

EAGLE SPOTLIGHT

GALWAY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

FALL 2018



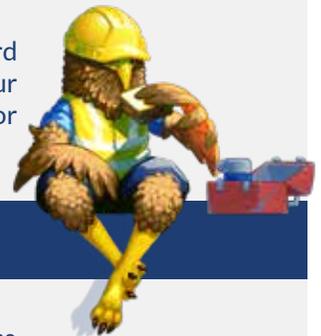
HOME OF THE
GOLDEN EAGLES

Message from the Superintendent

The 2018-19 school year is off to a great start. I would like to thank our faculty and staff, buildings and grounds staff, and Facilities Committee for all their hard work and collaboration as we attend to the business of educating students while undergoing a major capital improvement project.

I am extremely proud of the progress Galway Central School District has made over the past three years. Thanks to the efforts of faculty, staff, parents, students, members of the Board of Education, and community members, our district **has made the largest overall academic gains of any school district in the Capital Region, as indicated in the Albany Business Review!** One year ago, we reported an upward shift from 63rd to 27th out of 85 school districts in the capital region. This year, we are ecstatic to relay that Galway moved up to 19th! This represents an astounding academic shift from the lowest third to the top third of all Capital Region school districts!

Although our work is far from over, we have much to celebrate and even more to look forward to. Inside this newsletter you will find additions to our incredible staff, accomplishments of our amazing students, an update on our capital improvement project, resources for families, ways for community members to stay involved, and a report on our progress toward our three-year goals.



Great Minds Under Construction

Galway Central School District's first superintendent's conference day took place at the Saratoga Spa State Park this year due to ongoing construction for the Capital Improvement Project. Superintendent Mrs. Brita Donovan, in collaboration with the leadership team, planned an out-of-the-box, collaborative day for all staff members - including several surprises.

The theme of the 2018-19 school year was unveiled when staff members reported to the Joseph Henry Elementary School cafeteria to pick up their "swag bags" for the day. Inside the bags were t-shirts featuring the Galway golden eagle donning a construction hat and a yellow plastic construction hat that carried the theme: "Great Minds Under Construction."

A colored sticker on the yellow construction hat identified the team to which the staff member belonged, not only for the professional development day, but for the entire year. Teams rode to the State Park on school buses together, along with their team leaders, the bus drivers. The bus drivers decorated their buses with the "Great Minds Under Construction" theme and played hype music from the school to the state park.

The buses arrived at the Columbia Pavilion to the welcoming chime of cow bells rung by the leadership team, who had borrowed fluorescent construction vests from the Turner Construction crew.

After a continental breakfast, the leadership team challenged the teams to construct the tallest structure using items in the tool box on each table. Points were given to teams for demonstrating collaboration, team spirit, and other positive attributes.

The culminating activity of the day, prior to department meetings, was a scavenger hunt #questforthegoldeneagle. Teams worked together to figure out clues, follow the trail, and Tweet a group selfie to @galwaycsd after finding the object and underlying message. Every message was a Growth Mindset ideal to strive for throughout the year.

Everyone who completed the #questforthegoldeneagle received a keepsake pin featuring the Galway golden eagle with a construction hat.

"We wanted to plan a special day to thank everyone for their commitment to the students and the community, for their hard work and dedication, and for their positive outlook," said Mrs. Donovan. "We hope every staff member knows how important he or she is to the success of our students and our schools."

The teams will be reunited several times during the school year for professional development.

Update on the Capital Project

Shortly after the Class of 2018 crossed the stage at graduation, construction commenced on Galway's \$26.7 million capital improvement project that voters approved in May 2016. A team of eight contractors, coordinated by Turner Construction Company and CSArch Architects, quickly got to work on the ambitious schedule.

