



THE SILVERLINER

Silver Creek Central School District

www.silvercreekschools.org

Winter 2021

716) 934-2603

A Message From The Superintendent

Dear Silver Creek Community,

As we near the end of the first semester of the highly unusual 2020-2021 school year, I am very excited to update you regarding our progress as a district. I begin by empathizing with all of you as the great times of uncertainty, unusual and non-traditional schooling continue as a result of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. I am inspired by the unity and willingness of everyone to work together through the difficult and sometimes controversial issues we face, while making decisions on “what is best for students”. I am well aware that the stress, anxieties and emotions run high from adults, staff, community members, and students. I want to convey that the school district remains here, as a solid foundation, to assist you, your families, and your children by providing physical, social, emotional and academic support. There have been numerous times we have all felt fatigued and overwhelmed, but I know the school district remains a solid force to champion a vision and programming to best meet the needs of our virtual, hybrid and in-person learners.



I will be the first to admit there have been missteps, miscalculations, and many rocky roads as we have navigated previously uncharted territory over the past year. For the first time in history, we have been forced to offer fully remote learning, provide hybrid learning models, and/or provide in-person instruction while wearing masks, utilizing barriers, following social distancing protocols, screening all individuals entering the district on a daily basis, while trying to continue to provide a solid academic experience. I deeply value the community’s trust, support, and reassurance that you believe in our school, staff, and academic institution to do our best work assisting you, your families, and children.

I remain proud of the hard work of our entire staff to make Silver Creek Schools a warm and positive learning environment for both our in-person and remote students. Even in the present times where teachers may be teaching in-person, fully remote, or a combination of the two (both synchronously and asynchronously), we can all take great pride in the efforts of our teachers to improve curricula, instruction, and assessment. Professional development, reflective thinking, and high-level commitment that challenges us to be better for our students is the driving force as we “never settle” and always strive to be better. Our support staff is amazing, and continues to play an influential role and remains vital in supporting and providing excellent programs and enhanced learning opportunities for students and the successful operations of our school.

We have begun preparing for the 2021-2022 budget. This year, we will face exceptionally difficult fiscal challenges as we prepare a budget that both maintains our fine student programming, support services, and enhanced learning opportunities while also being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers. Rest assured, our Administrative Team will be providing analysis of our expenditures, comparing to our expected revenues as we remain committed to providing the highest quality education for all students whether remote, hybrid or in-person. Further, our Administrative Team remains deeply committed that we will continue to reflect, retool and map an appropriate course as we learn from the past year and prepare for the future. Please monitor the district webpage for current budget workshop announcements and PowerPoint presentations under the Budget section of the District tab.

The Administrative Team continues to work hard implementing their Comprehensive School Educational Plans (CSEP), which support the district wide Comprehensive District Educational Plan (CDEP). Our Administrative Team uses these plans to guide our decision making, to be certain that we remain long-sighted with a vision of continual growth for our student programming and district success. Since last March 2020, we have experienced remote, hybrid and in-person learning combinations. Please know we have adjusted our building level plans to address three areas which support our Board of Education goals:

- **Academic Achievement:** Identifying and measuring student learning gaps (which may have occurred because of the extended closure) and programming to appropriately support student success.
- **Social Emotional Developmental Health and Well-being:** Emphasize our assistance of students/staff/families to socially and emotionally support individuals as we finish out this unique school year and begin the next.
- **Family Engagement:** Continue to prioritize and reach out, communicating with families using multiple methods of communication.

Continued on page 2

A Message From The Superintendent Continued...

The Silver Creek Board of Education, faculty, staff, and administration would like to extend best wishes for the New Year. We understand and appreciate the trust and support that you give our district on a daily basis. We accept this enormous responsibility by continually striving to educate all students (remote, hybrid, and/or in-person), growing our programming (academic, curricular, character and extracurricular), and developing each and every child to be the best they can be.

We remain committed to enhanced communication, progressing methodically and transparently, under the decision making of "what is best for students" within the structural parameters we have available to us.

