the project, is the investigation of changes and impact of school libraries in the post-COVID era. To do so, SLS Staff facilitates a series of national forums, which include experts from across the country, to attend to three project-specific goals: identify changes made to school library programs as a result of exigent circumstances during the COVID-19

public health emergency; facilitate community conversations during each national forum using a collective impact model to evaluate the impact of changes to school library programs during the pandemic; and identify, publish, and widely distribute a series of school library forum reports establishing best practices and policy recommendations for post-COVID school libraries.

Although this project was initiated in 2021 with a more direct emphasis on pandemic era issues, the academic landscape of today has surfaced additional “exigent circumstances” that demand attention concurrently with the original scope of the project. Given that school libraries are currently being inordinately affected by the political landscape, it is important to address these issues as part of the project’s domain. The first national forum for the grant project was held online in May, 2022. Additionally, SLS Staff also presented at the NY Section of School Librarians state conference regarding the grant.

Genesee Valley BOCES’ Student Support Services Center (SSSC) continues to serve as a Regional, Statewide, and National resource for future educators and educational leaders/administrators. The SSSC provides critical NYSED Certification Courses– i.e. Safe Schools Against Violence in Education, Dignity for All Students Act and Child Abuse Identification and Reporting– on an ongoing basis. To that end, the Student Support Services Center has built and maintained effective collegial partnerships with SUNY Brockport, the Rochester Institute for Technology, St. John Fisher University, and the University of Rochester to deliver ongoing, semester by semester certification courses aligned with NYSED’s requirements for initial and professional licensure.

Similarly, the SSSC’s partnership with the leadership of component districts results in the SSSC customizing the timelines and parameters for the delivery of NYSED Certification Course that meet the needs of districts. The NYSED Certification Courses developed and offered by the SSSC support educators and educational leaders/administrators with enhancing the conditions for learning by reinforcing safe, inclusive, supportive and healthy learning environments that promote the success of all students.

The Professional Learning Services Department continues to lead important programs to best meet the needs of local districts. Please feel free to contact any PLS representative for assistance in achieving local district and school goals.



Business Education Organizations

Business education organizations in Genesee, and Wyoming counties work to bring school districts and businesses together and to enhance the career readiness of students. Opportunities include Junior Achievement, business tours, career exploration days, job shadows, career fairs and summer camps.

Special Education Programs

The Genesee Valley BOCES offers a broad scope of comprehensive special educational services for students who are ages five to 21 and reside in the 22 component school districts served by the Genesee Valley BOCES. Students are grouped based on age range, academic ability, management needs and physical development. Elementary classrooms are located in the Mount Morris Central School District. All other Special Education programs are located in classrooms at Genesee Valley BOCES Batavia, Mount Morris, and Dansville campuses. In all programs, Special Education teachers provide instruction utilizing explicit and differentiated instructional strategies to help all students achieve. Instructional content is aligned with New York Common Core Standards. Students follow course schedules based on their grade level and credit needs; project-based learning and applied academics are cornerstones of instruction to engage students in learning. In addition to the core content curriculum, students ages 15 - 21 have opportunities to participate in transition programming including Career and Technical Education classes or Special Education work experience programs, depending on the program attended.

Expected outcomes for all students include graduation from high school with a Regents or Local Diploma and/or Exit Credential.

Transitions (Level I), Awareness and Exploration

This half-day program supports students who are beginning foundational skills for employment. The goal is to develop entry-level employment skills and competencies based on CDOS standards. Students participate in the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) as part of the Transition I curriculum. The PAES lab includes an evaluation of employability skills, interests, and job training in a simulated work environment. In addition, students participate in a work readiness curriculum to introduce basic job skills and behaviors for employment success.

Work-based skills are introduced and practiced in school-based training experiences, classroom projects, and career awareness for a variety of jobs that students may pursue as a career choice. Career-specific skills are explored in various clusters as students develop an awareness of their skills, interests, and abilities.

The Transitions Level I program runs at the Batavia Campus and the Dansville Campus.

Transitions (Level II), Awareness and Exploration

Transitions (Level II), Exploration and Preparation This half-day program is designed for students who have completed at least one year in Transitions I, or an equivalent program. Level II continues the foundation of career awareness and introduces more specific career exploration through work readiness curriculum and training provided in a variety of settings including school, work, and community. Exploration of a variety of career options includes; hospitality, maintenance, technology, customer service, grounds keeping, hospitality. Worker

safety and more specific job skills are emphasized; interdisciplinary academics reinforce skills necessary in the workplace including reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics. CDOS and SCANS skills are modeled and practiced and part of the daily routine to help students develop and apply skills for success in the workplace.

The Transitions Level II program runs at the Batavia campus and the Dansville Campus.

Transitions III; Food Service Industry, for students age 17-21

This half-day food prep program is designed for students who have completed Level I and Level II Transition programs, or equivalent. It is recommended that this is a third-year Transition course so that students are ready to train and demonstrate job-specific skills. In this program, students run a school-based food enterprise and are involved in all aspects of this business including planning, shopping, and preparation of a meal. All skills are developed sequentially, with demonstration, practice, and

reinforcement so that skills become embedded behaviors. Instruction includes applied technology, reading, writing, listening, speaking and mathematics as well as time management, problem solving, teamwork, and other work success skills. Upon completion of this program, students are ready for work-based experiences in the community.

The Transitions Level III program runs at the Dansville Campus.



WEST - Work Experience Skills Training

This half-day program is designed for students who have participated in 2 - 3 years of Transition programming and are ready for work-based learning opportunities in the community. Work-based training is facilitated in the school setting, community and worksite locations creating a continuum of experience which progresses from a familiar environment to a community-based setting and then a worksite to demonstrate and apply skills. This supervised work experience training program is designed to progressively help students learn and

develop employability skills necessary for independent employment. Work-based experiences vary based on individual skill level and readiness, which is continuously monitored and evaluated. The work readiness curriculum is designed to develop workplace and occupational skills; CDOS and SCANS skills competencies help students achieve the ability to function with limited supervision.

The WESTI program runs at the Batavia campus and the Dansville Campus.

LIVES

The LIVES Program is a unique offering to special education students ages 18-21. Students in the LIVES Program are immersed in the college experience and are thriving as they learn self-reliance and develop confidence. Located on the campus of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo, the Learning Independence,

Vocational and Educational Skills (LIVES) Program, is a transitional and postsecondary program for students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. It is a collaborative program with the Genesee Valley BOCES, SUNY Geneseo, Hilltop Industries (a division of The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming) and Finger Lakes Developmental

Intensive Therapeutic Programs -

The Intensive Therapeutic Program supports students who are experiencing school related and/or family challenges that disrupt their education and have been recommended by the Committee on Special Education for specialized programming. The program is designed to appropriately implement students' Individual Educational Programs and in addition to the academic curriculum, students

are provided ongoing structure and support for social/emotional needs. The Intensive Therapeutic Elementary Program is located at Mount Morris Central Schools. The Intensive Therapeutic Middle and High School Programs are incorporated into each Academy and housed at each Genesee Valley BOCES campus in Batavia and Mount Morris.

Alternative Education -

Genesee Valley BOCES offers alternative middle and high school education programs. Each school provides a small, nurturing environment, which gives each student the maximum amount of attention necessary to improve academic and social skills. Programs have been specifically designed to provide an educational option for students from our component school districts whose needs are not

met by our traditional secondary schools. Teachers assist students in attaining a high school diploma by maintaining the same academic requirements as home schools. Special education counseling services are available, if applicable, in the Alternative Education programs.

Adult Education

The Genesee Valley BOCES offers a comprehensive range of programs including vocational training as well as classes for those seeking to broaden their skill set.

GED Preparation programs are offered for individuals looking to obtain their high school equivalency diploma. They are offered free of charge for those who qualify and are always convenient and confidential. The programs are available at different site locations and there is flexibility with regard to days and times. Books are provided and individual attention is always provided. It should also be noted that the Genesee Valley BOCES is a NYS approved testing center and offers the exam multiple times throughout the year at no charge to the test taker.

Genesee Valley BOCES School of Practical Nursing is a 1,200 hour program, is certified by the New York State Education Department, and is designed to prepare graduates for the NCLEX-PN Examination for licensure as Licensed Practical Nurse.

The Certified Nursing Assistant Program is no less than a 120 clock hour program, approved by the New York State Education Department, and prepares graduates for immediate employment following successful mastery of the post-program

certification testing.

Genesee Valley BOCES also offers a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program that includes A, B, and Bus Driver training. These in-depth one-on-one training courses give students the experiences necessary to be prepared for work in the trucking industry.

Genesee Valley BOCES also offers short term vocational continuing education programs in areas such as Welding, Fork-Lift, Defensive Driving, Five Hour Pre-Licensing, Precision Machining, and employer specific training.