Over the Summer

- Former bus garage was abated and demolished
- Site work was completed at the student parking lot
- Site work was completed at Junior/Senior High School parking lot
- Junior/Senior High School parking lot and sidewalks were replaced and painted
- All areas of the school except for H and J areas were abated
- New tile floors were installed in areas of Joseph Henry Elementary School that were abated
- 75% of roof replacement was completed
- Interior of Pod B (including the auditorium and music rooms) was cleared for renovations
- Exterior stairs of Pod B were removed
- Interior of Pod K (including JHE gym and classrooms for grades 3-5) was prepped for new ceiling and lighting

"The amount of behind-the-scenes coordination is amazing," said Superintendent Donovan. "There is a briefing every morning with Turner Construction and the main person from every company that is on-site. They are very focused on safety and maintaining a safe work site."

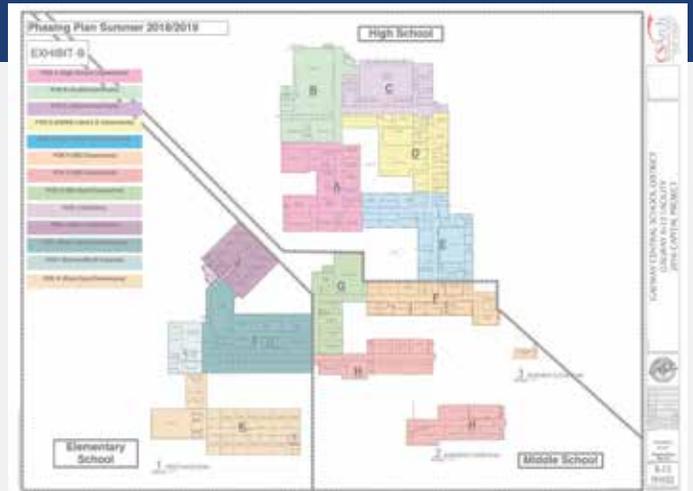
"The contractors tell us exactly what they're doing every day, what they need, and what items they're having delivered," said Christian Davila from Turner Construction.

Davila works closely with Galway CSD staff, who then mobilize to make classrooms available to the contractors.

"It's way more organized than any other project I've ever worked on in my life," he said.

During the Fall

- Site lighting was installed in the Junior/Senior High School parking lot and student parking lot
- Exterior stairs were installed from the student parking lot to the Junior/Senior High School parking lot
- Bathroom framing was installed in Pod K in the Elementary School
- New mechanical piping, ductwork, lighting controls, and soffits in classrooms in Pod K were installed
- The Elementary gym is being renovated
- Auditorium ductwork was cleaned
- New soffits were installed in the music rooms in the Junior/Senior High School



- New mechanical piping/ductwork (including radiant panels) were installed in Pod B
- New electrical wiring/equipment was installed in Pod B
- Auditorium lighting was replaced
- Mechanical piping/electrical equipment has been installed in the Pod I Boiler Room (JHE), along with expansion tank
- New boilers and mechanical piping/electrical equipment were installed in the Pod C Boiler Room (Junior/Senior High School)
- Footings have been poured for the new vestibule area in Pod J at the Elementary School
- Site work is being done on the JHE parking lot in anticipation of the new bus pick-up/drop-off configuration

"The auditorium is coming along," said Davila. "Painting will be done first, then new seats will be installed at the end of November. New flooring will be installed, and a new audio/visual system will be the last piece. The expected completion date is at end of January/beginning of February, however, the first major use of the auditorium will be Graduation 2019. Concerts that have been scheduled off-site will remain off-site."

Future Work

- Starting in January 2019, contractors will work second shift in Pods A, G, and H to install mechanical piping/electrical equipment, ceilings, and lights
- 10-20% of roof replacement will be done in the Spring of 2019
- Summer 2019 will be a big push for the new HVAC system

"I am grateful to our faculty and staff, who have been flexible and enthusiastic since day one. We all have pride in our school and want it to be the best it can be for our students," said Mrs. Donovan. "We have an incredible team of contractors who are fast and focused and right on task. I couldn't be more pleased with the process."

Please Help Us Welcome New Staff Members

High School Social Studies Teacher Brianna Bellon Lushkevich

Mrs. Lushkevich came to us from Granville CSD, where she taught US History for two years. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in US History and Master's Degree in Secondary Education from the University at Albany. She and her husband, Alex, live in Gansevoort with their pit bull boxer, Bella.



