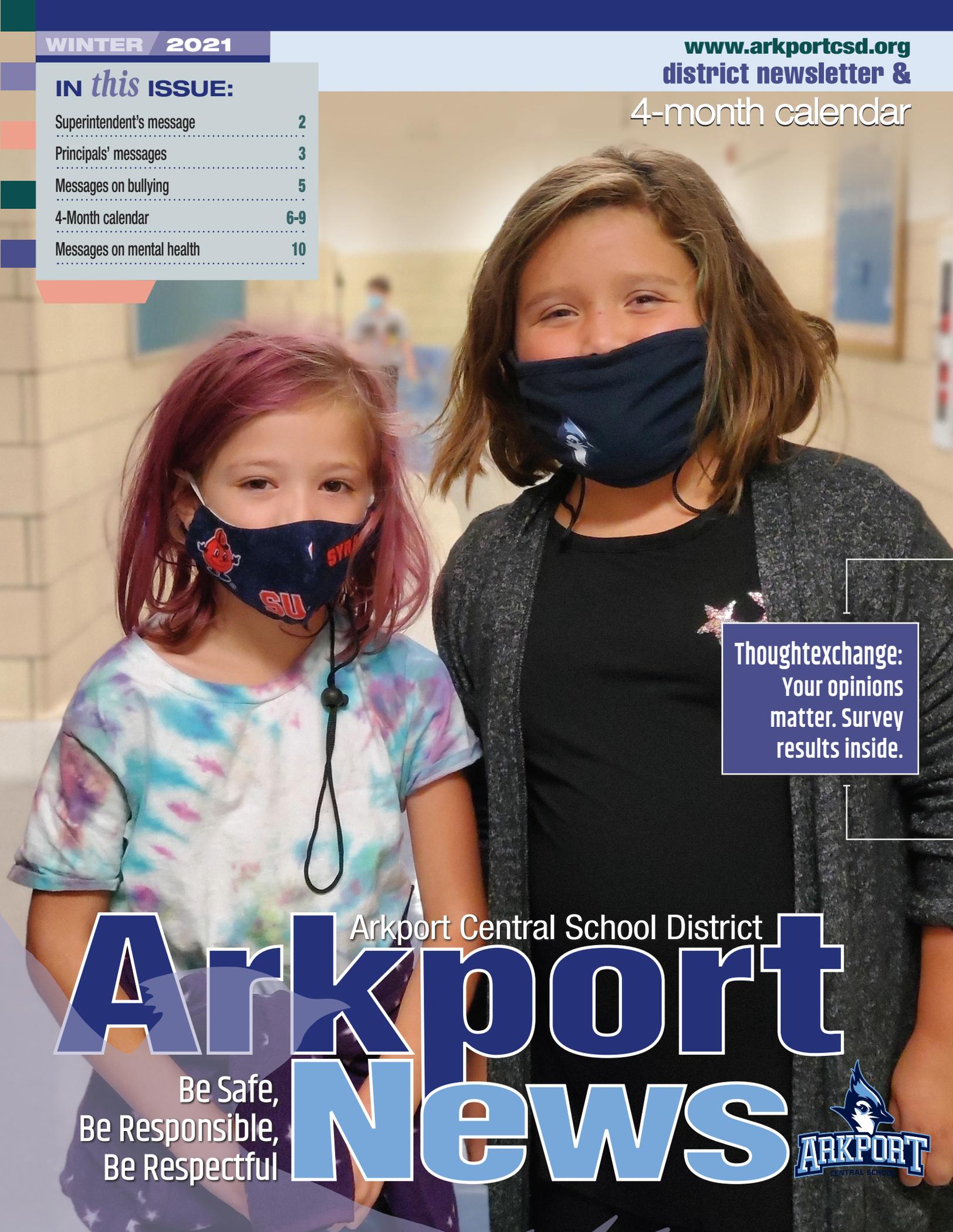


IN *this* ISSUE:

Superintendent's message	2
Principals' messages	3
Messages on bullying	5
4-Month calendar	6-9
Messages on mental health	10



Thoughtexchange:
Your opinions
matter. Survey
results inside.