Utica National Insurance Group Safety Award of Excellence

GV BOCES is one of 156 school districts and BOCES in New York state to receive the 2020 School Safety Award from the Utica National Insurance Group. This year GV BOCES received a titanium award with honors; the highest level presented. This is the 19th year that GV BOCES has received this prestigious award.



The Best of Enrichment

The Genesee Valley BOCES Enrichment Department coordinates programs with component school districts to offer general Enrichment as well as Gifted and Talented programs, Arts-In-Education presentations, several competitions, and a Summer Institute program.

By providing workshops, performances, competitions, and residencies, students have opportunities to engage in hands-on activities, connect with other students with similar interests, awaken their curiosity to explore new possibilities in the world around and beyond them.

Ongoing research proves how arts-in-education programs provide learning experiences that are active and experiential, reflective, social, evolving, and focused on problem-solving.

Below is a list of the Genesee Valley BOCES Enrichment Department Arts-In-Education winners for the 2021-22 school year.

Literary Contest:

2022 First Place Winners:

Grades 5-6 Poetry: Caledonia-Mumford

Grades 5-6 Short Story: Livonia

Grades 7-8 Poetry: Byron-Bergen

Grades 9-10 Poetry: Byron-Bergen

Grades 9-10 Short Story: Livonia

Grades 11-12 Poetry: Avon

Grades 11-12 Short Story:

Caledonia-Mumford

Competition Winners:

Academic Challenge Bowl: Livonia CSD

Brainstormers: Geneseo CSD

Scholastic Bowl: Batavia CSD

Chess:

Elementary School Division: Geneseo CSD

Middle School Division: Keshequa

Interscholastic Competition in English:

Winning School: Geneseo CSD

Interscholastic Mathematics Competition:

High School North Division:

Byron-Bergen CSD

High School South Division:

Geneseo CSD

Middle School North Division:

Attica

Middle School South Division:

Caledonia-Mumford

Odyssey of the Mind:

Problem 1:

Division I: Mount Morris CSD

Division II: Geneseo CSD

Problem 2:

Division I: Mount Morris CSD

Division II: Mount Morris CSD

Division III: Livonia CSD

Problem 3:

Division I: Livonia CSD

Division II: York CSD

Division III: York CSD

Problem 4:

Division I: York CSD

Division II: York CSD

Division III: York CSD

Problem 5:

Division I: York CSD

Division II: Perry CSD

Division III: Geneseo CSD

Page Turners:

Regional Final Winners:

Chapter 1: Pembroke CSD

Chapter 2: Lockport CSD

Chapter 3: Geneseo CSD

Divisional Winners:

Chapter 1: Batavia CSD

Chapter 2: Lockport CSD

Chapter 3: Alexander CSD



CTE NTHS Inductees

CTE Students Inducted Into NTHS Chapters

Congratulations to the 77 students from the Batavia and Mount Morris Career and Technical Education (CTE) Centers who were recently inducted into each center's National Technical Honor Society Chapter.

The NTHS honors the achievements of the top career and technical education students, provides scholarships to encourage the pursuit of higher education, and cultivates excellence in today's highly competitive, skilled workforce.

These students each met rigorous criteria set forth by this national organization. Leadership, scholarship, skills, honesty, citizenship, service and responsibility are seven attributes that an NTHS member must embody. The minimum grade point average for acceptance is 3.0. Students are also selected based upon credit hours completed, attendance, volunteer service, and membership in other student organizations.



(left to right) Letchworth CSD students inducted into the NTHS: Brooklin Hastreiter, Health Careers Academy, Delaney Dahl, Culinary Arts and Grace Berwaldt, Culinary Arts.



(left to right) LIVES students: Kyle Nash, Mya-Lyn Albanese, Rachel Skidmore, Samantha Mandell, and Kayleia Brooks.

It Was a GREAT Day for LIVES Students

By Maggie Fitzgibbon, Photo by Marcy Wolcott

The LIVES (Learn Independence, Vocational and Educational Skills) Program is a unique four-year transition program located on the campus of the State University of New York – College at Geneseo in collaboration with the Genesee Valley BOCES. Students, ages 18-21, with intellectual and/or other developmental disabilities, are provided with an inclusive educational community. The goal is to create independent lifelong learners who are connected to their community in a variety of ways. LIVES students recently participated in a SUNY Geneseo event called GREAT Day. GREAT Day is a college-wide symposium celebrating the creative and scholarly endeavors of SUNY Geneseo students. GREAT Day (Geneseo Recognizing Excellence, Achievement, and Talent) helps foster academic excellence, encourages professional development and builds connections within the community.

LIVES students Mya-Lyn Albanese, Kayleia Brooks, Samantha Mandell, Kyle Nash and Rachel Skidmore presented during GREAT Day on the results of a survey that was given to SUNY Geneseo students asking about their personal

strengths and struggles they experienced as college students. The LIVES students compared these results with what they have faced.

John Schnitter is the LIVES Instructor. He shared some of what the students discovered.

"The LIVES students learned that they have many similarities with their fellow college students and face the same challenges, like struggling with waking up in the morning or turning their work in on time. The students were able to see that a large percentage of college students struggle with the same things," Schnitter explained. "Each student came up with their own question and then all the questions were compiled into one survey. The LIVES students were responsible for distributing the survey to other students on campus so they could get a bigger survey sample."

GREAT Day is a campus-wide event; all classes and activities are canceled so each and every student can attend and or participate. The formats include artwork, presentations, theatric, instrumental or musical performances, and readings of

creative works, including poetry, prose, and fiction. Schnitter explained that it's important that LIVES students participate in this event for many reasons.

"The LIVES Program gives students the opportunity to be immersed in the college experience by attending/auditing college classes, internship and on-campus work opportunities, and joining college clubs and organizations," Schnitter said. "We are part of the college community so it is essential that our students are able to participate in GREAT Day so our students truly are part of this inclusive educational community."

Like most young people, presenting to a group of people can be nerve-wracking. "GREAT Day gave our students an opportunity for our students to gain public speaking experience and to build their confidence. One student commented, 'That was a hard thing to do but I did it,'" Schnitter said. "They felt a great sense of accomplishment and were very proud of themselves."

NASA Culinary Challenge

By Maggie Fitzgibbon,

In March, the Culinary Arts students from the Batavia Career and Technical Education Center competed in the national Culinary Arts Challenge for the National NASA HUNCH Program.

During the first round of competition students LiliAna Espinoza (Batavia CSD), Tristan DiLaura (Batavia CSD) and Alexa Wolcott (Pavilion CSD) prepared their dish according to specific guidelines and theme set by NASA. This year's theme this year was Tex-Mex.

"We experimented with a few different recipes but picked our shrimp fajitas with red lentil tortillas with avocado sauce and cilantro lime cauliflower rice because it allowed us to stay under the calorie limits. We had never heard of red lentil tortillas so we thought it would something to try," LiliAna explained.

The students prepped, cooked and presented their recipes to a panel of local judges who all agreed the dishes were not only delectable but the plate presentation was perfect.

"Perfecting and making the tortillas was very time-consuming. The recipe is simple; however, it is difficult to perfect," said Chef Tracy Burgio, the Culinary Arts Instructor at the Batavia CTE Center. "The most challenging part of the entire competition is abiding by the nutritional restrictions." Tony Distaffen from JFS Curtze, a Western New York wholesale food purveyor, served as a judge. Distaffen was quick to rate the team with top scores. "The fajitas are bursting with flavor."

All of the judges were in agreement and gave the team high scores. Later that month, the students were notified that they made it to the top ten and advanced to the next round of competition.

In early April, this team and their instructor traveled to Texas for the next round of competition, which was held at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

If selected, their entrée and dessert will be produced at Johnson Space Lab and sent to the International Space Station for astronauts to enjoy.

National Competition Update

The NASA HUNCH results are in and, unfortunately, the team did not place in the top three. Chef Burgio and Teaching Assistant Denise Kaus noted how the students put forth their best efforts.

"We are so happy to have been part of this and we are pleased to have given our students this opportunity. These three students have been working very hard since September to make this happen, and as their teachers, we couldn't be any prouder of them."

The winning recipes are:

Entrée: Shrimp fajitas with red lentil tortillas, creamy avocado sauce served with a side of cilantro lime cauliflower rice.

Dessert: Mexican chocolate brownie

If selected, their entrée and dessert will be produced at Johnson Space Lab and sent to the International Space Station for astronauts to enjoy.



Alexa Wolcott carefully completes the final step in making the red lentil tortillas.



LiliAna Espinoza prepares the creamy avocado sauce for the shrimp fajitas.



Alexa Wolcott (Pavilion CSD), LiliAna Espinoza (Batavia CSD), and Tristan DiLaura (Batavia CSD) present their recipes to a panel of NASA astronauts, engineers and officials at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Students Test Skills at State Competition

By Maggie Fitzgibbon, Photos by Schuyler Daugherty

Ax throwing, tree climbing, and chainsaw speed cut are not commonly taught in most schools. But in the Conservation Program at the Mount Morris Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center, students have been learning these tasks and building their skills along with important forestry and environmental skills.