Secretary to the Superintendent Linda Dumblewski

Mrs. Dumblewski was a secretary at the public defender's office in Montgomery County. She is also a real estate agent, race car owner, and entrepreneur. She earned an Associate's Degree in applied science from Fulton Montgomery Community College. She and her husband, Peter, live in Perth with their two sons, Matt and Jon.



Technology Teacher

Michael Glenn, Class of 2000

Mr. Glenn taught chemistry and physics in Lansingburgh CSD for seven years prior to coming back to his alma mater. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry Engineering from Western New England and Northeastern and his Master's Degree in Education from the University at Albany. He lives on a farm in Galway that has been in his family for over 100 years.



Teacher Aide Marisa Guisti

Ms. Guisti has served in a number of positions at Galway CSD since 2005 including cook, server, and cashier. She supervises lunches, study halls, Distance Learning labs, and wherever she is needed. She lives in Perth with her son and two pet cats. In her free time, she likes to watch her son's football games.



High School Physical Education and Health Teacher Ross Hayden

Mr. Hayden earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Physical Education and Health Education from Springfield College. He came to Galway from Niskayuna CSD. He and his wife, Kelly, live in Colonie with their son, Connor. They have two Golden Retrievers named Harper and Clark.



Teacher Aide Amy Nelson

Mrs. Nelson is a teacher aide in grades 4 and 5. She comes to Galway from Ballston Spa Middle School where she worked in the cafeteria for three years. She lives in Providence with her husband, John, and two daughters, Piper and Ailey, who both attend Joseph Henry Elementary School. They also raise chickens.



Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Technology Courtney Sayward

Mrs. Sayward earned a dual degree in geology and mathematics from SUNY Plattsburgh and a Master's Degree in educational technologies and emerging media from Canisius College. She and her husband, Levi, live in Schuylerville with their two sons, Colden and Landen. They have a yellow lab named Porter.



Third Grade Teacher Julia Sirianni

Ms. Sirianni began at Galway CSD as a long-term sub in January 2018. Prior to that, she taught at Lake Avenue Elementary School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in History and English from Siena College and her Master's Degree in Childhood Education 1-6 and Literacy Birth-6 from the College of Saint Rose. She lives in Saratoga Springs and is obsessed with Disney.



Building Maintenance Mechanic Jonathan Taggart

Mr. Taggart joined Galway CSD in June 2018. Prior to coming to Galway CSD, he drove for Ferrellgas for two years and did asbestos removal for 15 years. He lives in Mayfield with his wife, Mindy, and daughter, Dana. In his free time he enjoys camping, fishing, hiking, and hunting.



High School Physical Education Teacher Jourdan Vatalaro

Prior to Galway CSD, Ms. Vatalaro was a P.E. teacher in the Troy City School District for four years. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from Springfield College and Master's Degree in Health Studies from the University of Alabama. She just bought a house in Ballston Spa and is getting married in January 2019.



Meet Galway's School Resource Officer

Galway Central School District is pleased to partner with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department to provide a full-time, uniformed, trained, armed School Resource Officer in the district every day that classes are in session and at large events.

The officer assigned to Galway CSD is Deputy John Carey, who has been with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department for 15 years. He was a corrections officer in the Saratoga County Jail for his first 12 years and was selected for road patrol for the past three years. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Department, Deputy Carey was in the Army for three-and-a-half years, serving in Korea just off the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

Deputy Carey's goal is to get to know as many students, staff members, and families as possible. He goes into classrooms and talks with students about Internet safety, cyber bullying, and various legal matters they have questions about. He also assists school administrators with calls to the Eagle Tip Lines.

"My role is to promote positive interaction between students and law enforcement," said Deputy Carey, who carries a school radio and a Sheriff's radio to stay in the loop with everything that is going on in the area.

All the Saratoga County Sheriffs who serve in schools attended a week-long training specifically for School Resource Officers. They are trained in CPR, AED, First Aid, Active Shooter Response, and the first part of the "Raise the Age" law that recently went into effect.