In closing, we remind you that, **"We are all in this together and together we will get through this"**.

Sincerely,

Todd A. Crandall
Superintendent of Schools

**"Silver Creek Central School District builds bridges with students
linking today's learning to tomorrow's possibilities."**



A Message From The Elementary School Principal

Happy New Year! I hope that your family had a relaxing and safe holiday season. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this difficult time. To say that this school year has been anything but normal would be an understatement, but we are appreciative of your partnership with us. While our classrooms look different and our year has been strange in many ways, we continue to support and nurture your child as we always have.

Engagement in Learning - Attendance has always been a cornerstone of a child's success in school. It is simple; the more a child is in school, the better they perform academically, the fewer behavioral concerns they have and the more socially adjusted they are. This still remains true whether your child is participating in-person or virtual school every day. Attendance is critical to your child's success. Please send your child to school every day unless they are ill. For our virtual students, attendance can better be described in terms of engagement. That is: all children should participate in virtual learning by participating in live instructional times and completing all activities as they are assigned by their teacher every day.

As parents of our students, you are the most important person in their lives and we appreciate your partnership with us during this time. Communication is an integral part of this relationship and we welcome your feedback and communication.

Thank you and best wishes on a wonderful New Year.

Gratefully- Your Partner in Education,

Sterling Stearns
Elementary Principal
sstearns@silvercreekschools.org
(716)934-2603 ext. 1101



1 COVID-19 PARENTING One-on-One Time

Can't go to work? Schools closed? Worried about money? It is normal to feel stressed and overwhelmed.

School shutdown is also a chance to make better relationships with our children and teenagers.
One-on-One time is free and fun. It makes children feel loved and secure, and shows them that they are important.

Set aside time to spend with each child

It can be for just 20 minutes, or longer – it's up to us. It can be at the same time each day so children or teenagers can look forward to it.



Ask your child what they would like to do

Choosing builds their self confidence. If they want to do something that isn't OK with physical distancing, then this is a chance to talk with them about this. (see next leaflet)

Ideas with your baby/toddler

- Copy their facial expression and sounds
- Sing songs, make music with pots and spoons
- Stack cups or blocks
- Tell a story, read a book, or share pictures



Switch off the TV and phone. This is virus-free time

Ideas with your teenager

- Talk about something they like: sports, music, celebrities, friends
- Cook a favorite meal together
- Exercise together to their favorite music

Ideas with your young child

- Read a book or look at pictures
- Make drawings with crayons or pencils
- Dance to music or sing songs
- Do a chore together – make cleaning and cooking a game
- Help with school work

**Listen to them, look at them.
Give them your full attention.
Have fun!**

For more information click below links:

Parenting tips from WHO

Parenting tips from UNICEF

In worldwide languages

EVIDENCE-BASE



The word COVID is coined by the US Dept of Health and Human Services and used with permission. Dept of Health Dept is not an endorsement by WHO or any of the partner's product, service, or enterprise.

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2 COVID-19 PARENTING

Keeping It Positive

It's hard to feel positive when our kids or teenagers are driving us crazy. We often end up saying "Stop doing that!" But children are much more likely to do what we ask if we give them positive instructions and lots of praise for what they do right.

Say the behaviour you want to see

- Use positive words when telling your child what to do; like 'Please put your clothes away' (instead of 'Don't make a mess')

It's all in the delivery

- Shouting at your child will just make you and them more stressed and angrier. Get your child's attention by using their name. Speak in a calm voice.

Praise your child when they are behaving well

- Try praising your child or teenager for something they have done well. They may not show it, but you'll see them doing that good thing again. It will also reassure them that you notice and care.



Get real

- Can your child actually do what you are asking them? It is very hard for a child to keep quiet inside for a whole day but maybe they can keep quiet for 15 minutes while you are on a call.



Help your teen stay connected

- Teens especially need to be able to communicate with their friends. Help your teen connect through social media and other safe distancing ways. This is something you can do together, too!