In May, students participated in the New York State BOCES Conservation Competition at the State University College at Paul Smiths College. These contests required students to operate heavy equipment with accuracy and demonstrate forestry and woodsmen skills.

Congratulations to all the students who competed!
The competition results are as follows:

Equipment Contests

Bulldozer Trenching- Charles Kuhlkin (Perry) First Place
Bulldozer Backfill - Jesse Isaman (Keshequa) Third Place
Backhoe - Nick Shea (Geneseo) Third Place
Mini Excavator - Evan Earle (Wayland-Cohocton) Third Place
Skidsteer - Brandon Foster (Dansville) Fourth Place, Ethan Keith (Livonia) Fourth Place

Forestry Contests

Tree Climbing - Aiden Jubert (Dansville) Fifth Place, Jordan Garcia Castellanos (Geneseo) Third Place

Woodsmen's Contests:

Axe Throw - Hunter Derrenbacher (Wayland-Cohocton) Third Place, Jesse Isaman (Keshequa) Fifth Place
One Person Bow Saw - Shane Ellsworth (Avon) Second Place
One Person Pulp Toss - Patrick DuBois (Dansville) Second Place
Team Pulp Throw - Lucas Menger (Dansville), Patrick DuBois (Dansville), Charles Kuhlkin (Perry), Hunter Derrenbacher (Wayland-Cohocton) First Place. Jesse Isaman (Keshequa), Evan Earle (Wayland-Cohocton), Aiden Jubert (Geneseo), Jordan Garcia Castellanos (Geneseo) Second Place
Fire Building - Charles Kuhlkin (Perry) Fourth Place, Ethan Keith (Livonia) Fourth Place



Patrick DuBois (Dansville) gives his all in the One Person Pulp Toss and earns second place.



Nick Shea (Geneseo) tests his skills at the start of the Backhoe competition and wins third place.

THE DIGIES

The Digies is an annual digital media conference and festival run by the School Library Service, a program of the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership. The mission of The Digies is to strengthen the digital media continuum between Pre-K-12 schools, higher education and professional institutions. The Digies recognizes student potential in an annual festival format and draws student entries from throughout the region and the Upstate New York area.

The in-person awards ceremony was canceled and an awards recognition video was created and posted to The Digies website at www.digies.org. Emilee Williamson and Andrea Fetterly, Library Technologies' Specialists, coordinate this conference. Fetterly shared that this year's festival drew a record number of entries.

"Creativity is intelligence having fun," Fetterly said. "We are excited to celebrate the amazing creativity and skill demonstrated by the participants in this year's Digies festival."

AUDIO

Pre-K-3

1st Thomas Thering, Annalise Allen, Jade Rivera Rangel,
Friendship Podcast, Geneseo CSD

7-9

1st Bennett Wallin, Lucy McGrain, Mitchell Baker, U.S. Citizenship:
Our Rights, Our Responsibilities (Voting and Taxes), Avon CSD

2nd Kristen Thompson, Blue Journey, Alexander CSD

**3rd Alexis Reamer, Amealia Kerr, Bridget Rehrberg, Olivia
Wonsey,** U.S. Citizenship: Our Rights, Our Responsibilities
(Naturalization and Voting), Avon CSD

10-12

1st Gadge Savastano, Lefthandshake, Mount Morris CSD

2nd Mina Stevens, What Was I Thinking, Pittsford CSD

3rd Caroline Ruof, Minecraft Music Tech Project- Reason, Orchard
Park CSD

GRAPHIC ARTS

Pre-K - 3

1st Peter Boring, Double Exposure Self Portrait, Avon CSD

2nd Cheyenne Claus, Double Exposure Photograph, Avon CSD

3rd Caitlyn Lipome, Double Exposure Self Portrait, Avon CSD

4-6

1st Isabella Ehrman, Eye Art, Southwestern CSD

2nd Tianna Norman, Creative Name Card, York CSD

3rd Annalisa Krug, Pixel Parrot, Southwestern CSD

7-9

1st Fadwa Al Dulaimee, Two Faces, Rush-Henrietta CSD

2nd Anna Holt, Nutella, Alexander CSD

3rd Tori Jewell, Self Portrait, Rush-Henrietta CSD

10-12

1st Quinn Carletta, The Road to a Cleaner Future, Brockport CSD

2nd Paige Conley, Sustained Investigation, York CSD

3rd Cameron Anderson, Untitled, Brockport CSD

SKILLSUSA Regional Competitions

By Maggie Fitzgibbon

Congratulations to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) students who competed in the SkillsUSA Competition at Alfred State College in March. Two students placed in their competitions categories and are now eligible to compete in the NY State SkillsUSA Competition.

All of these students are outstanding representatives of our CTE programs:

Logan Pocock - (1st Place) Custom Painting and Graphics

David Gracie - (3rd Place) Collision Repair Technology

Vincent Dickinson - Auto Technology

Connor Gale - Auto Technology

Savanna Kenyon - Diesel Technology

Jaden Thompson - Diesel Technology

Jack Bruggman - Job Demo (Color Theory)

Kiersten Simon - Leadership Delegate

INTERACTIVE

Pre-K - 3

- 1st Maylen Aguilar Gutierrez**, All About Candy, Geneseo CSD
- 1st Karma Chidsey, Nora Church, John Ciulla, Cheyenne Claus, Scarlett Claus, Donovan DeCarlo, Casen Frey, Keaton Griffiths, Spencer Hayes, Preston Michael, Ezmae Pizarro, Ilah Rene, Wyatt Swafford, Kayden Taft, Noah Wheeler**, African Animals, Avon CSD
- 2nd Nolan Boyle, Ethan Chan, Cliff Clarry, Sophia Cowan, Carter Driscoll, Jesse Dumbleton, Mabel Freeman, Bobby Hoffmann, Cora Jackson, Theoren Kearse, Olivia Koncilja, Flynn McMahan, Khloe Price, Pierce Schmid, Brian Stanton, Willow Cruz-Schell, Ian Segovia**, Habitats and the Animals That Live There, Avon CSD
- 3rd Oliver Clark, Lucas Daniels, Damon Davin, Bianca Estabrooks, Jordan Fayiah, Jayda Fears, Ryker Greene, Olivia Jeffries, Emmalynn Johnson, Wesson Pedro, Adlin Schultheiss, Nora Sherman, Bradley Spencer, Caleb Webb, Lincoln Wheeler, Ariana Crawford**, Habitats and the Animals Around the World, Avon CSD

4-6

- 1st Jack Spuhler**, Inventor Room: **Milton Hershey**, Livonia CSD
- 1st Arianna Scalisi**, Inventor Room; **Milton Braille**, Livonia CSD
- 2nd Isabella Zygadlo**, Inventor Room: **Jacques Cousteau**, Livonia CSD

7-9

- 1st Ben Knapp**, Monke Homecoming, LeRoy CSD

10-12

- 1st Lillian Smith**, Website, Rush-Henrietta CSD
- 2nd Anastasia Fields**, Website, Rush-Henrietta CSD
- 3rd Vicki Li**, Website, Rush-Henrietta CSD

VIDEO

Pre-K - 3

- 1st QueenNira Bey, Nazir Bey**, The Secret Room Virtual Tour, Monroe County Library System
- 2nd Cameron Clark, Joey Backer III**, Kaboom News, Avon CSD
- 4-6
- 1st Anna Shumaker, Charlotte Jaros, Brooke Kiley**, Nomie and Niomi the Two Hungry Animals, Avon CSD
- 2nd Mackenzie Rogers**, The Lollipop, Southwestern CSD
- 3rd Gavin Sterner, Stavros Kolokouris, Baylee Gilmore**, Alien Abduction, Avon CSD
- 7-9
- 1st Gabby Agyingi, Asher Eden**, The Plant Growing, Rush-Henrietta CSD
- 2nd Zendage Zia, Greyson Phillips, Mason Stock**, Change the Formality, Rush-Henrietta CSD
- 2nd Ryan Zika**, Double Crossed, Pembroke CSD
- 3rd Ava Champion, Addison Colatoy, Brenna Krieger, Anna Leathersich**, Out to Sea, Rush-Henrietta CSD
- 3rd Halie Hassell**, From a Future Congress Woman, LeRoy CSD
- 10-12
- 1st Andrei Campbell**, Old World, GST BOCES- Wildwood Education Center
- 2nd Mina Stevens**, The Sea Girl Animation, Pittsford CSD
- 3rd Jared Berger**, The Diving Board, Pittsford CSD

David Gracie, an Auto Body student from LeRoy Central Schools, celebrates with his trophy from the SkillsUSA Regional Competition. David was awarded third-place in the Collision Repair Technology Competition. SkillsUSA Regional Competition.



Logan Pocock, an Auto Body student from Byron-Bergen Central Schools, earned first place in the Custom Painting and Graphics competition at the SkillsUSA Regional Competition.