Eagle Tip Lines - CALL OR TEXT

+ Add these to your Contacts +

Galway Junior/Senior High School: 518-749-3042

Joseph Henry Elementary School: 518-749-3041

Galway Central School District has initiated anonymous tip lines in order to provide students and families a way to confidentially report concerns including:

- Bullying
- Threats
- Self-harm
- Drugs

If you have a specific concern, we encourage you to speak directly with an administrator, counselor, or staff member. However, if you feel more comfortable remaining anonymous, please CALL OR TEXT the Eagle Tip Lines to alert us to any potential or ongoing concern.

****ALWAYS call 911 to report an IMMEDIATE threat or danger to our students, staff, or school.***

Ways to Make a Difference and Stay Involved in Galway CSD

Academic Stakeholder Council

The mission of the Academic Stakeholder Council is to improve educational outcomes for all students. Members should believe in, value, and be committed to: success for all students; collaborative opportunities and to strengthen the relationship between the school and community as informed advisors to the Board of Education with all stakeholders; high expectations for all; and continuous improvement using evidence. Meetings are scheduled for November 26, March 18, May 6. All meetings take place in the Board Conference Room from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Galway PTSA

Parents, teachers, students, and community members are welcome to join the PTSA. The PTSA collaborates with the school district to provide enrichment, volunteer, and monetary support for all students in grades K-12. Volunteering a couple of hours each school year makes a huge difference, please join us! Contact PTSA President Julie Ramsey at galwayptsa@gmail.com.

Galway Athletic Booster Club

The Galway Athletic Booster Club is a proud supporter of Galway Athletics. The Booster Club is always looking for

new members. Please contact Galway Director of Athletics/Dean of Students Nathan Kocak at nkocak@galwaycsd.org.

JHE Elementary Building Team (EBT)

This committee, consisting of JHE parents and staff, develops programs and activities to support our mission. This year we continue our focus on building school spirit, hosting family events, and supporting PTSA initiatives. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on our EBT please contact the main office at 518-882-1033. EBT meets from 2:30-4 p.m. once a month. If you have ideas on programs you would like to see, please email JHE Principal Michelle McDougall at mlmcDougall@galwaycsd.org.

Junior/Senior High School Shared Decision Making Team (SDMT)

This committee, consisting of Junior/Senior High School parents and staff, develops programs and activities to support student achievement. If you are interested in serving on the SDMT, please contact the main office at 518-882-1033. SDMT meets from 2:30-4 p.m. once a month. If you have ideas on programs you would like to see, please email Junior/Senior High School Principal Michael Miller at mmiller@galwaycsd.org.

Resources for Parents and Community Members

The Galway Central School District is committed to facilitating open communication with parents, students, staff, and community members. We have implemented several tools to reach people where they spend time – on mobile devices! Below are several ways to keep up-to-date with all the great happenings in the district.

Website

Galway CSD's website is easy to use on your mobile device or tablet. It is a great resource for news, upcoming events, and everything parents need to know.



The website is a work in progress, so if you see anything that needs to be improved, please let us know.



Social Media

Galway Central School District is on Facebook and Twitter! Please log onto Facebook and Twitter, search for "Galway CSD," and "like/follow" our handles to receive updates in your news feed. @GalwayAthletics is also on Twitter.

Athletic Schedule

The schedules for all Galway teams are on the Western Athletic Conference website: www.wacny.org.

Click on "Galway Central School" to see a calendar of every Galway competition taking place that day. Our athletes love it when Eagle Nation cheers them on!



Galway Website Calendar

Did you know that you can sync Galway's website calendar with your computer and/or mobile devices?

1. Go to www.galwaycsd.org/calendar and click on the icon for "Subscribe via iCal/RSS" and follow the instructions on the webpage to open or copy/paste the Feed URL into your calendar application.
2. Open your calendar application and click on "File" > "New Calendar Subscription" and paste the Feed URL
3. Once you have subscribed to the Galway CSD Calendar, any time an event is added, changed, or deleted, it will automatically be updated on your device.

