



PIONEER CONNECT

January 2023

PIONEER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, YORKSHIRE, NY

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH ENDS WITH APPOINTING OF NICHOLAS SILVAROLI

The Pioneer Central School District Board of Education is pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Nicholas Silvaroli as the next Superintendent of Schools for Pioneer.

Mr. Silvaroli was chosen after a lengthy process from a very competitive field of excellent candidates. Mr. Silvaroli's appointment was approved at the Jan. 17 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Mr. Silvaroli brings a wealth of education experience to his new position. More importantly, he has been a part of the fiber of the Pioneer School District for more than 17 years. He knows Pioneer extremely well, ranging from the many strengths of the district to the areas that need consistent focus and improvement. His candidacy and subsequent interviews verified again for those who know him of his sincere love for Pioneer and his willingness to help the Board, students, staff, and community lift the district to its deserved and desired level of success.

Mr. Silvaroli began his Pioneer career in 2005 as Business Administrator, and his success in that position



led him to be named Assistant Superintendent in 2011. He briefly served as the Acting Superintendent for several months this past summer during a period of transition in the district.

Mr. Silvaroli is no stranger to the greater Western New York region. He is a Board member of the Arcade Chamber of Commerce and a member of six regional organizations in varying leadership capacities. He was named the 2022 Business Official of the Year by

the Western New York Chapter of the Association of School Business Officials and also received the Deloitte Arthur Lalonde Community Service and Involvement Award.

A native of Niagara Falls, Mr. Silvaroli is a graduate of Niagara University (B.S.) and received his Master's degree from the University at Buffalo. He is a certified School District Administrator (SDA), School Business Administrator (SBA), and Public Accountant (CPA). He is married to his wife Kathy

and has three sons.

"I truly appreciate the support shown to me by the Board of Education," said Silvaroli. "I look forward to working with a great staff, outstanding students, and a supportive school community as we continue to move Pioneer forward."

"We have challenges that we must meet head on in a communicative, collaborative, and supportive manner if we are to be successful for the kids we serve at Pioneer."

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTEES JOIN PIONEER FAMILY

Pioneer School District celebrates the following administrative appointments made toward the end of 2022:



KATELYN WELKER

Pioneer High School Principal

Mrs. Welker was appointed in mid-November following a search that included a stakeholder committee interview process. The committee was comprised of teachers, administrators, non-teaching staff, and parents.

Ms. Welker emerged as the candidate of choice with unanimous support of the committee. Ms. Welker began her career as a teacher at East Aurora High School in 2012.

She came to Pioneer in 2014, first serving the students of the district as a middle school French

teacher for almost three years. She was appointed Assistant Principal of the high school in 2018, where she also served as the Acting Principal from April 2022 through August 2022.

Mrs. Welker is a graduate of SUNY Cortland where she earned her Bachelor's degree. She received her Master's degree from SUNY Buffalo and her administration certification from Canisius College. She has served the district in many leadership roles as an administrator.



JOSEPH CAPPADONIA

Pioneer High School Assistant
Principal

Prior to joining the Pioneer community, Mr. Cappadonia worked out of state at Stafford County Public Schools as an Assistant Principal for five years and then Alexandria City Public Schools as an Assistant Principal for four years.

In total, he has 21 years of experience as an educator in all settings, including classroom experience in Health, Physical Education, and

in athletics as a coach.

Principal Kate Welker said, "Mr. Cappadonia is committed to working alongside the High School and District Administrative team as we continue to provide leadership and build a structure of collaborative relationships in the school and community - so that ALL students have a variety of opportunities to succeed."



MATTHEW LANGWORTHY

Delevan Elementary Principal

Mr. Langworthy spent six years as the Principal of Southwestern Elementary School in Jamestown. Prior to beginning his administrative career, Mr. Langworthy served as a first grade teacher in Rochester, and as a second grade teacher in Jamestown. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from SUNY Fredonia. He earned his School Building Leadership Certificate (SBL) from Fredonia and his School District Leadership Certificate (SDL) from SUNY Buffalo State College.

During the teaching portion of his career, he served as the varsity wrestling coach at Jamestown High School where he earned ECIC Coach of the Year honors, as well as being named the Jamestown Post-Journal Coach of the Year.

Mr. Langworthy was one of 19 candidates to apply for the Delevan Principal position, and one of six semi-finalists to meet with a 24-person committee at Delevan representing all stakeholders in the school community.