Chelsie Mehlenbacher



Shane Ellsworth



Charles Kuhlkin



Jalynn Neal

FFA Competition

Students Earn Top Scores at FFA Competition

By Megan Winters

The Senior Forestry team placed first at the recent FFA State Convention in Syracuse and advances to the National Convention, which will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana in October. The team included Shane Ellsworth (Avon), Charles Kuhlkin (Perry), Jalynn Neal (Warsaw), and Allison Sumeriski (Perry). Individually, Shane placed fifth, Charles placed sixth, and Jalynn placed ninth.

The Senior Vet Science team of Kayleigh Rowe (York), Maggie Johnson (Avon), Bridgette Johnson (York), and Rose Sabins (Wayland-Cohocton) placed 14th in the state. Kayleigh placed 29th individually out of 148 competitors. The Junior Vet Science team of Emily Feely (Wayland-Cohocton), Cayla Anderson (Livonia), Hannah Miller (York), and Cadence Stroud (Mount Morris) placed 22nd in the state and just missed out on advancing to round two. Chelsie Mehlenbacher, a Wayland-Cohocton student, put together a hands-on lesson in the Agricultural Education contest and came away with an eighth-place finish. The Junior Forestry team of Evan Earle (Wayland-Cohocton), Nicholas Shae (Geneseo), Jesse Isman (Keshequa), Aiden Jubert (Geneseo) also competed.

Scholarship winner Alyvia Fetzer begins to style Eva Schirmer's hair. Eva is Alyvia's Cosmetology classmate.



Her Goal is to Make People Feel Beautiful

By Maggie Fitzgibbon

At 18-years-old, Alyvia Fetzer knows what she wants to do with her life. Her goal after graduation is to become a licensed cosmetologist. This senior from Warsaw Central Schools is currently enrolled in the Cosmetology Program at the Mount Morris Career and Technical Education Center. By the spring of this year, she will have completed 1,000 hours needed to be eligible to take the New York State Licensing exam. Once Alyvia passes this exam, she will be officially licensed and ready to put her scissors to work.

Recently, Alyvia was awarded the Professional Beauty Association Rosy Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes students who show their dedication to bettering the lives of others. According to Yvette Seils, Alyvia's Cosmetology Instructor, she does just that.

"Alyvia has the drive to accomplish anything. She attends extra educational events and participates in SkillsUSA competitions. Alyvia is very well respected amongst her peers," Seils said.

Alyvia chose to enroll in the Cosmetology Program at the Mount Morris CTE Center after she toured the center when she was a 10th grader. She knew the Cosmetology Program was for her.

"I love the idea that I can change a person's mindset and make them feel good about themselves by doing their hair and makeup. That is the reason that I chose this program and to become a cosmetologist," Alyvia said.

Alyvia considers herself to be someone who is attentive to others which is another reason why she wants to work as a hairstylist.

"I really enjoy talking with people and I listen closely to learn how they want their hair styled. Cosmetologists get to meet, listen to, talk with and work with so many different people which is why I will never get bored with my work,"

she added. "I once heard cosmetologists described as hairapists because people often tell them their problems or concerns."

Seils reiterated how Alyvia focuses on the needs of her customers. "Alyvia pays close attention to detail and is always professional in her appearance. Alyvia thinks before she speaks and communicates very clearly with her clients."

After she graduates from high school and when she receives her cosmetology license, Alyvia plans to work in a salon. This scholarship will help her purchase any necessary items so she is equipped to start work. But her main goal is to always enjoy her work.

"There's always something to learn in this field; learning new techniques and even using new tools. But the biggest thing is that I will get to meet so many new people. That's why I know that I will never get bored. I plan to use the scholarship money to buy shears, capes, and anything else I will need to work in a salon," Alyvia said.

As someone who has worked in salons before becoming a cosmetology instructor, Seils agrees that Alyvia will never get bored and she has great hopes for Alyvia.

"I see her opening her own salon and having a very successful business. I feel that eventually, she will circle back and become a teacher."

Alyvia is active in activities and clubs at the Mount Morris CTE Center and at Warsaw Central Schools. Alyvia is a five-sport athlete; she has participated in track, cross country, volleyball, softball, and cheerleading at both the JV and Varsity levels.

Seils described Alyvia as having a great work ethic. "Honestly, she is a model student and a pleasure to have in class. She is just a great person."

Students Were All A GLOW

By Maggie Fitzgibbon

When you bring students from four countries together to explore hands-on vocations and job opportunities, it's a day full of hands-on learning. The day was a true recipe for success that sparked many interests and future career paths for thousands of students.

The annual GLOW With Your Hands event was held on September 28 at the Genesee County Fairgrounds in Batavia. Students in grades 8-12 from Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties (GLOW) attended. GLOW With Your Hands included over 50 area businesses, trade unions, educational institutions, and agencies with a focus on agriculture, manufacturing, community service organizations, and skilled trades.

Students were able to experience hands-on activities like pouring a concrete sidewalk, heavy equipment operation and Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Ben Mattice, a 10th grader from LeRoy Central Schools, took a spin on the timed race to change a tractor tire at the Empire Tractor display.

Ethan Clark, a student from Genesee Central Schools, is

a volunteer firefighter for Sparta Fire Department. Ethan raced against the clock to complete the necessary chest compressions as an EMT from Mercy Emergency Medical Services times him.

Both Ethan and Ben said that they are considering a career in the trades but have not decided on a specific path. They noted that the GLOW With Your Hands event has helped them to start thinking about the next step in planning their career choices.

Jon Sanfratello is the Director of Instructional Programs for Genesee Valley BOCES. He explained why an event like GLOW With Your Hands is important.

"Oftentimes, students do not understand the vast employment opportunities that are available in this region. These offer a stable career path with good pay/benefits and also provide ongoing training," Sanfratello said.

He also noted how the career and technical programs offered at Genesee Valley BOCES give students a chance to learn new skills and also give students a route to employment.



Zack Vanderhoof (right), an Electro-Mechanical Trades (EMT) student and a senior from LeRoy Central Schools, demonstrates some EMT equipment to Merritt Holly, Superintendent of LeRoy Central Schools at the GLOW With Your Hands event.



Ben Mattice, a 10th grader LeRoy CSD, tests his tire-changing speed skills at the Empire Tractor booth at the GLOW With Your Hands event.

"Once enrolled in our GV BOCES Career and Technical Education programs, students explore different programs during their junior year to see what they like. From there, they receive the foundational training needed to enter the workforce or move onto a college setting," he explained. "Our partners in the industry know that when students leave our programs, they are career-ready. These businesses rely on us for good workers."

Karyn Winters is the Coordinator of the Business Education Alliance for Genesee County, one of the organizers and sponsors of the GLOW With Your Hands event. She echoed Sanfratello's thoughts.

"The event helps students to recognize the many career prospects available right here in their backyard," Winters said. "GLOW With Your Hands is an out-of-the-ordinary event, that gives students true exposure to occupations. There is a deficit in our region for skilled workers, and all of the businesses that are here today are seeking employees, so the job prospects are great."

"The event helps students to recognize the many career prospects available right here in their backyard,"

— Karyn Winters



Cedric Bowen is a junior from Cal-Mum CSD. He is unsure of his plans after graduation but he was very interested in learning more about the Building Trades Program at the Batavia CTE Center after trying his hand at hammering a nail.



Mercy Emergency Medical Services demonstrated the proper way to perform Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Pictured is Ethan Clark from Genesee CSD as he executes CPR on a training mannequin.

The Metal Trades students from the Mount Morris Career and Technical Education Center are:

Jacob MacNeal - Dansville
Holdyn Freeman - Dansville
Cameron Stenzel - Wayland-Cohocton
Conner Knapp - Dansville
Eric Book - Letchworth

The ElectroMechanical Trades (EMT) and Metal Trades (MT) from the Batavia CTE Center students are:

Aaron Deak - EMT - Cal-Mum
Adam Risewick - EMT - LeRoy
Alyssa Green - MT - LeRoy
Alex Lynn - EMT - Cal-Mum
Zach Vanderhoof - EMT - LeRoy
Sir Marcus Eisensmith - Attica - EMT
Karli Houseknecht - EMT - Pembroke
Scott Marzloff - EMT - Alexander
Joseph Rebmann - EMT - Alexander
Tyler Kidder - EMT - Alexander
Jacob Dulski - EMT - Pembroke
Wyatt Kauffman - EMT - Attica
Bradley Burdett - EMT - Attica
Bailey Burdett - EMT - Attica
Noah Wheeler - EMT - Attica
Justin Ball - EMT - Alexander
Alec Kulikowski - EMT - Byron-Bergen
Gage Wagner - EMT - Alexander
Christian Swiercznski - EMT - Notre Dame
Dominic Scimia - EMT - Alexander
Bryceton Berry - EMT - Notre Dame
Ryan Higgins - EMT - LeRoy
Benjamin Crocker - EMT - LeRoy
Daniel Bialek - EMT - Attica
William Eschberger - EMT - LeRoy
Gunnar Kania - EMT - Alexander
Zachary Flansburg - EMT - LeRoy
Joshua Noble - MT - LeRoy
Aidan Harding - EMT - Pavilion
Hudson Weber - EMT - Pavilion
Colin Bannister - EMT - Attica
Aidan Anderson - EMT - Cal-Mum
Evan Piechowiak - EMT - Attica

Signing Days

By Maggie Fitzgibbon, Photos by Maggie Fitzgibbon and Michelle Caton

With a combination of technology, determination, and creative planning, the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program held its 2022 Genesee Valley BOCES "Signing Days" at both GV BOCES Career and Technical Education Centers. Almost 40 local high school students were joined by their families and 16 leading manufacturing businesses at both the Batavia and Mount Morris Career and Technical Education Centers.