SchoolMessenger Emergency Alert System SCHOOLMESSENGER®

The district uses SchoolMessenger to send emergency alert messages to parents by phone or email. New this year, parents and guardians can opt-in to receive SMS text messages about events, school closings, safety alerts, and more.

To participate in this free service, send a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number: 67587.

You can opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of the messages with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge, so your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



SchoolTool Parent Portal

Parents of Junior and Senior High School students can login to our student management system, SchoolTool, to see their child(ren)'s grades, attendance, schedule, and other data. SchoolTool can be accessed from the district website or app from a desktop computer or mobile device.

School Dismissal Manager

Galway Central School District uses School Dismissal Manager to coordinate changes in afternoon dismissal. Instead of sending in a note or calling the school to change a student's dismissal plans, parents can log into a secure website and change the instructions on a case-by-case basis. For instance, if a child will be leaving school early for an appointment with a doctor, parents can log into School Dismissal Manager and let the school know.

Any time a change is made, a confirmation email will be sent to all parents of record for that child. Each day, just prior to dismissal, School Dismissal Manager will automatically send an up-to-the-minute dismissal report for ALL students to the main offices and bus garage and drivers. This will ensure the safety of every student and avoid last minute scrambles for both parents and school staff.

"Our students' safety is our number one priority," said JHE Principal Michelle McDougall. "School Dismissal Manager has proven to be very useful for parents and students."

Stay tuned for implementation for grades 7-12.

Eagle Nation Achievements 2017-18

- Senior High Jazz Band placed First in Annual Jazz Challenge Competition
- "Galway Greats" won 1st place in current issues at Envirothon
- Galway P-Tech students took 2nd Place in Kid Wind Challenge
- Jasmine Rose was named Outstanding Business Student by the BMEA of the Capital Region
- Travis Neahr placed 2nd in NYS SkillsUSA Competition in Diesel Technology
- JHE placed 2nd in Scholastic Book Fair National Elementary Contest
- Galway took 2nd place in the Saratoga County Fair Education Award
- Junior-Senior HS named Top 10 in Division III vocab.com
- Galway Named a No Place for Hate Gold Star School
- 11/13 students earned college credit in PLTW Computer Science
- Four Galway students had artwork selected for the Lake Placid Juried Art Show
- Galway Named NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete School of Excellence
- Wrestling team finished with the school's first 20-win season at 20-6 and were WAC Champions
- Varsity Baseball won the Cooperstown Hall of Fame Classic
- Varsity Volleyball finished #2 in Class D
- Rachel Wunk competed at NYSPHSAA Track and Field Championships in High Jump
- Ryan Lovelass competed in NYSPHSAA Golf Championship
- Hosted SWCMEA All-County Band Festival
- Hosted Region 6 Odyssey of the Mind Tournament
- First All-Girls Robotics Team
- First FFA Blue and Gold Banquet

Meet Hannah, Grade 12

Hannah Thompson was named a Commended Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Program for her outstanding performance on the PSAT. In addition to being an excellent student, Hannah is a director for Galway television (GTV) and the chief editor of Impressions Literary Magazine. You may recognize her as the lead in many of the school's Drama Club productions. She is also a member of Saratoga's Humanitarian Youth for Transformation, a group that uses performing arts as a platform for social change.

"I write and perform on topics such as racism, eating disorders, and mental illness," said Hannah. "I love to write, it's therapeutic for me."

Hannah recently toured with a group called Ad Astra to perform an original piece about the Warsaw Uprising.

Hannah is excited about GTV this year. "We have a lot of new anchors and commercials about upcoming events. We are also working on senior spotlights."

This former hockey goalie is taking all college courses in school plus piano, dance, and vocal lessons outside of school.

Check out Hannah's YouTube Channel, Hannah Mae Thompson, to see some of her work.