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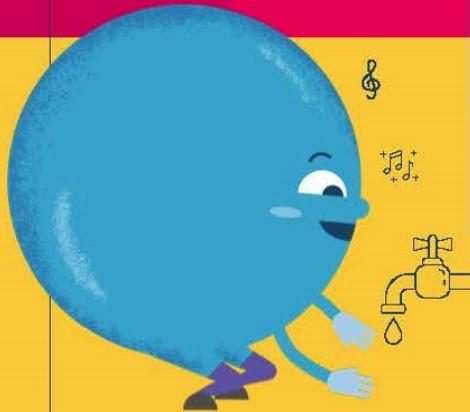
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3 COVID-19 PARENTING Structure Up

COVID-19 has taken away our daily work, home and school routines. This is hard for children, teenagers and for you. Making new routines can help.

Create a flexible but consistent daily routine

- Make a schedule for you and your children that has time for structured activities as well as free time. This can help children feel more secure and better behaved.
- Children or teenagers can help plan the routine for the day – like making a school timetable. Children will follow this better if they help to make it.
- Include exercise in each day - this helps with stress and kids with lots of energy at home.



You are a model for your child's behavior

- If you practice keeping safe distances and hygiene yourself, and treat others with compassion, especially those who are sick or vulnerable – your children and teenagers will learn from you.

Teach your child about keeping safe distances

- If it is OK in your country, get children outside.
- You can also write letters and draw pictures to share with people. Put them up outside your home for others to see!
- You can reassure your child by talking about how you are keeping safe. Listen to their suggestions and take them seriously.

Make handwashing and hygiene fun

- Make a 20-second song for washing hands. Add actions! Give children points and praise for regular handwashing.
- Make a game to see how few times we can touch our faces with a reward for the least number of touches (you can count for each other).

At the end of each day, take a minute to think about the day. Tell your child about one positive or fun thing they did.

Praise yourself for what you did well today. You are a star!



For more information click below links:

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In worldwide languages

EVIDENCE-BASE



The World Bank is a member of the World Health Organization and is committed to supporting countries to improve their health systems and reduce the burden of disease.

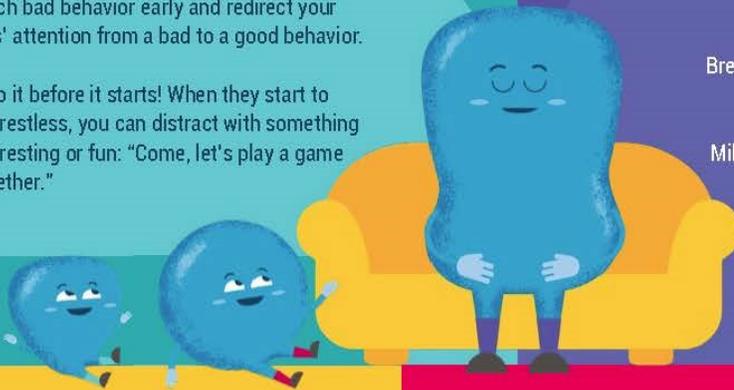
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4 COVID-19 PARENTING Bad Behavior

All children misbehave. It is normal when children are tired, hungry, afraid, or learning independence. And they can drive us crazy when stuck at home.

Redirect

- Catch bad behavior early and redirect your kids' attention from a bad to a good behavior.
- Stop it before it starts! When they start to get restless, you can distract with something interesting or fun: "Come, let's play a game together."



Take a Pause

Feel like screaming? Give yourself a 10-second pause. Breathe in and out slowly five times. Then try to respond in a calmer way.

Millions of parents say this helps - A LOT.