In its third year, this innovative program, coordinated by the Rochester Technology & Manufacturing Association (RTMA) and Monroe Community College (MCC) with sponsorship from RG&E and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, is the exciting culmination of a competitive, multi-phased application and interview process that pairs qualified high school students with local manufacturing companies for related instruction, job shadowing, and paid co-ops.

"During the past two years, as the world continues to grapple with the effects of the pandemic, the manufacturing industry has swiftly and strategically responded, effectively providing essential supplies while keeping our economic engines running. This experience further underscores the growing resurgence of American Manufacturing in our region," states Bob Coyne, Executive Director for the RTMA. "The former days of manufacturing are

behind us and we are proud to usher in the next generation of talented students who will help lead the industry to a new era of technology, international competition, and manufacturing distinction."

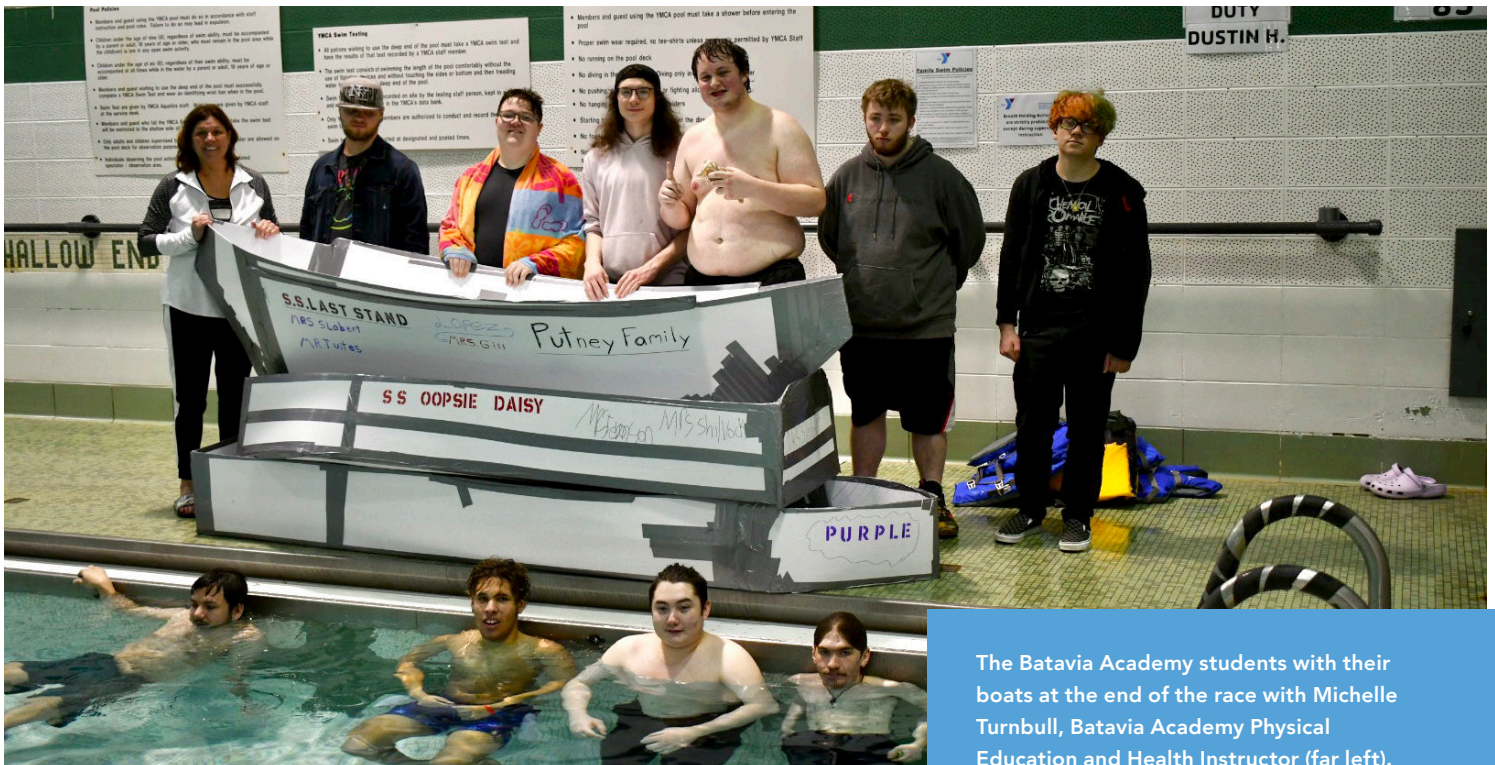
Jon Sanfratello is the Director of Instructional Programs for GV BOCES. He shared why partnerships like these lead to potential career opportunities for students.

"Over the years, we have developed many partnerships with our local and regional businesses which allow us to provide them with quality trained students who have the potential to be hired. This is not only great for our students and their future careers but also our business partners who are continuously relying on us to assist in producing a locally sourced workforce," Sanfratello said.

The manufacturers sponsoring for Genesee Valley BOCES students include: DP Tool, P. Tool & Die Co., Custom Services Solutions, Inc., Bonduelle USA Inc., Tambe, Oxbo, Turnbull HVAC, JAM Industries, JS Coating Solutions, Six Flags Darien Lake, Maris Systems Design, Cali Electric, SPX Flow, LMC Mechanical, KraftHeinz and Meyer's RV Superstore. The Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program is supported by funding from RG&E and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.



Rory Benkleman, Metal Trades Teacher Aide, Matt Flowers, Executive Principal, GV BOCES Mount Morris and Dansville Campuses with Metal Trades students, Jacob MacNeal, Holdyn Freeman, Cameron Stenzel, Conner Knapp, Eric Book, and Olie Olson, Metal Trades Instructor.



The Batavia Academy students with their boats at the end of the race with Michelle Turnbull, Batavia Academy Physical Education and Health Instructor (far left).

Did They Stay the Course?

By Maggie Fitzgibbon, Photos by Erin Staley

What do you get when you combine a mountain of corrugated plastic with a boatload of duct tape? A Boat Float Regatta! Batavia Academy students designed rafts that they set afloat at the YMCA in Batavia as classmates cheered them to the finish line.

Did they capsize or stay the course? All three boats floated!

While their efforts are commendable, not all of the boats remained afloat. Only two crossed the finish line. The SS Oopsie Daisy with Dominic at the helm won by paddling two lengths of the pool. The Purple Viking had its challenges, and Gianni gave his best efforts as he was steering this float, but could not make the journey. Gianni went down with his ship and carried it the length of the pool. The SS Last Stand, with David P-W navigating, did not make it in the first race but with a few adjustments made it paddling two lengths of the pool.

"This was a group effort and we all helped each other," Jack explained. Mason added, "I learned that I had to be patient as we worked together."

Jamon'te also shared that this was a very time-consuming project. "We only had about an hour a week to work on the boats and we started in January and it took us until March to finish." Michelle Turnbull, the Batavia Academy Healthy Living/Physical Education Teacher agreed with Jamon'te.

"I thought that this would take us a week or two to craft the boats but I underestimated the time we would need. It was hard work but I'm really proud of how these students stayed the course and gave their best effort."

Dominic said that he was not confident that he and his classmates would be able to make a boat let alone one that floated. "I learned that you have to be optimistic, be very creative and trust my classmates. We crafted oars from the same corrugated plastic and used lots and lots of duct tape."

Rachel Slobert is the Principal of the Batavia Academy. "This is the first time we have ever done a project of this grandeur that was essentially "crazy" while simultaneously being an awesome example of teamwork. The students

put forth their best efforts to create these boats; they poured their hearts and souls into the details making final tweaks until the final hour. This project taught our students how to think outside the box, be creative, test boundaries in healthy ways, be resourceful with limited materials and, to trust themselves," she said. "They remained persistent, argued appropriately and to an end and trusted each other to do their best work. This is the epitome of Alternative Education and I couldn't be prouder to be a small part of it."

As part of this fundraiser, students, staff and families could sponsor a boat. Proceeds benefited the first-ever Batavia Academy Senior Trip. The 12th Grade Tech War Regatta was a success and plans are in the works to launch this project again next school year.