Arkport Central School District

Arkport News

Be Safe,
Be Responsible,
Be Respectful



Superintendent's Message

School safety at Arkport Central School District

In 2018, the district began using the Thoughtexchange platform in order to gather the thoughts and opinions of our entire school community on critical issues and topics. To date, we have used Thoughtexchange to seek your thoughts on matters related to potential mergers, building projects, school culture improvements and reopening schools in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our latest Thoughtexchange, which took place in December, asked for your thoughts regarding school safety matters.

While many school districts have spent this school year focusing on challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the retirement of our school resource officer, Jason Flaitz, reminded us that other school safety concerns have not gone away.

Before the district moves forward with safety improvement efforts, we wanted to hear from you. Our Thoughtexchange asked the question, "What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?" and asked respondents to rate the district's readiness to address bullying, mental health supports/emergencies, substance abuse education, student disruptions and intruders.

We had such fantastic participation. So much so, that we are able to move forward with changes based on your feedback.

One clear trend we saw from the Thoughtexchange survey was that our parents/guardians consistently responded with "not sure" for how the district handles the following topics outlined in the survey:

Cyber-bullying, Bullying, Mental Health Supports, Mental Health Emergencies, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Disruptive Students and Intruders

This newsletter is designed to share with you what the district currently does and what we plan to do in the future to address these topics.

Thank you for your help gathering this information and your continued partnership in making Arkport a fantastic school district.

Sincerely,

Jesse Harper, Superintendent of Schools



2020-21 Board

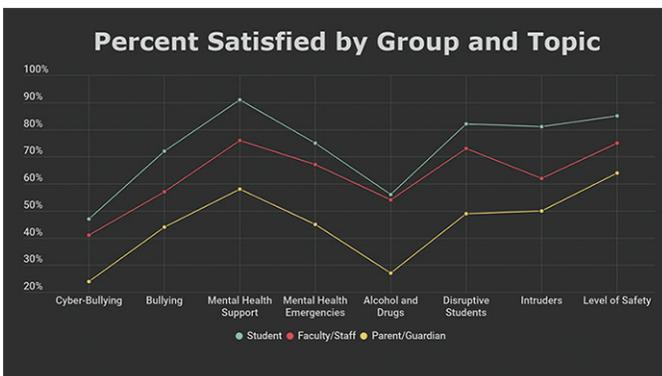
Patrick N. Flaitz,
President

Jennifer L. Swarts,
Vice President

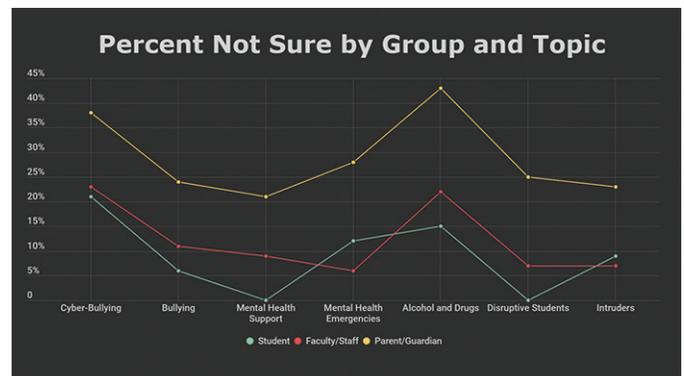
Michelle Chamberlin

Julianne W. Merry

Tracie McCarthy



The above graph shows what percent of each group (students, faculty/staff, parents/guardians) rated the district's current handling of each topic satisfactory or higher.



This graph shows what percent of each group (students, faculty/staff, parents/guardians) stated they were not sure how the district was handling each survey topic.

A Message from PK-6 Principal, Claire Smith

On addressing and correcting disruptive behaviors

Disruptive student behaviors are those which impede learning and teaching, and have the potential to escalate if unaddressed. Oftentimes, such behaviors are prevented by creating a welcoming classroom environment, recognizing how/when disruptive behaviors might occur and acting quickly to prevent them.

When disruptive behaviors occur, we refer to the following protocols to ensure the safety of all our students, while still providing support for the student in need.