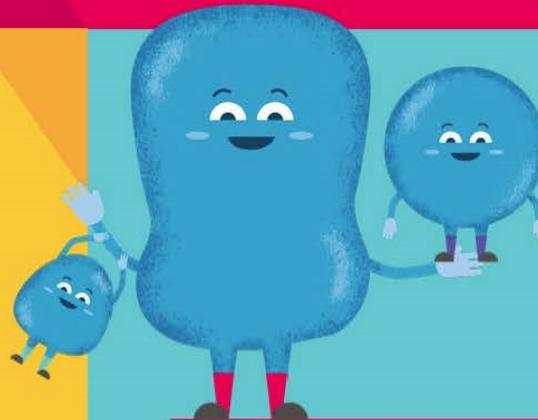
Use consequences

Consequences help teach our children responsibility for what they do. They also allow discipline that is controlled. This is more effective than hitting or shouting.

- Give your child a choice to follow your instruction before giving them the consequence.
- Try to stay calm when giving the consequence.
- Make sure you can follow through with the consequence. For example, taking away a teenager's phone for a week is hard to enforce. Taking it away for one hour is more realistic.
- Once the consequence is over, give your child a chance to do something good, and praise them for it.

Keep using Tips 1-3

- One-on-One time, praise for being good, and consistent routines will reduce bad behaviour.
- Give your children and teens simple jobs with responsibilities. Just make sure it is something they are able to do. And praise them when they do it!



For more information click below links:

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unicef
for every child



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5 COVID-19 PARENTING Keep Calm and Manage Stress

This is a stressful time. Take care of yourself, so you can support your children.

You are not alone

Millions of people have the same fears as us. Find someone who you can talk to about how you are feeling. Listen to them. Avoid social media that makes you feel panicked.

Take a break

We all need a break sometimes. When your children are asleep, do something fun or relaxing for yourself. Make a list of healthy activities that YOU like to do. You deserve it!

Listen to your kids

Be open and listen to your children. Your children will look to you for support and reassurance. Listen to your children when they share how they are feeling. Accept how they feel and give them comfort.



Take a Pause

1-minute relaxation activity that you can do whenever you are feeling stressed or worried

- ▶ **Step 1: Set up**
 - Find a comfortable sitting position, your feet flat on the floor, your hands resting in your lap.
 - Close your eyes if you feel comfortable.
- ▶ **Step 2: Think, feel, body**
 - Ask yourself, "What am I thinking now?"
 - Notice your thoughts. Notice if they are negative or positive.
 - Notice how you feel emotionally. Notice if your feelings are happy or not.
 - Notice how your body feels. Notice anything that hurts or is tense.

- ▶ **Step 3: Focus on your breath**
 - Listen to your breath as it goes in and out.
 - You can put a hand on your stomach and feel it rise and fall with each breath.
 - You may want to say to yourself "It's okay. Whatever it is, I am okay."
 - Then just listen to your breath for a while.
- ▶ **Step 4: Coming back**
 - Notice how your whole body feels.
 - Listen to the sounds in the room.
- ▶ **Step 5: Reflecting**
 - Think 'do I feel different at all?'
 - When you are ready, open your eyes.

Taking a Pause can also be helpful when you find your child is irritating you or has done something wrong. It gives you a chance to be calmer. Even a few deep breaths or connecting with the feeling of the floor beneath can make a difference. You can also Take a Pause with your children!

For more information click below links:

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EVIDENCE-BASE



The word "COVID" coined by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services and is part of the nomenclature. See the link below for an explanation of how it was developed. COVID-19 is not a disease, it is a virus. COVID-19 is the name of the particular genetic sequence of the virus.

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6 COVID-19 PARENTING

Talking about COVID-19

Be willing to talk. They will already have heard something. Silence and secrets do not protect our children. Honesty and openness do. Think about how much they will understand. You know them best.

Be open and listen

- Allow your child to talk freely. Ask them open questions and find out how much they already know.

Be honest

- Always answer their questions truthfully. Think about how old your child is and how much they can understand.

Be supportive

- Your child may be scared or confused. Give them space to share how they are feeling and let them know you are there for them.

It is OK not to know the answers

It is fine to say "We don't know, but we are working on it; or we don't know, 'but we think'." Use this as an opportunity to learn something new with your child!



Heroes not bullies

Explain that COVID-19 has nothing to do with the way someone looks, where they are from, or what language they speak. Tell your child that we can be compassionate to people who are sick and those who are caring for them.