Jamon'te Murrell, David Pelton-Wibbe, Viviana Richardson, Mason Stone, Jack Falls, Hayleigh Mann, Dominic Mogavero, Michael Gorny, Nathan Wolfe, and Gianni Regdos participated in this project.

The 2021 Albert W. Hawk Award for Distinguished School Board Service



2021 AI Hawk Award recipient Mary Ann Holden.



2021 AI Hawk Award recipient Timothy Anderson.

Each year, the Genesee Valley School Board Association (GVSBA) presents the Albert W. Hawk Award for Distinguished School Board Service to a current or former Board of Education member who has displayed outstanding contributions to public education and children in their community. This award reflects their tireless efforts to improve and enhance public education and the lives that they impact daily through school board service.

The award is named for Albert W. Hawk, a longtime advocate for rural schools, and a member of both the Dansville Central Schools and the Genesee Valley BOCES Board of Education. Hawk also chaired many state and national school board committees and served as President of the New York State School Boards Association. Hawk passed away in 2018, however, his legacy of service and support for public education is visible to this day.

This year the Board of Directors of the Genesee Valley School Board Association has named Timothy Anderson and Mary Ann Holden as the recipients of the 2021 award. Anderson and Holden are true examples of service and dedication to their communities.

Anderson served on the Board of Education for the Caledonia-Mumford Central School District for 12 years. First elected in 2009, he was an outstanding advocate for his school, community, and students. Anderson was also a member of the Town of Caledonia Board, the Recreation Committee, an umpire for youth sports, and was the statistician for the Caledonia-Mumford/Byron-Bergen Football and Girls' Basketball Programs. A well-respected umpire, Anderson was inducted into the Genesee Valley Umpires Association Hall of Fame in 2020. He was also a 4th Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus which served the St. Martin De Porres Parish.

Often seen at sporting events, awards ceremonies, and theatrical performances, Anderson showed that he cared deeply about the students and staff in his school and community. He also served on many school board committees and attended many area meetings and events.

Sadly, after a courageous battle with cancer, Anderson passed away on April 4, 2021. His impact on the community he served has been greatly missed.

Holden has been a tireless, dedicated Dansville citizen for many years as she

has served on many community boards. Holden has been on the Dansville School Board since 2002 and for the past 16 years, she's served as President. She is also a past Genesee Valley BOCES Board of Education Member.

Her commitment to public education has led her to be involved in many board committees as well as GVSBA programs. Holden's expertise in district finances has led to the fiscal security of Dansville Central Schools, as well as, the passage of a \$9.6 million school budget and an \$8.2 million capital project less than one year apart.

Holden is a Trustee of the Dansville Public Library. She sits on the local Planning Board and is an active member of the Holy Family Catholic Community.

A solid supporter of the families and children in Dansville, Holden has shown that she is always ready, willing, and able to make tough decisions for her community. Her leadership has provided a solid foundation for the district, proving that she is indeed a well-respected, well-spoken, and integral part of the total Dansville community.

Kindness Counts - A Mount Morris Academy Project

Mark Twain's quote, "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see," comes alive with a recent project that Mount Morris Academy students are working on this school year.

Heather Brown is a Special Education/Social Studies teacher at the Mount Morris Academy. She explained the scope of the project.

"Last year, our students spearheaded a wonderful community project. We adopted 78 seniors at the Livingston County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center during the holiday season. Our goal was to send each person one personalized Christmas card. This expanded when we opened it up to all students including those who were members of the Mount Morris chapter of the National Technical Honor Society."

The students wrote about 200 personalized Christmas cards for 78 residents. "I was so proud of all the students. This act of kindness might seem little but it shows our students that they can make a difference in someone's life," Brown said.

The success of last year's project inspired Brown to continue and expand it.

"This year my Citizenship Class has decided to take our

community project a bit further. We are back in contact with Livingston County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and would like to start sending birthday cards to the residents every month. They are also asking to not only send Christmas cards but all holidays," Brown noted.

Alyssa Fitzpatrick is a Mount Morris Academy senior from Dansville Central Schools. This is the second year that she worked on the project.

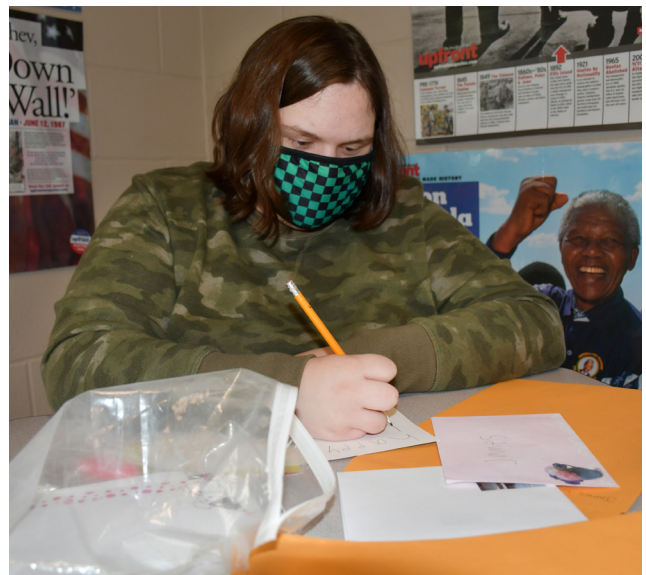
"I was part of the project last year and saw how we were able to make a difference. It's a great way to cheer up the people who live at the Livingston County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center," Alyssa said.

Breawna Baker, a senior from Perry Central Schools, is another Mount Morris Academy student who is a student in Brown's Citizenship Class. Breawna explained that this is a great way to help others.

"You would not think that something as simple as writing a card would make someone's day brighter, but the residents really like getting cards. This is a great way to connect with someone and make them smile," Breawna said.



Breawna Baker, a senior Mount Morris Academy student from Perry Central Schools, addresses an envelope to send to a resident at the Livingston County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.



Saige Bailey, an 11th grade Mount Morris Academy student from Pavilion Central Schools, writes a special message inside a card to be delivered to the Livingston County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Batavia CTE Technical Endorsement 2021-2022



These career and technical education students received a Technical endorsement on their Regent's Diploma, signifying the achievement of nationally recognized industry standards approved by the New York State Department of Education.

Animal Science

- Elaina Blake, Pembroke
- Kaylyn Hale, Batavia
- Nikolai Hutchings, Pavilion
- Jade Kendall, Batavia
- Alannah Penszyk, Batavia
- Mikaylah Pocock, Byron-Bergen
- Robin Scroger, Batavia

Auto Body

- David Gracie, LeRoy
- Christopher Hawkes, Attica
- Dominic Trunfio-Beechler, Attica
- Trevor VanBuren, Alexander

Auto Technology

- Noah Burke, Batavia
- Connor Gale, Byron-Bergen

Building Trades

- Hope Bell, Attica
- Ethan Buchholz, Attica
- Eric Cline, Alexander
- Brandon Corp, Batavia
- Parker Dobson, Oakfield
- Carlyn Hanlin, Alexander
- Alex Lamb, Pembroke
- Andrew Newell, Attica
- Elijah Seliger, Pembroke
- Toby Stappenbeck, Pavilion
- Colin Sulkowski, Attica
- Alanso True, Pavilion
- Brayden Woods, Alexander

Computer Information Systems (CIS)

- Allyson Clemm, Batavia
- Noah Gorom, Oakfield
- Christopher Olguin, Elba
- Gavin Podsiadlo, Alexander
- Lucas Vickery, Batavia
- Ryan Winnicki, Pavilion

Conservation

- Jayden Corcoran, Batavia
- David Groves, Pembroke
- Connor McLeod, Attica
- Regan McPhee, Alexander
- Andrew Meier, Pembroke
- Andrew Tygart, Adult
- Frank Warriner, Elba

Cosmetology

- Trinity Amico, Alexander
- Leda Bartz, Batavia
- Sarah Bruggman, Attica
- Madilyn Godzala, Pembroke
- Meghan Greene, Batavia
- Allison Kelly, Alexander
- Julia Lennon, Alexander
- Melissa Mullen, Batavia
- Heather Penszyk-Naylor, Pembroke
- Ashley Pfalzer, Pembroke
- Tabitha Tebor, Pembroke

Criminal Justice

- MaKayla Grant, LeRoy
- Noel Thayer-Sunseri, Pembroke

Culinary Arts

- Alicia Amidon, Oakfield

- Lindsay Augello, Elba
- Madison Eddy, Attica
- LiliAna Espinoza, Batavia
- Jack Falls, Alexander
- Alex Hennessey, Batavia
- Madalyn Lippold, Alexander
- Sara Logsdon, Pavilion
- Mason Stone, Attica
- Trent Sullivan, LeRoy
- Alexa Wolcott, Pavilion

