



Superior Central Newsletter

Home of the Cougars

December 2020

Volume 25, Issue 1

www.superiorcentralschools.org



FROM THE OFFICE OF MR. BILL VALIMA

Superintendent/Principal K-12

It is hard for me to believe that it is December! I think we can all agree that these past 9 months have been some of the most uncertain times that we have ever faced. I'm going to use this newsletter as kind of a recap of the last nine months at Superior Central.

As you know, last March we closed our doors for what we initially thought was going to be a couple weeks. Those couple of weeks turned into months, which turned into summer. During that time, we were sent mixed messages from the state on how we were supposed to educate children. At first, we were just on an extra-long spring break. When it became evident that our break would be more than a "pause" we were told to teach, but not have too many expectations. So, we did. We sent home packets of work, we sent home Chromebooks, we set up contingency plans for our special education students, our school social worker put together weekly wellness videos for our students, our teachers spent countless hours figuring out creative ways to get information to kids, we set up a meals program that delivered food to doorsteps and we held an outdoor graduation (which I think many people really enjoyed). We were happy to make it through the school year.

Once summer came, we were able to start a "normal" summer of Sinking Fund projects. Thanks to the community support of the Sinking Fund Millage we were able to remove all our old lockers throughout the entire school and install bigger, better lockers. We are also able to install new flooring in the high school hall and entry way. These additions have been well received by the students and staff. I look forward to the time when we can have all of you in to enjoy them as well.

The summer also ushered in the COVID-19 Return to School Roadmap from the State of Michigan. Under this roadmap, all schools in Michigan had to prepare a plan on how we would return to school this fall under the 6 Phases of the Michigan Safe Start Plan. The administration, teachers, support staff and school board worked together to create a plan to reopen school in the fall. As a district we also created the Superior Central Online Academy to accommodate families who were uncomfortable sending their children back to school for various reasons.

I was thankful that we were able to open our K-12 doors with precautions in the fall. As an educator, I believe there is no better place for kids to learn than in a public school. With the support of our parents, I feel we have done a really good job of keeping kids safe here at Superior Central. **A huge thank you to the parents of Superior Central. I appreciate your phone calls letting us know that you, your child, or a family member may have been exposed to COVID-19. I appreciate you working with us and the Health Department so that we can complete contact tracing.** I hear stories from other places, and I can honestly say that our community has done a great job responding to the way COVID-19 has impacted our school.

Like you, I am excited for the day when things return to normal. I can't wait for the gym to be filled with fans for basketball games and families for Christmas concerts. Until that day comes, I thank you for your continued patience with us as we work through this time.

Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to work with your children. As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to call me @ 439-5532 x 244 or email me @ bvalima@superiorcentralschools.org .

I hope you all have a blessed Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Bill Valima



News from Superior Central Board of Education

Hello, Superior Central Community!

As a school board member, a mom of elementary students, and a high school coach, I have heard many different perspectives on how this school year has been going so far; I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the various groups of people who have made this school year as successful as it could be, given the circumstances.

First, thank you to the school administration, teaching, and support staff who have taken countless hours to rearrange schedules, lesson plans, rooms, and daily practices to make our students' environment as safe and healthy as possible. Second, thank you to the parents who are monitoring their children's health and making the difficult decision to keep them home when necessary so our school community stays as healthy as possible. Finally, I would really like to say thank you to the students of Superior Central; this year has been very different, but they have accepted the changes and adapted their daily lives in a way that has maintained our learning environment so we can offer them a high-quality education.

The school board takes information from many different sources to make the best decisions to provide the best education we can. This year has been like no other, but as you've heard many times before, we really are all in this together, and we thank all of you for working together!

Emily Massie

Superior Central School Board President

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Searching for information ?

Try these sources for info:

- Website: www.superiorcentralschools.org
- PowerSchool– parent sign in for student grades
- Quarterly newsletter– published after every quarter & posted on the website
- Classroom newsletter– Elementary teachers send them home weekly
- Lunch balances– www.sendmoneytoschool.com
- Question or concern– go to the source– the office, the teacher, the principal available by e-mail or appointment



SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS HONOR ROLL

2020-2021 First Quarter

Congratulations to the following students for being named to the Honor Roll for the first marking period.