Look for stories of people who are working to stop the outbreak and are caring for sick people.

There are a lot of stories going around

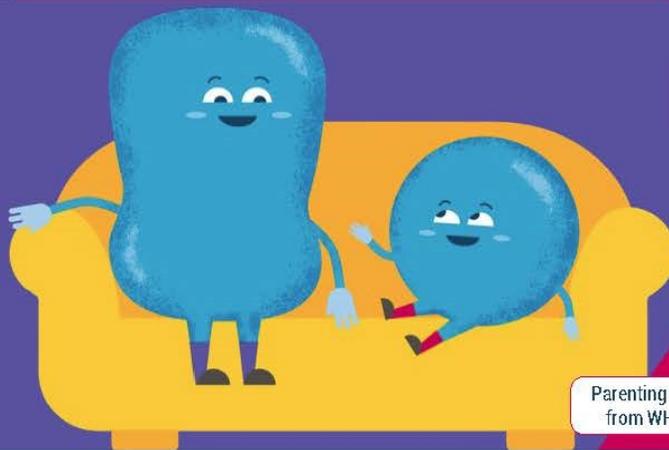
Some may not be true. Use trustworthy sites:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public> and

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19> from WHO and UNICEF.

End on a good note

Check to see if your child is okay. Remind them that you care and that they can talk to you anytime. Then do something fun together!



For more information click below links:

Parenting tips from WHO

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CLASS RULES



stay home if
you feel sick



6 FT



keep 6 ft
from others



wash your
hands with
soap and water



use hand sanitizer
if you can't wash
your hands



cough or sneeze into a
tissue or use your elbow.
clean your hands after.

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Silver Creek Central School District has once again partnered with FeedMore Western New York and is participating in the Backpack Program this school year. Each Friday, students in **grades PK-8** who have enrolled in this program are provided with a bag of nutritious, non-perishable food to be eaten over the weekend. The food is discreetly placed in the child's backpack at the end of the school day to be brought home, or available for pick up on Fridays for our remote learners. It is provided free of charge and does not affect a family's eligibility for other food assistance programs such as SNAP, WIC, or food pantry access.

If you would like your child to be considered for enrollment in this program, please contact School Social Worker Karielle Case at 934-2603 ext. 4994.



Emergency Cancellations/Delays

School closings/cancellations will be posted at www.silvercreekschools.org and also announced our Facebook and these media outlets:

TV Stations:

WGRZ-TV Channel 2
WIVB-TV Channel 4
WKBW-TV Channel 7
Spectrum Cable News

Parents and staff are reminded that **Parent Broadcast is intended to be a courtesy call only, not the first line of communication to announce school closings and cancellations.**

Radio Stations:

WDOE 1410 AM
WBKX 96.5 FM
WJTN 1240 AM
WWSE 93.3 FM
WKSX 1340 AM
WHUG 101.9 FM
WQFX 103.1 FM
WBUF 92.9 FM
WBLK 93.7 FM
WECK 1230 AM
WJYE 96.1 FM
WYRK 106.5 FM
WBEN 930 AM
WTSS 102.5 FM
WKSE 98.5 FM



If the District utilizes a one or two hour delay on a poor weather day, this means the morning transportation should be one or two hours later than the normal pick up time (ex. 8:35 pickup instead of 7:35 for a one hour delay). The end of day release time remains the same.



The tax code for Silver Creek residents when filing out State income tax returns is 587.



Elementary Citizenship Awards



Lucy Pecoraro – Grade 1



Madelyn Buczkowski – Grade 3



Leah Mays – Grade 5



Samantha Timmerman – Grade 4



Karianne Zeller – Citizenship on the Bus



District residents with a child who will be 4 or 5 years old by Dec. 1, 2021, are welcome to register by visiting the Elementary Office on March 4th at the times listed below. The enrollment process takes about 30 minutes to complete. Parents/guardians will receive enrollment packets and must bring in a valid government issued photo ID as proof of identity, birth certificate of the child, and proof of residency.