Diesel Mechanics

- Savanna Kenyon, Pavilion
- Jayden Thompson, Caledonia-Mumford

Electrical

- Aidan Anderson, Caledonia-Mumford
- Aaron Deak Jr., Caledonia-Mumford
- Alexander Lynn, Caledonia-Mumford
- Scott Marzolf, Alexander
- Joseph Rebmann, Alexander
- Adam Risewick, LeRoy
- Zachary Vanderhoof, LeRoy

Graphic Arts

- Zachary Bradt, Oakfield
- Jack Bruggman, Batavia
- Benjamin Frongetta, Batavia
- Virginia Gomez, Elba
- Lauren Halle, Pembroke
- Kaitlyn Johnson, Oakfield

- Guillermo Roque Gray III, Elba
- Sullivan Russ, Batavia
- Aleigha Shallenberger, Byron-Bergen
- Kurstin Smith, Batavia
- Devin Walker, Attica
- Megan Watson, LeRoy
- Riley Yager, Pembroke

Health Careers

- Hayley Edholm-Cox, Batavia
- Marissa George, Attica
- Sara Laurie, Pavilion

- Ashley Midyette, Attica
- Molly Ryan, Caledonia-Mumford
- Martha Snyder, Pavilion
- Ashley Weit, Byron-Bergen
- Kaitlyn Windhauser, Byron-Bergen

Metal Trades

- Jacob Beale, Elba CSD
- Lillias Bell, Caledonia-Mumford
- Toby Belluscio, Oakfield
- Joshua Borycki, Attica
- Joshua Chasse, Pavilion
- Norah Crawford, Alexander

- Maxwell Demare, Oakfield
- Leyver Galvez, Elba
- Morgan George, Attica
- Alyssa Green, LeRoy
- Austin Kwitowski, Alexander
- Eric Offhaus, Pavilion
- Daniel Saeva, Batavia
- Konnor Schroeder, Attica
- Ethan Washburn, Alexander



Mount Morris CTE Technical Endorsement 2021-2022

Animal Science

- Nicole Barnhardt, Perry
- Tiffanie Drum, Wayland-Cohocton
- Charley Fox, Livonia
- Audrie Haskins, Warsaw
- Ambrosia Hinckley, Perry
- Rebecca Lane, Livonia
- McKenzie Miller, Mt. Morris
- Dominic Muscato, York
- Shayne Navarra, Warsaw
- Reid Powers, Perry
- Miakyla Rice, Avon
- Dakota Shaver, Livonia
- Alivia White, Mt. Morris
- Kiara Belanger, Mt. Morris

Animal Science (Ag)

- Ciara Claud, Keshequa

- Siobhan Costello, Keshequa
- Autumn Foster, Dansville
- Destiny Gross, Mt. Morris
- Haylee Hensley, Keshequa
- Jessica Hillier, Wayland-Cohocton
- Kendyll Johnston, Livonia
- Trinity Landon, Dansville
- JoAnna Regatuso, Mt. Morris

- Ryan Stephens, Wayland-Cohocton
- Savannah Tucker, Dansville

Auto Collision

- Mercedes Alderman, Perry
- Jason Dollarhide, Livonia
- Aurora Grover, Perry
- Steffan Gwyn, Livonia
- Charles Martell-Dale, Mt. Morris

- Trinity Parker, Perry
- Samantha Pearl, Warsaw

Auto Technology

- Erik Bates, Warsaw
- Dalton Carpenter, Perry
- Joshua Morris, York
- Alexander Shupinski, Livonia
- Daniel Slater, Letchworth
- Benjamin Wiedemann, Livonia

Building Trades

- Treyton Monteleone, Mt. Morris
- Kody Mosher, Mt. Morris
- Joseph Schwartzmeyer, Avon
- Michael Thompson, Avon

- Jonathan Tschetter, York

Computer Information Systems

- William Bucknam, Perry
- Cristian Ciccarelli, Warsaw
- Desirae Grasby, Perry
- Jacob Hall, Letchworth
- Eric Years, Wayland-Cohocton

Conservation

- Konnor Hunt, Wayland-Cohocton
- Nicholas Jopson, Geneseo
- Kaitlyn Keller, Letchworth
- Jordon Luther, Keshequa
- Jacob Meyer, Geneseo
- Karsten Petti, Dansville
- Devin Royce, Perry
- Brennan Smith, Geneseo
- Levi Vitale, York
- Braedon Waide, Avon
- Jacob Wearkley, Dansville

Cosmetology

- Myiah Annis-Jones, Warsaw
- Logan Bell, Dansville
- Mary Rose Cautivo, Mt. Morris
- Abigail Cavallaro, Livonia
- Haley Derrenbacher, Dansville
- Elizabeth Gravito, Warsaw
- Claire Hauslauer, York
- Sela Hurlburt, Warsaw
- Savannah Johnson, Wayland-Cohocton
- Esther Levendusky, Avon
- Taylor Mann, Dansville
- Makayla McClurg, Warsaw
- Angelina Cheyan Ribbeck, Warsaw
- Jaelee Rowe, Livonia
- Brenna Rumsey, Livonia
- Lauren Schultz, Warsaw
- Liberty Shoemaker, Avon
- Bridget Steves, Warsaw

- Abbigail Sullivan, Geneseo
- Kirsten Wambold, Wayland-Cohocton
- Tessa Yaw, Livonia
- Abbey Young, Dansville

Criminal Justice

- Joseph Cooke, Warsaw
- Ethan Ferrin, Warsaw
- Owen Fredericy, Dansville
- Paula Hernandez, Perry
- Caitlyn Martin, Warsaw
- Aaron Miller, Warsaw
- Priyanka Monger, Warsaw
- Kaydra O'Brien, Warsaw
- Hollie Remington, Letchworth
- Tiana Rowley, Dansville
- Michael Schafer, Warsaw
- Amanda Virgilio, Livonia

Culinary Arts

- Nicolle Mason, Dansville
- Demetrius Upright, Warsaw
- Alexandria Webster, Perry
- Logan Winnie, Letchworth
- Logan Ziegenfuss, York

Diesel Mechanics

- Jonah Cottone, Dansville
- Christopher Flint, Warsaw
- Kyle Glosser, Warsaw
- Keven Haywood, Geneseo
- Hunter James, Keshequa
- Daniel Kilner, Warsaw
- Connor Purdy, Warsaw
- Augustus Swyers, Dansville

Health Dimensions

- Mikayla Abbey, Keshequa
- Rayvin Bigler, Dansville
- Alyssa Carpenter, Perry
- Briannon Fisher, Warsaw
- Alexandra Hugi, Keshequa
- Journie Langless, Perry
- Jared Stevens, Wayland-

Cohocton

- Elizabeth Young, Mt. Morris
- Angela Young, Warsaw

Human Services

- Mackensie Brown, Dansville
- Julia Calderon-Diaz, Avon
- Kendall Covell, Perry
- Kyrstin Fierle, Dansville
- Samantha Mandell, Avon

Metal Trades

- Aiden Binns, York
- Cole Carney, Wayland-Cohocton
- Caleb Hanggi, Wayland-Cohocton
- Nathan LaFaye, Dansville
- Nicholas Lasher, Livonia
- Trey Learn, Keshequa
- Jace Menard, Avon
- Austin Miller, Livonia
- Trevor Offhaus, Warsaw
- Anthony Schumacher, Wayland-Cohocton
- Nathan Smalt, Wayland-Cohocton
- Matthew Stahl, Livonia
- Colton Wentworth, Dansville
- Shaun Weterrings, Livonia

Congratulations to our Retirees!

Congratulations to the following staff members who retired at the end of the 2021-22 school year. Each of these staff members has served as an integral part of our organization. Their contributions will always be valued and remembered, as their hard work and dedication are worthy of admiration.

J Rory Benkleman
Jane O'Dell
Francine Gerchak
Glenn Cramer
Margaret Fitzgibbon
Linda Grover

Rita Coon
Rebecca Mynter
Cynthia Nugent
Lynn Russ
Jill Sherwood
Laurie Napoleone

Michelle Turnbull
Olie Olson
Rafaline Shilvock
Janice Heale
Laura Pastecki
Shelley Wood

Bringing Home Some Big Hardware

By Maggie Fitzgibbon, Photo by Bob Yates

Two Batavia Career and Technical Education Center Auto Tech students brought home a very BIG trophy on May 21! Conner Gale from Byron Bergen Central Schools, and Noah Burke from Batavia City Schools, took first place in the Ron Smith Memorial Automotive Competition held at Erie Community College and sponsored by Niagara Frontier Automotive Dealer Association. Each student won a \$10,000 college scholarship, as well as, a \$5000 tool scholarship. Bob Yates, Auto Technology Instructor, said, "Conner and Noah represented Genesee Valley BOCES and my Automotive Technology class in the most professional manner." Congratulations to Noah and Conner!



Noah Burke and Connor Gale proudly show off their first-place trophy.

GV BOCES CTE Enrollment Five-Year History Chart



This graph shows the number of enrolled CTE students as a percent of all component high school juniors and seniors. This information reflects our most recent data.