RICHARD SPINELLI

**Pioneer Middle School Assistant
Principal**

Mr. Spinelli began working as a teacher aide in 2006, becoming a teacher and behavioral specialist before becoming an assistant principal at the Stanley G. Falk School in 2019.

When he is not at work, Mr. Spinelli enjoys music, traveling, fishing, dancing, playing sports, playing chess, and all things Disney. He lives in West Seneca with his wife Andrea, son Jordan, and daughter Scarlett.

Mr. Spinelli said he is eager to meet all the staff and students and to become part of the Pioneer family.



SERVICE DOG ON THE JOB AT PIONEER

Service animals are trained to perform a task directly related to a person's disability. One Pioneer School District employee has been using a service dog, Pepper, for several months as both navigate a new environment.

Melanie Korzeniewski has been the Assistant Director of Special Education since October. Ms. Korzeniewski, formerly a professional development coordinator with C-A BOCES, also had an 11-year military career.

Pepper, a two-year-old Siberian Husky, is Ms. Korzeniewski's first service dog. Pepper is not only Ms. Korzeniewski's constant companion but also comes to work at Pioneer High School each day and shares her office. Pepper is there for Ms. Korzeniewski's emotional and physical well-being.

While it is commonplace to see therapy dogs in Pioneer's hallways and classrooms, their purpose is much different than a service dog.

"A service dog is unlike a therapy dog in that it is assigned to an individual," Ms. Korzeniewski said. "Pepper went through extensive training to become a service dog. She is task-trained for one person, and that's why we ask that she not be petted or otherwise interact with others."

Pepper wears a vest on the job with multiple warnings that request people to respect that she is working. This is for the dog's safety and her owner's.

Pepper is a psychiatric service dog, meaning that she will alert Ms. Korzeniewski when she perceives her handler's anxiety, panic attacks, or symptoms of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). She can provide deep-pressure therapy and make her keeper aware of emerging trouble signs.

"She can also create a block in a crowd, if she senses that I need space between me and other people," Ms. Korzeniewski said.

She added that she has tried "various kinds of PTSD treatment plans for about 12 years. My doctor suggested a service dog, and Pepper has been a world-changer for me."

Pepper first came to Ms. Korzeniewski as a puppy and started obedience classes

soon after. Next came extensive service dog training, after which Pepper started on the job in September 2022.

"The biggest struggle has been people understanding how to interact with us," Ms. Korzeniewski said. "Many people have yet to learn the difference between a service dog and an emotional support dog or therapy dog. They don't know that the dog has a job to do."

"People should also know that a service dog is permitted to go anywhere the public is allowed to go, just like any other piece of disability-related equipment," she added.

So far Ms. Korzeniewski is happy with her decision to take this step in her treatment. "Pepper has been great. She really has helped me get through the days. When we get home I still have energy, whereas before I had no energy because my body was just reacting so much to different things."

"Pepper is with me in all my meetings; most of the time people don't even know

she's there," Ms. Korzeniewski said. "When we get home, she gets to be a 'normal' dog. When the vest and collar come off and I put her with the other dogs, she has her 'doggy' time. She gets to go outside on her lead and run around for a while. She takes a break."

There is no particular breed that makes a good service dog, nor a certain type of training that fits all. "The dog's temperament is everything, and connection is huge," Ms. Korzeniewski said. "My connection with Pepper is so strong, and she really wants to please me. Having a dog that is in tune with you, her temperament, and your willingness to train—those are the keys."

When people see Ms. Korzeniewski and Pepper out and about, they are welcome to say hi to the dog but refrain from approaching or petting her. "Otherwise, it could be interpreted wrong," Ms. Korzeniewski said. "But we still look forward to meeting everyone and building awareness!"



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHES

Pioneer High School's local scholarship booklet is available to all seniors. The booklet is a collection of applications for various scholarship organizations throughout the school and local community. Scholarships will help to lessen the

impact of tuition costs. There are additional national and New York State scholarships posted on the Pioneer High School Guidance webpage.

Seniors may obtain a copy of the booklet from the Guidance Office.

Pioneer High School would like to thank all local scholarship organizations and committees that continue to offer these opportunities to our students. All applications are due by Thursday, February 16, at 3:30pm.

Please contact guidance counselor Chelsea Buszka (716-492-9338) in the high school guidance office with any questions.