March 4, 2021

9am-11am

1pm-3pm

4pm-6pm



A Message From The Middle School Principal

Happy New Year! Although this year looks different from the past, we have been able to continue instruction in-person and remotely. The staff and students have been doing a tremendous job navigating the learning in many different ways. However, as we head to the second semester, remind your child(ren) that it is important that they attend all classes and complete their assignments. Below is a tentative schedule of events scheduled from January 2021-June 2021. This is subject to change, so visit the Middle School website for current and updated events.

Event	Date
Second Quarter Grades close	January 29, 2021
Early Release Dates: 11:00 AM Dismissal	January 29, February 26, and March 5, 2021
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)	January 18, 2021
Mid-Winter Recess (No School)	February 15-February 19, 2021
VIRTUAL Parent/Teacher Conferences	February 26, 2021 12:00-3:00 PM March 4, 2021 4:00-7:00 PM
Superintendent's Conference Day (No School for Students)	March 19, 2021
Spring Recess (No School)	April 2-April 9, 2021 Classes resume April 12, 2021
Third Quarter Grades close	April 16, 2021
NYS ELA Assessment	April 22-23, 2021
NYS Math Assessment	May 4-May 5, 2021
NYS Science Performance Assessment Grade 8 ONLY	June 2, 2021
NYS Science Written Assessment Grade 8 ONLY	June 7, 2021
Last Full Day of Classes	June 15, 2021
Final Exams: There are no make-ups for final exams. These exams are required.	June 16-22, 2021
Moving Up Day Grade 8 only	June 23, 2021 @ 9:00 AM

Thank you to all our families for your continued support as we venture into the second semester.

Warmly,
Eleanor Payne
Middle School Principal



Head Lice Prevention & Control

Head lice are spread most commonly by direct head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact. However, much less frequently they are spread by sharing clothing or belongings onto which lice have crawled or nits attached to shed hairs may have fallen. The risk of getting infested by a louse that has fallen onto a carpet or furniture is very small. Head lice survive less than 1–2 days if they fall off a person and cannot feed; nits cannot hatch and usually die within a week if they are not kept at the same temperature as that found close to the scalp.

The following are steps that can be taken to help prevent and control the spread of head lice:

- Avoid head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact during play and other activities at home, school, and elsewhere (sports activities, playground, slumber parties, camp).
- Do not share clothing such as hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, hair ribbons, or barrettes.
- Do not share combs, brushes, or towels. Disinfest combs and brushes used by an infested person by soaking them in hot water (at least 130°F) for 5–10 minutes.
- Do not lie on beds, couches, pillows, carpets, or stuffed animals that have recently been in contact with an infested person.
- Machine wash and dry clothing, bed linens, and other items that an infested person wore or used during the 2 days before treatment using the hot water (130°F) laundry cycle and the high heat drying cycle. Clothing and items that are not washable can be dry-cleaned OR sealed in a plastic bag and stored for 2 weeks.
- Vacuum the floor and furniture, particularly where the infested person sat or lay. However, spending much time and money on house-cleaning activities is not necessary to avoid re-infestation by lice or nits that may have fallen off the head or crawled onto furniture or clothing.
- Do not use fumigant sprays or fogs; they are not necessary to control head lice and can be toxic if inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

To help control a head lice outbreak in a community, school, or camp, children can be taught to avoid activities that may spread head lice.

Provided by: www.cdc.gov

100 Mile Challenge

Submitted by Janet Decker, Teacher

Do you think you could walk/run 100 miles? Several students and staff have taken on this challenge starting January 4, when school resumed from winter break.