Eagle Nation Achievements continued

- Mr. Paul Levin presented a poster session at the European Geoscience Union General Assembly in Vienna, Austria
- Ms. Taylor Clifford was 2018 National Award Winner "Teachers Turn the Key" from the National Association of Agricultural Education
- Mrs. Houle's class had artwork published in Spring 2018 edition of Skribblers

NYS Master Teachers



Mrs. Jeanine Flinton

Congratulations to Mrs. Jeanine Flinton and Mrs. Edie Houle for being named NYS Master Teachers. They join fellow Galway teachers Mr. Kristin Darlington and Mr. Paul Levin in the Master Teachers program, which is a network of over 800 teachers throughout the state who share a passion for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and for collaborating with colleagues to inspire the next generation of STEM leaders.

Mrs. Flinton teaches Project Lead the Way STEM curriculum to Grades K-6. She also serves as a Project Lead the Way Master Teacher, providing training for PLTW teachers throughout the United States.

Mrs. Houle currently teaches fourth grade and is a member of the highly selective NASA Airborne Astronomers program. She does outreach around the area to educate students and adults about infrared astronomy.



Mrs. Edie Houle

GALWAY

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Progress Toward Goals 2016-2019

Fall 2018

Every Student, Every Class, Every Day

Mission Statement

The Galway Central School Community believes that all students can succeed in learning. Our school's purpose is to educate all students to their highest level of academic performance while fostering positive growth in social/emotional behavior and attitudes. We accept the responsibility to provide the proper atmosphere and opportunity so that each student can attain his or her maximum potential.



HOME OF THE
GOLDEN EAGLES

Core Values

The Galway Community's Core Values remain constant in an ever-changing world. They provide the foundation for our work and influence how we conduct ourselves and engage with others.

Educational Excellence

High expectations are the focus of everything we do. The pursuit of greater knowledge and more powerful thinking demands hard work, perseverance and commitment. All members of the Galway School Community are challenged to achieve their highest potential.

Academic Opportunity

Academic programs and instructional strategies support an environment that nurtures intellectual, social, emotional, physical and cultural growth. These attributes prepare students to be creative and critical thinkers, to be college and career ready.

Shared Responsibility

The partnerships among parents, students, staff and community members are integral in the educational process and are characterized by an enduring mutual commitment and collaborative effort.

Citizenship

Our actions are distinguished by the highest standards of personal behavior, including trust, honesty, fairness, integrity and mutual respect, and are developed and demonstrated through student activities, community service, academic opportunities and success.

Continuous Improvement

Our District systems and processes will be subject to continual scrutiny and improvement. Prudent fiscal management of resources identify avenues of maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

UPDATE • DISTRICT GOALS

After meeting the three-year goals the Board of Education established in 2013, the Academic Stakeholders Council updated the district-wide goals for 2016-2019. At the end of the third year of working toward the goals, the district is making great progress for student success.

Goal 1

Student Learning and Achievement

All Galway Central School District students will have the opportunity to challenge themselves intellectually based on interest, readiness and need.

- 100% of students Grades 7-12 will have an individualized learning plan
Students have 60-plus electives from which to choose
The district has developed several pathways to graduation, and many of the courses are matriculated through colleges, meaning students can earn college credit for work they do here in High School
- A 4 year graduation rate of 95%
In 2018, 90% of 79 students graduated
- 45% of students will graduate with an Advanced Regents Diploma
Achieved 52%
- 90% of students will demonstrate proficiency on NYS Regents exams (score of 65 or above) and demonstrate continuous improvement when compared to previous cohorts, including 50% achieving mastery level
Living Environment 90% Proficiency - 52% Mastery
Earth Science 83% Proficiency - 55% Mastery
Chemistry 90% Proficiency - 10% Mastery
Physics 84% Proficiency - 39% Mastery
English Language Arts - 90% Proficiency - 56% Master
Global History and Geography - 88% Proficiency - 55% Mastery
US History and Government - 95% Proficiency - 67% Mastery
Algebra I and Integrated Algebra - 96% Proficiency - 16% Mastery
Geometry 90% Proficiency - 20% Mastery
Algebra II and Algebra 2/Trig - 100% Proficiency - 49% Mastery
- 95% of 3rd grade students will read on or above grade level by the end of the school year as indicated by STAR
92% of third grade students met or exceeded the required benchmark
98% passing rate on Grade 4 NYS Science Assessments with 67% at Level 4
99% Mastery on Living Environment Regents exam for Grade 8 Science Accelerated

Goal 2

Quality Instruction

All Galway Central School District students will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful, authentic and rigorous work through the use of innovative and research based instructional practices.