STORYTIME WITH BELLE PART OF 'BEAUTY & THE BEAST'

Pioneer Music Department is presenting Disney's Beauty and the Beast as its annual musical March 10-12.

Young fans are invited to "Storytime with Belle" before each matinee show for Beauty and the Beast. Storytime will start at 1:00 p.m. for ages up to 12. Refreshments and baked goods will be served.

Children attending Storytime will have the

opportunity to take picture with the cast and are encouraged to dress as their favorite princess, prince, or character.

Ticket prices will be announced soon. For any questions, please contact Victoria Tomasulo at (716) 492-9300 ext. 1429 or at phsdrama@pioneerschools.org.

Show dates and times:

Friday March 10 at 7pm

Saturday March 11 at 2pm **Storytime Performance

Saturday March 11 at 7pm

Sunday March 12 at 2pm **Storytime Performance



2023 WINTERFEST STUDENT ART SHOW



Photo caption: Art show photograph taken at Winterfest 2022.

The Pioneer Central Art Department is once again organizing an art show of their students' work at the Arcade Historical Society during Winterfest 2023.

The show is to be held at the Old Fire Hall, 15 Liberty Street, in a spacious hall on the second floor. The building is fully accessible with a ramp and elevator.

The art show will be open on Winterfest Saturday, February 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you cannot make it that day, the show will also be open during the historical society's weekday hours from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., the following Wednesdays and Thursdays in February: 15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd.



ELF ON THE SHELF VISITS DELEVAN

Elf on the Shelf visited Delevan Elementary, spreading joy and mischief!



A SPIRIT BREAK-OUT AT DELEVAN

Delevan Elementary students enjoyed a Spirit Week just before the holidays that included Buffalo Bills swag and Pajama Day.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MARKS WINTER SPIRIT WEEK

Pioneer Middle School's Student Council sponsored a Holiday Spirit Week prior to winter break. Students and staff participated in a variety of dress-up themed days including:

- Mele Kalikimaka Monday (Hawaiian)
- Toasty Tuesday (PJs)
- Wear-It-All Wednesday (holiday accessories) and
- Thermal Thursday (flannels).

In addition, a holiday card drawing and Guess-the-Number of candies in a jar contests took place.

A highlight of the week was a snowy scavenger hunt activity which encouraged students to find individuals in the building who had done specific winter-related tasks.

Even though the spirit week was cut a day short due to the blizzard, the student body and staff had a wonderful time celebrating together!



ARCADE ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL THEME DAYS AND EVENTS 2022-2023

The Student Council at Arcade Elementary School reminds students and parents of the following theme days for the remainder of 2022-23:

February

14th Red/Pink/White Day

3rd Crazy Hair Day

March

3rd Neon Day

17th Green Day (St. Patrick's Day)

April

March 31st No schoolwork day before break - THIS WILL NOT BE ALL DAY, more details to follow!

14th Beach/Hawaiian/Vacation day

May

17th (19th rain date) Outside Day THIS WILL NOT BE ALL DAY, more details to follow!

25th Red/White/Blue Day

June

2nd Sunglasses Day

14th Flag Day

WORLD LANGUAGES NEWS

National French Week - During the first week of November, Middle School French students celebrated National French Week. Students in Mlle Brnik's and Mme Marsh's classes learned about French speaking countries, did activities, and made crafts. For La Toussaint (All Saints Day), students made paper mums. In honor of Canada, students created fun paper bag beavers. Students had the opportunity to hear about Morocco and see souvenirs and photos from Madame Marsh's trip there. Students in 7th grade made colorful felt berets with Mlle Brnik. Lastly, students in 8th grade painted pumpkins with French speaking countries' flags on them. We love celebrating the diversity of the countries that speak French!



Students with Paper Mums: Gabrielle Heckathorn, Leah Jorgensen



Students painting pumpkins: John Noto, Cooper Marrs



Students with Paper Bag Beavers: Carson Matyjasik, Jackson Stafford



Mexican Pinata created by Janae Owens



Mexican Pinata created by Cassandra Moreira-Rivera



Mini Bûche de Noël

World Language Club - On January 6, World Language club held its annual Christmas Around the World celebration. Students learned about Christmas traditions in Mexico and France, along with a traditional French Christmas dessert called a "bûche de Noël". Students then created their own version of a bûche de Noël using a Swiss cake and some edible decorations. They learned about a Mexican Christmas tradition; it is a tradition there for families to gather and bust open pinatas in the shape of stars filled with candy and treats. Students got to make their own personalized version of a traditional Mexican Christmas pinata and fill the center with whatever treats they would like. They had a wonderful time learning about different Christmas traditions from around the world.