An * denotes all A's

UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Thompson's 3rd Grade: Emma Beaupied, Joy Brown, Edye Burdett, Jacelyn Denman, Daniel Jarquin, Evan Kelto, Jaxon Klyk, William Kolpack, Braelynn Lawson*, Larissa Lindgren, Harrison McDougall, Scarlett Ott, Cole Raspor, Caleb Simon, Justin Timonen

Mrs. Kelto's 4th Grade: Harper Frusit, Liza Helminen, Aubrianna Kroupa, Nina Massie*, Charli Nordness, Amerie Pizzi

Mrs. Tyner's 5th Grade: Riley Balkum, Mali Hillier, Marlene Johnson, Levi Kempainen, Alyssa Lander, Conor McDonald*, Kendra Pederson, Hailey Quarfoot, Natalia Salmi, Lilly Simon

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

6th grade: Peyton Adams, Connor Blomgren, Samuel Charlebois, Teagan Hall, Rory Hancock*, Josie Knaus, Aidan Korpi, Zander Mullins, Kianna Perron, William Spranger, Elijah Valima, Gavin Vining

7th grade: Joseph Augustyn, Jamie Brown, Gwenyth Charlebois, Kalli Foro, Isaac Gleason*, Cassie Helminen, Clay Horne, Jack Kasten, Carter Korpi, Christopher Kulik, Kiera McDonald*, John McDougall, Janessa Perron, Blake Tanner, Gracie Trader

8th grade: Drew Begovac, Ruth Johnson, Samantha Johnson, Calla Porter*, Derick Tyner

9th grade: Craig Adams, Grant Garrow, Alice Hancock, Amie Helminen, Jason Kanerva, Liam McDougall, Elijah Penney, Clara Rondeau, Breanna Swajanen*, Lily Swetich, Neo Wilson

10th grade: Emily Augustyn, Izabel Barber, Madisen Begovac*, Amy Burns, Hudson Cady, Wyatt Kulik, Riley Moore, Adair Porter, Evelyn Smyth*, Lucas Swetich, Avalynn Swick, Brylee Tyner, Sophia Valima*, Emmett Vining

11th grade: Katrina Augustyn, Charlotte Charlebois, Garrett Koski, Eva LaVallie*, Dakota Maki, Olivia Millin, Ethan Phillipson*, Emma Rutter*, Christopher Thompson, Evan Thompson,

12th grade: Hudson Charlebois, Kyle Frusti, Rhyse Hall, Michael Leppanen, James Maki, Parker Maki, Paige McGee, Mathew McLaury, Caleb Nimee*, Mason Porter*, Michael Rondeau, Madisyn Tyner, Josephine Valima*, Kaeden Weir



What's the Word in School?

Students Speak

With the changes in place at school this year due to COVID-19, how do you think it is going?

In my opinion, I think Superior Central is handling Covid-19 quite well. For example, some of us forget our masks, but they don't need to worry about it because the staff have a surplus of extras to give to them. Also, if we don't have hand sanitizer, there is some at every room; a third example is we have mask breaks, at the beginning of the year there were rumors that there would be hour long mask breaks or we would only go to school every other day, but instead we have a few minute mask breaks (Which was all we needed) this way Covid-19 can't really interfere with our education.

- Isaac G., 7th Grade



I think school is going just fine, although it is a little annoying having to wear masks. I believe it is just going great.

- Drew B., 8th Grade



I think it's going great. We have taken enough precautions but still managed not to go overdrive. Although I would really like for us to be able to do pep assemblies and other multi-class events, I understand why we can't. But I feel that just being able to go to school in person was a good enough Halloween treat for me!

- Will S., 6th Grade



I DON'T LIKE IT because we have to wear masks and we can't hug each other.

- Aubrianna K., 4th Grade



I think the school year is going pretty good, but the masks are kind of annoying but I always keep it on to protect others around me. Having lunch in the classroom is a little weird though. But otherwise it is going well.

- Rory H., 6th Grade



I think it's going good because the school is open and we can learn.

- Natalie V., 1st grade



To answer your question, I believe that the COVID pandemic has been doing nothing but getting worse, seeing as we're taking as much cautionary action as possible. I personally believe that opening the schools isn't the smartest idea, hence why I'm doing online schooling until it's safe to go back in person, but I understand that some people simply cannot learn without having somebody in person to guide them through their lessons and keep them on track. Judging by how much action is being taken as of right now, it appears that the pandemic is becoming more and more of a concern than it was about 7 months ago, a welcome change of mind in my eyes. We can't eliminate this virus without working together to take action against it.

- Ethan P., 11th Grade



The new changes are very annoying, wearing masks all the time is a hassle, especially when we take them off to eat anyways. It's going alright it's just annoying.

- Olivia M., 11th Grade



I think it is going pretty well. Everyone follows the new COVID rules and guidelines. And put those rules aside from being different this year, school seems the same and I would much rather be doing school in person than online.

- Madisyn T., 12th Grade

I personally believe that this year hasn't been the best year. I lost every opportunity I ever have gotten and it's been a harsh, cold push into the real world. It just shows how much I dislike it and wish I was a kid for longer. I appreciate the constant sanitizing, which should have been in effect before these unforeseen events. I had to pick classes that won't benefit me in any way, on an outdated system that barely works half of the time. Just because they needed me to fill my hours because internships had gotten cancelled. Everyone I speak to feels bad for us, as we also lost opportunities as a final homecoming, prom, and any school festivities. I lost job experience in a career field I want to pursue the rest of my life in. Stuff last year's seniors had gotten to have. A quote from my favorite teacher, "I got moved from the small stack of names, to the big stack." I recently got accepted into Northern Michigan University, and I can't even go on a campus visit, or meet face-to-face about questions that I have and it's troubling me. I feel like I'm lost and clueless without any help. Sometimes I feel like there are rules in place that don't make any sense to "keep us safe" while there is an utter lack of safety in other regards which is necessary. I would rather have a normal year cut short than to experience a year like this.