- Professional Development provided to all instructional staff to structure a standards-based and student-centered learning environment
 - Over 400 hours of professional development for all teachers and support staff have been completed
- 100% completion of Curriculum Maps, reviewed and updated annually
 - We are now in Phase 1 of the Next Generation Standards for ELA, math, science
 - New courses include 4th grade Spanish, college level biology, PLTW biomedical science, expanded CASE programs
- K-12-All staff will have opportunity for purposeful collaboration for examining and responding to data and sharing professional practice

The most recent Superintendent's Conference Day enabled Galway staff members to either travel to shared professional development in the region or engage in meaningful sessions in the district. Some topics included:

Google Classroom for Educators

Handle With Care

Mathseeds User Guide

Using IXL in the Classroom

What Can Our Library Do For You?

Advanced Google Tools

Seesaw – Student Digital Portfolios

Tech Test Kitchen

Organizing and Understanding Research using NoodleTools

Data Mate

Google Basics – Gmail

Technology in the Classroom: What Works for You?

Write-On!

Tech Slam

3-2-1- "Action"

Goal 3

Creative and Critical Thinking Skills

All Galway Central School District students will be immersed each day in learning opportunities intentionally designed to develop creative and critical thinking skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, data analysis, invention and imagination.

- Complete a three-year technology plan to include alignment of technology to instruction.
 - Completed
- Develop new initiatives to support curriculum and instruction:
 - Three new Chromecarts and Chromebooks
 - 30 new laptops, 15 new desktops
 - Three new iPad carts for second grade
 - New Enterprise Wireless Network
- Professional Development for all instructional staff focusing on STEAM across the curriculum
 - Over 200 hours of professional development provided throughout the year

Goal 4

Partnerships

All Galway Central School District teachers, parents, community and business leaders will have the opportunity to fulfill their roles as actively engaged partners in supporting outcomes for student success.

- Review and revise, with all stakeholder groups, the comprehensive district-wide communication plan
 - Completed
- Provide Professional Development for all stakeholders; instructional staff, non-instructional staff, parents, and Board of Education members, that exemplify the significant benefits of lifelong learning.
 - Ongoing



Goal 5

School Climate and Culture

All Galway Central School Students will participate in educational programs that support social, emotional, ethical, and civic education in a safe and supportive school environment.

- 80% participation rate for students Grades 7-12 in extracurricular, athletic, community service activities
 - Achieved
 - Named NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete School of Excellence in 2017-18 school year
- Administer and review Galway School District Satisfaction Survey annually, take action on areas of improvement
 - The 2018 district survey showed 91% of Galway CSD parents would recommend Galway CSD to a friend
- Create, provide and strengthen activities for personal growth, self-esteem, responsible behavior, youth development, leadership and citizenship
 - Launched a district Twitter, currently has 38 Followers
 - High School leadership elective
 - Elementary Student Council, second year
 - Created a JHE Newspaper Club
 - Expanding Best Buddies Program 7-12
- Continue to provide facilities that are safe, well-maintained, and provide for the developmental needs of all students
 - Ongoing

As a result of concerted efforts to achieve goals, Galway CSD was ranked 19th among Capital Area Schools by the Albany Business Review – up 8 spots from last year and 44 from the year before!
To see all the district goals for 2016-2019, please visit our website at www.galwaycsd.org.

With Sincere Thanks and Appreciation

We would like to thank the following individuals for their extraordinary support of our students' education.

- \$690 Galway Community Education Foundation, to send three children to summer camp for one week
- \$1,300 Class of 2018 Senior Class Gift, for the creation of a memorial garden
- New Pitching Jugs Machine, Galway Baseball Program in cooperation with Galway CSD in a shared payment partnership
- \$526 Hope in a Box, for the school library to purchase books

Meet Jack, Grade 6

Jack Kennedy races go-carts. His car is #90, and the main color is green, but the tribute body is black with an orange number and orange trim. His father started him in racing when he was five years old, and now he's learning how to fix and take care of his go-cart.