When a student is being disruptive, our concern is the safety of that student, as well as the safety of that student's peers. Next, we use a responsibility-centered discipline approach, or RCD, to address behavioral concerns. The RCD approach recognizes when students are/are not ready to discuss an issue, and to offer those students time to cool off and prepare to move forward before having a discussion about their responsibility for their actions, behavior and academic success.

We then look at our daily data: student academics, behavior, attendance and social emotional health. This

helps us look at the whole student and the factors that might be causing a disruptive behavior and what additional supports may be needed.

We are fortunate to have such a well-supplied toolbox of data, highly qualified and caring personnel, supportive students and supportive families.



PK-6 Principal, Claire Smith

Thoughtexchange: Your thoughts regarding school safety matters

What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?

Consistency across grade levels on how disruptions are managed and reported.

3.6 ★★★★★ (48 â)
Ranked #93 of 229

A Message from 7-12 Principal, Koby Hahn

On alcohol and substance abuse education and prevention at Arkport

Unfortunately, alcohol and substance abuse might be a reality for some of our students and/or their families – now or in the future. At Arkport, students of all ages are encouraged to make healthy choices in their physical health classes. Middle and high school lessons take a closer look at alcohol and substance abuse and awareness, the physical, social and emotional health-related consequences of such abuse and the importance of making positive choices.

The district works with the Hornell Area Concern for Youth program to provide support in our elementary, middle and high school classrooms. The district also participates in Steuben County's bi-annual student survey which measures the rate of awareness/use of various drug and alcohol related substances. This anonymous survey is taken by students in grades 8, 10 and 12 so that we can measure the same group of students over time, and our student services team meets with a representative from Steuben County to review the results and plan interventions based on the data our students report.

We believe that when it comes to student alcohol and substance abuse, one of the primary deterrents

is open communication between students, families and the student services team. We are all on the same team when it comes to caring for the children of our community, even in the unfortunate event that a student is making unhealthy choices. We truly value the relationships we've been able to forge with our students and families because when our students are struggling with serious issues, we want to be part of the solution, as well as providing proactive support so that our students understand the importance of making positive choices throughout their lives.



7-12 Principal, Koby Hahn

Thoughtexchange: Your thoughts regarding school safety matters

What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?

Teach kids how to handle drug and alcohol problems in their own lives. Drug addiction is a huge problem in rural America and more needs to be done to stop it.

3.7 ★★★★★ (48 â)
Ranked #82 of 229



A Message from Superintendent Jesse Harper

On intruder prevention at Arkport

The district prepares for intruder prevention and response in the following ways:

We secure and monitor our school building. Over the past decade, the district has invested in secure entrances, video monitoring, and electronic door access. This physical security investment is continuing in the most recently approved building project, where the district will be creating a secure vestibule and district office space. While the district welcomes all visitors, the need to control access to the larger building is key in securing the district in general.

We train our staff, faculty and students how to respond to intruders in the building. While students are regularly drilled in lockdowns or hold-in-place drills, faculty and staff receive more in-depth training in not only how to

respond to intruders in the moment, but what to do after as well. Most recently, faculty and staff received training from the Steuben County Sheriff's department in how to effectively treat injuries while waiting for emergency responders.

We build strong relationships with local law enforcement agencies. This includes examining the feasibility of having another SRO at the district. There was one resounding, common theme from our most recent Thoughtexchange and that was the desire to maintain an SRO presence in our district.



Thoughtexchange: Your thoughts regarding school safety matters

What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?

I think we should get another school resource officer. I think it is important that we have somebody to protect us just in case anything happens, we can have somebody in the school to protect us.

4.3 ★★★★★ (42 ♂)
Ranked #1 of 229



What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?

It was great having a school resource officer. I would like to see that position filled with a child friendly individual.

4.2 ★★★★★ (48 ♂)
Ranked #2 of 229



What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?

Resource officers can de-escalate many intense situations, I thought our former officer contributed in many positive ways.