- Caleb D., 12th Grade



Personally I think it is going okay, there are definitely a lot of changes that took a few days for me to adapt to. As well as the struggle of going into my freshman year, it was definitely scary for me to experience with both the first day of high school and the whole COVID-19 changes. I'm still very glad that I'm able to actually be in school than having to be online.

- Lily S., 9th Grade



A New Cover for the Hoop House

After nearly 8 years of exposure to the elements, the original plastic membrane of the school's hoop house needed to be replaced. Our structure uses an inflated double wall system to extend our growing season and while this has proved to be very effective it also means that we need double the amount of plastic. This amount of heavy duty U.V. resistant plastic is fairly expensive but a grant through the State Farm became available and the entire cost of the membrane was covered with a little left over to buy half-a-dozen grow lights for the elementary classrooms.

The timing of this replacement could not have been better because 8 years of irrigating our crops with groundwater had created a buildup of minerals on the soil's surface that was degrading its overall quality. The solution to this is to let rain water dilute and leach these minerals deeper into the ground. So in early June, the old plastic cover was removed, the ground tilled, a cover-crop planted, and the summer rains did the rest. By the beginning of the school year the cover-crop had been

mowed down a couple times, the soil tilled, and we were ready for the students to plant greens and attach the new plastic membrane.



The Agriculture/Forestry class and myself watched a couple instructional videos, got a few tips from the State Farm, then on a near windless morning set to work. The whole process went pretty smoothly and by mid-morning we were finished. Our soil tests as well as the amount of produce we are harvesting each week is proof that all of the work was worth the effort and our hoop house should be in good working order for several more years.

Mr. Bliss



Superior Central Band Fruit Sale

Fruit will arrive December 16th
Students will deliver your order



Six Years of Studying the Environment and Building Boats

It is hard to believe that this is the 6th year of Natural Resources and Watercraft Design and we have now built 75 pirogues. Because of Covid19, last year's class was unable to take our annual spring paddling/camping trip but with luck, this year's group will all take to the water in May. If we do, it will be a sight to behold because 18 students are in the class this year and by the time you count the chaperones and myself, there will be 22 pirogues launching and paddling together.



As the virus has impacted everyone's life it has also changed the structure of this course. Typically, we spend the pleasant weeks of the fall season outdoors conducting water quality and soils studies then transition into building our boats when the temperatures approach the freezing mark. However, with the ever-present threat of suspending in-person education we started the building process on the second day of school. The rationale behind this is that I can teach Natural Resource subjects online, but can only build boats when we are meeting face to face. As always, the students are doing a great job and we are currently attaching the gunnels and after a bit of sanding, the boats will be ready for paint.

Tim Bliss

Board of Education

Please take notice that upcoming meetings of the Board of Education of the Superior Central School District in Eben Junction, Michigan are scheduled as follows:

<u>Regular Meeting</u>	Monday December 21, 2020	Monday January 18, 2021	Monday February 15, 2021
	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM

Regular meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month. Work sessions as needed. All meetings are 7:00 PM

Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodations for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in these meetings.

Request must be received at least five days in advance of the meeting.





Superior Central Basketball

MHSAA has suspended athletics at this time.

Please see the Superior Central website for updates.



Christmas Music by Superior Central Students



Watch our website for video sharing of their
holiday musical activities.

Please:



**Report any changes of your:
Mailing, physical address or phone numbers.**

E-mail changes to :

dkanerva@superiorcentralschools.org For MS/HS

bwells@superiorcentralschools.org For Elementary

Or

Call : High School 439-5532 x 242

Elementary 439-5531 x 201



Thank you.





SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOL CALENDAR of EVENTS 2020-2021



December	18 21	Last day of school before Holiday Break No school – Holiday break
January	4 15 20-21 21 22	School Resumes 12:30 dismissal – Teachers Professional Development 1:30 dismissal – MS/HS Exams End of 2 nd marking period and 1 st semester No School
February	5 8	12:30 dismissal No School
March	12 26 26 29-31	12:30 dismissal – Teachers Professional Development 12:30 dismissal End of 3 rd marking period No School - Spring Break begins
April	1-5 6	No School- Spring Break School Resumes
May	28 31	Graduation 7:00 PM No School – Memorial Day
June	9-10 10 11	1:30 dismissal – MS/HS Exams Last day of School (provided we do not exceed 6 snow days) All day Teachers Professional Development

Doors open at 7:55 School Day begins at 8:15 A.M. and ends at 3:11 P.M.

School Closing Announcements

WMQT 107.7 FM WGLQ 97.1 FM

WLUC TV 6

Superior Central app www.superiorcentralschools.org