Jack has three goats, chickens, a guinea pig, two cats, goldfish, and a dog. His favorite class is physical education, and his favorite movies are Cars 3 and Fast and Furious. He used to play football and soccer, but they interfered with racing, which happens every weekend unless it gets rained out. Jack likes to ride dirt bikes and run too.

"I just like to go fast...and win," he said.



Meet Your Board of Education Members • Third Installment

To help community members get to know their Board of Education, we are featuring profiles of the Board in our newsletters and also on the website.

Mrs. Linda Jackowski retired from Galway CSD as the Director of Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) after nine years with the district. Prior to that, she was PPS Director at Mechanicville and Berlin Central School Districts and a speech-language pathologist and Coordinator of the Committee for Special Education and Preschool Special Education at Ballston Spa and Shenendehowa Central School Districts.

Mrs. Jackowski earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and a Master's Degree in Communication Disorders from the College of Saint Rose. She holds a School Administrators certificate from SUNY Plattsburgh.

Mrs. Jackowski is a Beta Omega member and serves on the Friends of the Library Board and the Pastoral Relations Committee of Galway United Methodist Church. She and her husband, James, have two daughters, Stacey and Colleen. They have five grandchildren, four of whom attend Galway CSD. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, hiking, crafts, cooking, exercising, sight-seeing, playing with her grandchildren and going to all the "fun kid places" again, and having quality time with friends.



2019 Changes to Exemptions for Property Owners Age 65 and Over

Update from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance:

To receive the Enhanced STAR exemption, property owners must enroll in the Income Verification Program (IVP). Property owners enroll in the IVP with their assessor at the time they are applying for or renewing their Enhanced STAR exemption. They only need to enroll in the IVP once. If eligible for the Enhanced STAR exemption, they will automatically receive the exemption each year thereafter. In the first year, the assessor will verify their eligibility based on the income information provided. In the following years, the New York State Tax Department will verify their income eligibility. Property owners will not need to renew the exemption or provide copies of their tax returns to their local assessor.

Senior citizens exemption recipients must apply for Enhanced STAR separately. To receive the senior citizens exemption, property owners must apply each year. In the past, older adults who qualified for the Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Senior Citizens (also known as the senior citizens or aged exemption) were automatically granted the Enhanced STAR exemption. Due to changes in New York State law, beginning with applications for 2019, they must apply separately for the senior citizens exemption and the Enhanced STAR exemption.

For more information email real.property@tax.ny.gov or call 518-457-9053 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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Familiar Faces in New Places

**Supervisor of Transportation and Grounds
William Clark Jr.**



Mr. Clark started his new position July 9, 2018. Prior to this position, he was an auto repairer at Galway CSD for six years and a bus driver for one year before that. He came to Galway after an 11-year career at Verizon. He lives in Galway with his wife, Jamie, and two miniature dachshunds, Tobey and Taylor. He likes old cars and riding Harleys.

**Junior/Senior HS Secretary
Camilla Colangelo**



Mrs. Colangelo was the Guidance/Athletic Office secretary for five years before switching to the Junior/Senior High School Office in May 2018. Her oldest daughter graduated from Galway High School while three of her children still attend Galway CSD. She has a rescue dog named Elvis who is a terrier mix. In her free time, she enjoys running, hiking, and traveling.

**Guidance/Athletic Office Secretary
Kate Keller**



Mrs. Keller, Galway Class of 1994, was the receptionist at Joseph Henry Elementary School for one year prior to moving to the Guidance/Athletic Office. She and her husband, Richard, have a daughter, Brittany, who graduated from Galway, and a son, Nick, who is currently a junior at Galway High School. She enjoys camping, kayaking, and hiking. She and her family also make maple syrup.

2018 Homecoming ~ see all the pictures at www.flickr.com/photos/galwaycsd



Find us on @Galway CSD

Please visit www.galwaycsd.org to see digital newsletters from the Elementary School and Jr/Sr High School