4.2 ★★★★★ (48 ♂)
Ranked #3 of 229



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Superintendent Conference Day NO SCHOOL	2 After School Enrichment Swimming at the YMCA	3 After School Enrichment Holiday Cards and Winter Crafts Grades 4-8	4 After School Enrichment Crochet - Grades 7-12	5 Second Quarter Report Cards Sent Home	6
7	8 After School Enrichment Crochet - Grades 4-6	9 After School Enrichment Pet First Aid - Grades 4-12	10 After School Enrichment Holiday Cards and Winter Crafts Grades 4-8 Board of Education meeting, 6-7 p.m.	11 After School Enrichment Crochet - Grades 7-12	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
← FEB. 15-19: NO SCHOOL-WINTER BREAK →						
21	22 After School Enrichment Crochet - Grades 4-6	23 After School Enrichment Pet First Aid - Grades 4-12	24 After School Enrichment Holiday Cards and Winter Crafts Grades 4-8 Board of Education meeting, 6-7 p.m.	25 After School Enrichment Crochet - Grades 7-12	26 After School Enrichment Swimming at the YMCA	27
28						

Reminder: Events may be subject to change
 www.arkportcsd.org, will incorporate

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 After School Enrichment Sewing Club	2 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Gordan Korman - Gifted	3 After School Enrichment Acrylic Painting Grades 4-8	4 NHS American Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. After School Enrichment Sign Language Grades 4-8	5	6
7	8 After School Enrichment Sewing Club	9 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Gordan Korman - Gifted	10 After School Enrichment Acrylic Painting Grades 4-8 Board of Education meeting, 6-7 p.m.	11 After School Enrichment Sign Language Grades 4-8	12 5 Week - Third Quarter After School Enrichment Swimming at the YMCA	13
14	15 Superintendent Conference Day NO SCHOOL	16 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Gordan Korman - Gifted	17 After School Enrichment Acrylic Painting Grades 4-8	18 After School Enrichment Sign Language Grades 4-8	19 Third Quarter 5 Week Reports Sent Home Academic Society Ceremony, 7-8 p.m.	20
21	22 After School Enrichment Sewing Club	23 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Gordan Korman - Gifted	24 After School Enrichment Acrylic Painting Grades 4-8 Board of Education meeting, 6-7 p.m.	25 After School Enrichment Sign Language Grades 4-8	26 After School Enrichment Swimming at the YMCA	27
28	29 After School Enrichment Sewing Club	30 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Gordan Korman - Gifted	31 After School Enrichment Acrylic Painting Grades 4-8			

The online calendar on our district website, www.arkportcsd.org, may vary. Please check our website for any changes that may occur.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 After School Enrichment Sign Language Grades 4-8	2 ← APRIL 2-9: NO SCHOOL-SPRING BREAK →	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
← APRIL 2-9: NO SCHOOL-SPRING BREAK →						
11	12 After School Enrichment Sewing Club	13 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Gordan Korman - Gifted	14 After School Enrichment Pokémon/Nintendo Drawing Grades 4-8	15 After School Enrichment Card Making Grades 4-8	16 Third Quarter Ends	17
18	19 After School Enrichment Cooking Club	20 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Rick Riordan - Heroes of Olympus	21 After School Enrichment Pokémon/Nintendo Drawing Grades 4-8 Board of Education Meeting, 5-6 p.m.	22 After School Enrichment Card Making Grades 4-8	23 Third Quarter Report Cards Sent Home	24
	← APRIL 19-21: 3-8 ELA TESTING →			← APRIL 22-23: 3-8 ELA TESTING →		
25	26 After School Enrichment Cooking Club ← APRIL 26: 3-8 ELA TESTING →	27 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Rick Riordan - Heroes of Olympus	28 After School Enrichment Pokémon/Nintendo Drawing Grades 4-8	29 After School Enrichment Card Making Grades 4-8	30	

Reminder: E...
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The online c...
our district...
www.arkport...
incorporate a...
that may

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 After School Enrichment Cooking Club	4 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Rick Riordan - Heroes of Olympus	5	6 After School Enrichment Card Making Grades 4-8	7	8
9	10 After School Enrichment Cooking Club	11 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Rick Riordan - Heroes of Olympus Board of Education Meeting (Budget Presentation) 6-7 p.m.	12	13 After School Enrichment Card Making Grades 4-8	14	15
16	17 After School Enrichment Cooking Club	18 BUDGET VOTE 11 A.M.-8 P.M., SMALL GYM After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Rick Riordan - Heroes of Olympus Board of Education Meeting (Budget Vote) 6-7 p.m.	19	20 After School Enrichment Card Making Grades 4-8	21	22
23	24 After School Enrichment Cooking Club	25 After School Enrichment Book Club Grades 5-8 Rick Riordan - Heroes of Olympus	26	27	28	29
30	31 MEMORIAL DAY NO SCHOOL					

Events may change. Calendar on website, www.arkportcsd.org, will reflect any changes that occur.