Mrs. Decker and her students have been walking regularly in class, as a way to help improve health and boost their mood. Exercise, especially walking, has proven to help maintain a healthy weight, prevent or manage various health conditions, strengthen bones and muscles, improve balance and coordination, as well as improve a person's mood. Mrs. Decker, Mrs. Shumaker, Ms. Knose, and their students started walking to improve their attention and mood during the school day, but when the weather turned cold and the snow started flying, they started walking in the classroom, using various walking programs online to continue their walking routine. Mrs. Decker decided to give the students a challenge, which led other staff members, faculty, family, and friends to join the challenge as well. In total, there are currently 36 people participating. The goal is to reach 100 miles (or more) by June 11, 2021. The hope is to hold a "Victory Mile" on the track in June to celebrate reaching (or hopefully exceeding) their goal. All participants involved are tracking their own miles, as some are walking, while others are running. COVID restrictions have left many people feeling down and sedentary, but the goal of the challenge is to get people up and moving, while improving their health and mood!



Mrs. Decker found a website, which provided incentives for a small monetary fee; most people involved in the challenge have purchased one of these incentives, which allowed them to earn a t-shirt when they complete their miles. If you would

like more information or are interested in joining the challenge, you can send an email to Mrs. Decker at jdecker@silvercreekschools.org. If you walk just one mile every day, you will have 365 miles in one year, imagine how much happier and healthier you can feel! Happy Walking (or Running)!



Girl Scouts Make Donation to SCCS Family and Consumer Science Classroom

Submitted by Katie Gard, 9th Grade

We'd like to give a big shout out to Girl Scouts Emily Bowers and Stephanie VanCheri for their work in completing their Girl Scout Silver Project. After much discussion, these two young ladies decided that they would pay tribute to Silver Creek's FACS department and teacher, Mrs. Huff and raise funds to supply the FACS room with brand new appliances and equipment. The inspiring and impactful fundraising efforts of these two students made an incredible mark on the FACS department, allowing students to receive the best education possible in an area that is often overlooked. Mrs. Huff says "she felt touched and like she made a difference in their lives that they believed the skills she is teaching had value. In fact, she says she was very proud to hear they use the sewing skills and cooking skills to help them raise the funds for her classroom. Every teacher wants to know they made a difference in someone's life and she can see the difference she made for Emily and Stephanie, but she says she hopes they realize how much of a difference they made in hers. We would like to thank Emily and Stephanie for their hard work and express our profound appreciation for Mrs. Huff and her department. Great job, Knights!



We're on Facebook!

Follow the official Silver Creek Central School District page for news, updates, event information and more!



www.facebook.com/SilverCreekCSDOfficial

In October 2020, Silver Creek High School senior Amanda Roth completed her Girl Scout Gold Award. She was able to raise \$2,400 to provide much needed medical equipment to the Mercy Hospital NICU. Amanda planned and executed a fun, pandemic style Roaring 20s fundraiser at Cabana Sam's where she brought in members of Key Club, NHS, and other community members to provide a fun evening of delicious treats and entertainment.



Key Club volunteers in the photo booth



Amanda Roth with Senator George Borrello and his wife Kelly, owners of Cabana Sam's



2020 National Honor Society Induction

The 2020 inductees are: Genevieve Balestrieri, Sincere Becker, Jade Bouvier, Tessa Brunner, Katie Castiglia, Alyssa Castle, Ethan Cross, Savannah Delmonte, Riley Herling, Amanda Ippolito, Tesa Karcz, Hunter Larson, Lacey Milius, Yanna Mott, Kali Parks-Ressler, Alivia Penman, Emily Purdy, Abigail Rice, Tabitha Shevlin, Kiara Zayas (pictured above).

Veteran NHS members are: Joseph Bowers, Danaceus Maybee, Samuel Braidich, Ella Monaco, Mikayla Clark, Kylie Procknal, Juliana Flick, Adriana Rosati, Owen Hastings, Amanda Roth, Kassidy Herspold, Bailey Watroba, Kaytlyn Killock

A ceremony was held in January to welcome the new members. Attendance was limited, so the event was live streamed on the District Facebook page. Veteran members each prepared a gift basket to present to a new member, and the advisors arranged a socially distanced delivery of the gift baskets along with custom made NHS cookies. Advisors Kristen Foley and Carolyn Laurenzi-Timmerman could not be more proud of all the NHS members.