BUSY FALL/WINTER FOR PIONEER AG DEPARTMENT & FFA

Bale art, American flag, corn mazes, woodsman contests, apples, dairy, FFA Fruit and Cheese. These are a few of the things that the Pioneer FFA has been up to the first half of this school year.

Homecoming was in September, which for FFA members meant creating bale art. This year they did an American Flag, FFA Emblem and a Pioneer bale. Senior and Junior high members carried the American Flag onto the football field for the National Anthem to kick off the Homecoming game. It was a great way to start off the year.

A month later we hosted the annual Adult Fun Night with the Pioneer Friends For Ag. Parents, students, and other community members got together for agriculture-inspired competitions. These included tractor driving, welding, poultry judging, suturing, flower ID and soil judging. The adults on the teams had a chance to witness activities students do during their agriculture classes and FFA

competitions.

Students visited Alfred State to try out their agriculture skills. We also had the state FFA officers come for a visit and then attended Leadership Workshops at Perry High School. Trevor Hulton and Liz Miller received the highest honor in FFA by receiving their American Degrees. Around Thanksgiving FFA members joined chapters from Springville, Cattaraugus-Little Valley and Cuba- Rushford for a potluck dinner. One of the Ag classes made the mashed potatoes served that night.

Our FFA Fruit and Cheese sale was also a huge success thanks to the support of our community, teachers, and staff.

The Senior High students have had engaging meetings as well. In October they visited the Bliss Corn Maze. We are pretty sure everyone made it out! In November students tried their hands at being a woodsman. In teams of two they competed in crosscut, pulp toss, and log roll. Also, FFA members packaged Christmas

boxes for Operation Christmas Child to send joy to students in need.

The Junior High FFA has also been very active this year. There have been between 50 and 70 students attending every meeting. Students have learned about apples and cider and dairy products.

Ag classes have also been busy. Students are taking care of our many animals while learning how to maintain and repair both small and large equipment. They are learning welding and metal fabrication which led to sales of signs and decorations for Christmas. Students also made wreaths to donate to local veteran memorials.

As we look to the next few months, FFA is already planning many trips, and students are preparing for FFA leadership contests while planning to attend the Member Leadership Series at the end of January. This spring we will also be selling fresh strawberries from Florida so look for the sale info in the coming month.





BUSINESS LEADERS SPONSORED SCAVENGER HUNT

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) member Alyssa Boldt organized a Holiday Scavenger Hunt at Pioneer High School.

Clues were given over the announcements, and students were to find the green tickets to claim their prizes. The winners received items from the school store.

Winners were Felicia Rhoades, Darius VanCuran, Brody King, and Connor Windsor.

For more information about buying items from the school store or joining FBLA, please contact Mrs. Brush or Ms. Schiener in the High School.



ARCADE ELEMENTARY'S STEAM WEEK IS COMING!

March 6th- March 10th is Arcade Elementary's STEAM week this year. We will be having our STEAM night on March 9th for our families.

STEAM stands for sci-

ence, technology, engineering, art and math. During STEAM week the students will engage in activities in their classrooms and throughout the special areas.

There will be a variety

of learning experiences for all our students, including coding, experimenting and much more. Our STEAM night will have hands-on activities and learning opportunities for all our

families. This week is a great way to bring MORE science into our everyday classroom routines.

STEM CHALLENGE IN CUB HOUSE

Delevan Elementary recently held a STEM challenge in morning Cub House with Mrs. Reisdorf, Mrs. May and Mrs. Kibler. Each team had to build the tallest snowman using only regular marshmallows, mini marshmallows and toothpicks. The winning team was Connor Nicaud and Mason Jones with a snowman that was 17 inches tall as measured by Mr. Brandon and Mr. Jesse of the maintenance staff.



TIES PROGRAM AIMS AT BOOSTING INCLUSION

TIES, or Together Including Every Student, promotes the participation of children/young adults with developmental disabilities in extracurricular and community activities by providing effective support. This support is provided by trained student volunteers.