GV BOCES CTE Graduation Rate Five-Year Average



This chart shows the percentage of career and technical education students who graduated. This information reflects our most recent data.



Success Stories

Allison Della Penna

Journey to becoming a certified child life specialist

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Allison Della Penna graduated from Batavia High School in 2015, and during her senior year, she attended Batavia Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center. Della Penna participated in the Health Careers Academy Program. She now works for the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital as a Certified Child Life Specialist (CLS).

From a young age, she knew she wanted to become a Child Life Specialist. After hearing about the Health Careers Academy, she knew the program would assist her in obtaining the necessary college credits and give her opportunities to network in the health field.

After high school, she went to Utica College where she earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology-Child Life. While a student at Utica, she obtained an internship at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital in Syracuse, NY. Her child-life internship was 600 hours over a 15-week span. As a requirement to work in the health career field, she had to complete the internship.

After she completed the requirements for her degree, she took her certification exam and officially became a CLS. Della Penna describes herself as lucky because she received a job at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital in the pediatric emergency department. She has been working there since 2019.



Allison Della Penna attended the Health Careers Academy at Batavia CTE.

She now works with the burn service, working with pediatric burn survivors and their families.

"My favorite part of the job is working with pediatric patients and their families, supporting them through the difficult experiences they face during hospitalization, and seeing the resiliency children often have to overcome during these challenges," explained Della Penna. For the patients that become long-term, she loves seeing their growth. This makes her job truly special, being able to see patients

overcome and beat the odds.

Her role as a CLS is to provide education for patients and parents about what to expect during their treatment and provide preparation and support for various procedures that occur during hospitalization. She also orchestrates expression activities that normalize the hospital stay through play and provide ongoing support during their transition home.

The Child Life Department at Upstate is built of Child Life Specialists, Art Therapists, Music Therapists, and Gaming & Technology Specialists. The team members are valued by the multidisciplinary team at Upstate and are active members of the patient care team.

"My advice for students interested in the health field is to immerse themselves in as many volunteer/shadow opportunities as possible in hopes of validating that this is the field you wish to pursue and to obtain experience that will help you stand out from other students," said Della Penna. She is proud that she obtained college credits during high school through the Health Careers Academy and it validated her that the health field was right for her.

Annual Fundraiser Supports Scholarships

By Maggie Fitzgibbon

Photos by Schuyler Daugherty

The Animal Science, Agriculture, and Conservation Programs at the Mount Morris Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center recently hosted its second annual Ag Day on April 30 at the Mount Morris Career and Technical Education Center.

This event funds and supports the Jon English Scholarships. English was the Animal Science Instructor at the Mount Morris CTE Center and was very instrumental in promoting animal science and agriculture education in the region. He retired recently after serving for over 35 years.

“Last year this event raised enough money to award one \$1,000 scholarship and two \$500 scholarships to students who

are positive agricultural stewards,” said Kristin Hanggii, Animal Science Instructor. “We are pleased to share that this year, we raised \$2,500.”

It was a busy day on campus as 1,000 people visited campus to tour and learn about the Animal Science, Agriculture, and Conservation Programs. The Chicken BBQ was a success as 550 dinners were sold. The greenhouse sale which included a variety of hanging baskets, geraniums, vegetables, various annuals, and planters and garden decorations that were either raised or crafted by Animal Science, Agriculture Science, and Conservation students was also a sell-out.



Jackie Jurek, Agriculture Instructor, in the greenhouse with students at the start of the Ag Day greenhouse sale.



Conservation students handcrafted planters and garden decorations to sell at the second annual Mount Morris CTE Center Ag Day.

Area Schools Compete in Chapter 2 PageTurners Finals

By Megan Winter, Public Relations, Warsaw and Perry Central School Districts

Three area schools were among the four teams to compete in the Chapter 2 PageTurners finals on May 10 at Pavilion High School. Teams from Geneseo, Perry, Wayland-Cohocton, and Lockport advanced to the finals after earning the top points in their divisions at the fall and spring competitions. Lockport dominated at the finals, earning a victory with 32 points. Geneseo clinched the second-place spot, while Perry and Wayland-Cohocton tied for third.

PageTurners is a program offered to students in grades 3-12 through the Enrichment Program at Genesee Valley BOCES. Chapter 2 students are in grades 6-8. Last fall, students began reading a variety of literature from the Official List of Titles, which can include up to 20 books, poems, and short stories. At competitions, which are organized in a round-robin format, teams are asked questions based on the reading selections. The questions for the finals derive from the fall and spring reading lists.



The Chapter 2 Wayland-Cohocton team huddles together to discuss a question as Julie Judge, Enrichment Specialists awaits an answer.



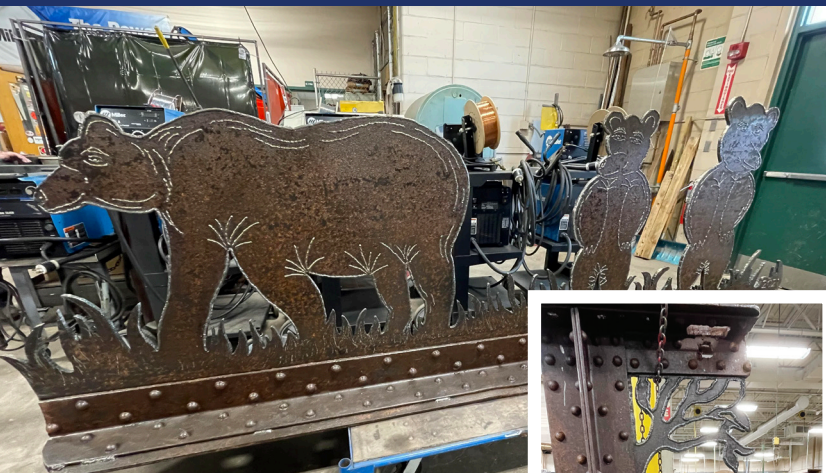
Geneseo Chapter 2 team members brainstorm before answering a question at the finals competition on May 10. Julie Judge, Enrichment Specialist looks on.



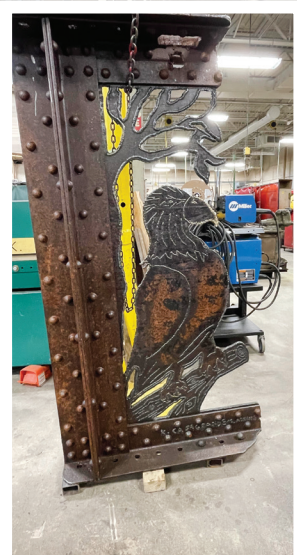
The Perry team celebrates their third-place win at the Chapter 2 PageTurners competition.

The End of the Iron

By Maggie Fitzgibbon



Pictured are two of the last sculptures crafted from 146-year-old iron! Kudos to Olson, and all the Metal Trades students, who worked on these sculptures and the bridge archway!



The Portageville Bridge is a vital link along Norfolk Southern's Southern Tier Line that crosses the scenic Genesee River Gorge, in Letchworth State Park in Portageville, New York.

The first Portageville Bridge was constructed in 1852 from timber and burned down shortly after. In 1875, it was replaced by an iron structure that consisted of 13 open-deck spans totaling 819 feet carrying a single track 235 feet above the Genesee River Gorge.

It was one of the nation's oldest rail bridges and an important connector between Binghamton and Buffalo. However, the bridge was beginning to cause a bottleneck in the active rail route due to the structural stability of the bridge. A new

bridge become necessary, and in 2015, American Bridge was awarded the contract for the replacement.

When the 1875 bridge was deconstructed, Olie Olson, Metal Trades Instructor, was approached to create an archway made from the iron of old bridge parts. And so the work began! Metal Trades students crafted this archway, along with other sculptures, that are now part of The Autism Nature Trail at Letchworth State Park.

In April, John Kucko from TV 8 visited the Mount Morris CTE Center to meet with Olie Olson, Metal Trades Instructor, to learn more about how students have crafted sculptures for The Autism Nature Trail at Letchworth State Park.

Genesee Valley BOCES

Genesee Valley BOCES is composed of 22 individual school districts that are located in Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, and Steuben Counties. Both instructional services and instructional support services are provided to each district. This list notes the Superintendents serving during the 2021-2022 school year.

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Elba Central School District • Gretchen Rosales

Geneseo Central School District • Cindy Flowers

Keshequa Central School District • Lesley Powers

LeRoy Central School District • Merritt Holly

Letchworth Central School District • Todd Campbell

Livonia Central School District • Jeremy Lonneville

Mount Morris Central School District • Gregory Bump

Oakfield-Alabama Central School District • John Fisgus

Pavilion Central School District • Mary Kate Hoffman

Pembroke Central School District • Matthew Calderon

Perry Central School District • Daryl McLaughlin

Warsaw Central School District • Matthew Wilkins

Wayland-Cohocton Central School District • Eileen Feinman

Wyoming Central School District • Emily Herman

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