A Message from School Psychologist, Karen Dagon

On mental health support services at Arkport

Our students are provided mental health support services in a variety of ways. Currently, all students in grades PK-6 are taking weekly forty-minute social emotional classroom lessons. These lessons explore topics such as building resilience, improving social skills, conflict resolution and developing a growth mindset.

Middle and high school health classes have units designed to help students develop an awareness of different mental illnesses, as well as learning coping skills and positive strategies to aid them in developing healthy habits.

Here at Arkport, we have a student services team that consists of Miss Eggleston (PK-12 School Counselor) Mrs. Recktenwald (PK-12 School Social Worker) and myself. Students may meet individually or in small groups with any one of us to help them problem-solve or manage a stressful event. The student services team may also consult with teachers, parents or guardians about concerns they may have. Sometimes this results in a referral to an agency or counselor in the community. While

students, teachers, parents or guardians may call or email any one of the student services team members they may also share concerns anonymously through the "Share It" button located on our district's website.



School Psychologist, Karen Dagon

Thoughtexchange: Your thoughts regarding school safety matters

What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?

Continue to support and encourage physical education and recess Physical activity is crucial to mental health. Fresh air and exercise help to combat depression and are essential for healthy kids 3.9 ★★★★★ (46) Ranked #46 of 229

What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?

Continue to support the arts The arts are a great opportunity to reach kids who are not athletes and gives kids a safe and mean full way to express themselves and their emotions 3.5 ★★★★★ (43) Ranked #118 of 229

A Message from School Social Worker, Kyleigh Recktenwald

On addressing mental health emergencies at Arkport

In effort to address mental health emergencies at Arkport, our student services team works closely with our teachers, parents and staff/faculty to help any students who may be experiencing distress. When a student experiences a mental health emergency at school, the district performs a risk assessment to determine the severity of the issue and what resources are needed. Following the risk assessment, the district, together with the parents/guardians, make a plan.

The plan might include utilizing the Steuben County Mobile Crisis Team, as well as crisis counseling through local Mental Health agencies such as Steuben County Mental Health and Noyes Mental Health. As a follow up to any mental health emergency, the student services team remains in contact with the parents/guardians and mental health counselors. In some instances, a transition meeting is required for the student to

successfully return to school. These meetings include the student services team, parent or guardian, and the student to come up with a plan for the student to be socially and emotionally successful at school. These plans can include mental health safety plans and are shared with staff as needed.



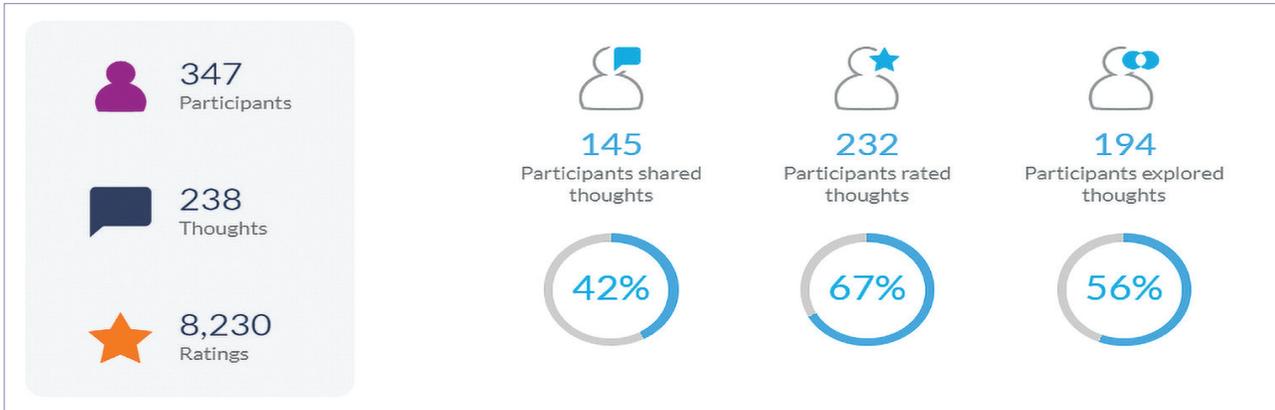
School Social Worker, Kyleigh Recktenwald

Thoughtexchange: Your thoughts regarding school safety matters

What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?