Pioneer School District is participating in a TIES program based at Pioneer High School. The program helps students participate in extracurricular and community-based activities by providing effective, positive, student-specific support.

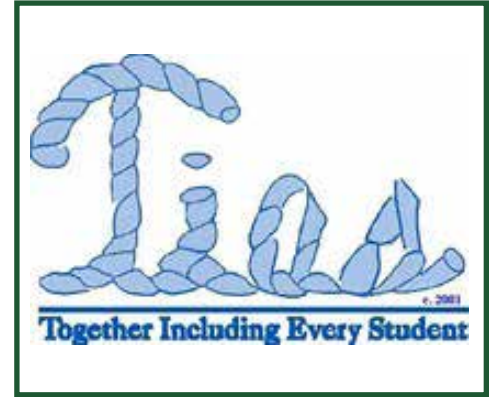
Pioneer is one of over 30 Western New York schools taking part in TIES, which is a program of The Advocacy Center in Rochester

Originally founded by two parents, TIES has grown to approximately 420 participants regionally and over 950 volunteers. TIES provides students with disabilities the opportunity to fully engage in activities that they would have otherwise refrained from joining or done so only with the direct supervision of an adult.

Trained student volunteers from the high school serve as peer mentors to students with developmental disabilities so they can successfully participate in an after-school club, a town recreational program, or a community activity. While volunteers may accrue hours to satisfy the community service requirement for

specific courses, most report that the experience has provided far more.

TIES coordinators at Pioneer include high school teachers Julie Smith and Jessica Lussier.



GREAT CHARACTER PAYS OFF



Delevan Elementary rewarded PBIS Bucket Buck winners for showing great character in the month of December. Students had a holiday cookie decorating session with Principal Matthew Langworthy, School Resource Officer Deputy Trevor Nourse and AV aide Mrs. Sherie Kibler.



COASTER SALE

Pioneer Middle School students of Ms. Victoria Piatek and Mrs. Jennifer Kibler recently delivered an \$81 donation to Mr. Bob Schooley and Pioneer Corps. The money was raised during the students' winter coaster sale.



'FATAL VISION' GOGGLES ENLIGHTEN MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH STUDENTS

Eighth grade Health students at Pioneer Middle School recently used some new Fatal Vision goggles in class. The goggles allow students to feel the simulated effects of alcohol on the body – such as poor coordination, delayed reaction time, and trouble balancing. Students had the opportunity

to take part in several activities such as shooting hoops, walking a line on the floor, playing catch, and racing RC cars through a course. Students reported feeling dizzy, clumsy, and overall foolish when trying to complete the tasks, but they also said it was a lot of fun!

The set of five Fatal Vision goggles were purchased through a New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AHPERD) Foundation grant won by Health teacher Brandi Pettit and are valued at over \$1,100. Miss Pettit accepted the award at

the state AHPERD Conference in November, where she was also recognized as the 2022 Western Zone Amazing Person Award winner. Last spring Miss Pettit was also selected as the 2021-2022 Western New York Health Teacher of the year.



SCHOLASTIC CHALLENGE

Pioneer High School once again fielded a team for CABOCES' Scholastic Challenge, held Dec. 3 at the Career Tech Center in Olean.

Pioneer, advised by Mrs. Sarah Wood, had a Junior team consisting of Elijah Bookmiller, Merrick Golombek, Aaliyah Brandel, and Autumn Sampson.

The first Senior Team consisted of Makayla Benz, Ayden Rose, Karlina West, and Brynn Kolasinski. A second Senior Team was made up of Evelyn Salzler, Lily Milligan, Elizabeth Stahl and Helen Schneider

Mrs. Wood reflected, "The Junior team did place third among the teams at competition. They all learned a lot. It is always difficult for students who are new to the program to grasp the compe-

tion until they actually experience it. "I have several students who have been in the group for multiple years,

while some were brand new to the club. We have had the competition every year except 2020," Mrs. Wood said.



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ALL HANDS ON DECK AT ARCADE

Pioneer at Arcade Elementary has begun implementing a new instructional tool that engages all the staff members in the building. Students in kindergarten are assigned an adult to work on letter and sound recognition. The students work with the adult for ten minutes each day playing letter games, flash cards and much more. The goal is to get “all hands-on deck” in the area of reading. By engaging all students and staff in our reading goal we are enriching the literacy life of all our learners.