Staff and teachers are always ready to listen. I feel comfortable that if I had a concern it would be addressed promptly. 3.9 ★★★★★ (43) Ranked #52 of 229

Thoughtexchange: Survey Results



Q and A: Survey Results

Q: How satisfied are survey respondents with the district's current safety efforts?

A: 68% (202 respondents) said they are very or somewhat satisfied with current level of safety in the district. 19% (57 respondents) said that they felt neutral or were not sure.

Q: How do respondents rate the district's readiness to respond to cyber-bullying?

A: 39% (119) respondents said they feel that the district is very prepared or somewhat prepared to respond to a cyber-bullying issue in the school. 44% (141 respondents) said that they felt neutral or were not sure.

Q: How do respondents rate the district's readiness to respond to face-to-face bullying?

A: 58% (175) respondents said they feel that the district is very prepared or somewhat prepared to respond to

a face-to-face bullying issue in the school. 27% (82 respondents) said that they felt neutral or were not sure.

Q: How do respondents rate the district's readiness to respond to student drug and alcohol abuse?

A: 49% (147) respondents said they feel that the district is very prepared or somewhat prepared to respond to student drug and alcohol abuse. 40% (120 respondents) said that they felt neutral or were not sure.

Q: How do respondents rate the district's readiness to respond to disruptive student behaviors?

A: 63% (189) respondents said they feel that the district is very prepared or somewhat prepared to respond to disruptive behaviors. 24% (70 respondents) said that

they felt neutral or were not sure.

Q: How do respondents rate the district's readiness to respond to an intruder in the school?

A: 66% (195) respondents said they feel that the district is very prepared or somewhat prepared to respond to an intruder in the school. 22% (67 respondents) said that they felt neutral or were not sure.

Q: How do respondents rate the district's readiness to respond to mental health emergencies?

A: 59% (175) respondents said they feel that the district is very prepared or somewhat prepared to respond to mental health emergencies. 28% (84 respondents) said that they felt neutral or were not sure.



35 East Avenue Arkport, NY 14807

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- Patrick N. Flaitz, President
- Jennifer L. Swarts, Vice-President
- Michelle Chamberlin
- Julianne W. Merry
- Tracie McCarthy

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Central Administration

- Jesse Harper, Superintendent of Schools
- Koby Hahn, 7-12 Principal
- Claire Smith, PK-6 Principal
- Dale Steiner, Athletic Director
- Meghann D. Khork, Human Resources Manager
- Connie Karr, Assistant to the Superintendent
- Melissa Evans, District Treasurer

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This newsletter is produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.

What's next for the district?

While the district is continuously trying to improve both physical and mental safety for faculty, staff and students, this Thoughtexchange clearly showed us that there are two areas that our school community believes need attention: cyber-bullying and substance abuse prevention.

The district will be partnering with the consultants from EAB, a best practices firm that uses research, technology and consulting to address challenges within the education industry. We will be exploring the best practices and implementation strategies around cyber-bullying and substance abuse prevention. Specifically, we'll be examining what other districts have found to

be the best prevention strategies, incident reporting processes and response strategies of cyberbullying and substance abuse.

We look forward to reporting our findings and new strategies in the future.

Thoughtexchange: Your thoughts regarding school safety matters

What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?

Teach kids how to handle drug and alcohol problems in their own lives. Drug addiction is a huge problem in rural America and more needs to be done to stop it. 3.7 ★★★★★ (46) Ranked #82 of 229

What changes would you like to see to increase your confidence in school safety?

I've never felt unsafe at Arkport. 3.5 ★★★★★ (47) Ranked #117 of 229



Search for the Arkport Central School District on Facebook and Instagram.