A Message From The High School Principal

Silver Creek High School Families:

"It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get back up."

~Vince Lombardi
Hall of Fame Coach for the Green Bay Packers



Dare I suggest that we have all been knocked down since March 13, 2020? The first four and a half months of the 2020—2021 school year can be looked at from two very different perspectives. We can focus on the global pandemic that continues to cause us pain, or we can look back to September, when we welcomed back our students to the high school, for the first time since March 13th. Are we still knocked down? Or have we gotten back up? Maybe it's a little bit of both...

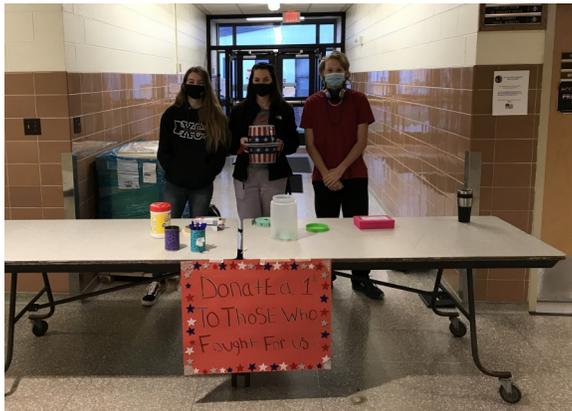
For a school year that has been incredibly difficult, our staff and students have demonstrated a tremendous amount of resiliency and perseverance. It is no longer a foreign concept to discuss technological pieces like Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Our students roll out of bed a couple of times a week, not to hop on a bus, but to hop into a virtual classroom, where a teacher works to balance a group of students physically present, while not forgetting about another group of students, that might still be in bed.

Throughout this difficult time, one thing that has become abundantly clear is the need for human interaction in the educational setting. Our kids need it, and the adults need it just as much. It has put a strain on our ability to properly educate all our students. Staff, students, and parents will have to continue to work together to make sure our current situation is positive and productive. Please keep in mind we are continuously monitoring and supporting your son or daughter's social and emotional well-being. As we approach the last half of the year, students and parents need to understand that not all is lost, and we are here to pick you up and assist in anyway possible to make this school year a success.

Although the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) has cancelled Regents exams in January, there has not been a cancellation of the June exams. This is why it is incredibly important for families to either continue their active participation in their child's education or they need to renew their commitment and reengage in their child's education.

I hope this correspondence finds everyone managing as best they can and although we are still weaving our way through a difficult time, the staff members in the high school are here to help in any way that we can.

Thomas M. Buczkowski
High School Principal



Government Class Holiday Service Project Submitted by Kristen Foley, Teacher

The 12th grade government class at Silver Creek High School works hard every year to complete its annual holiday project through the Adopt-a-Veteran program of WNY Heroes, a nonprofit that assists military families in need.

Despite the challenges brought to their everyday lives by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, these senior Black Knights were committed to giving back to the community during a time of uncertainty. But they had to get creative: Instead of the usual \$1 hat day and bake sale they facilitated to raise funds in the past, the Class of 2021 organized "dress for the cause" days: patriotic day and pajama day. They designed flyers and posted reminders on social media to encourage the high school student body to support the effort.

Combined with generous donations from staff throughout the district, the seniors reached their goal and were able to purchase items for a local veteran family to help make their holiday season a little brighter.





SCCS PTSA NEWSLETTER



Winter 2021

Check us out on FB: Silver Creek PTSA

We're on the web! www.silvercreekschools.org Go to: District Info > PTSA

Our Mission

By working as a TEAM, we believe parents, teachers, and students together can make our school the best it can be.

2020-2021 Administrative TEAM

President:

Michele Grisanti

Vice President:

Shannon Aures Karcz

Secretary:

Vacant

Membership Secretary:

Coren Fote

Treasurer:

Melissa Matney

Volunteer Coordinator:

Amanda Austin

Please consider becoming a member of our PTSA! The application is on the District website. We need to maintain a certain number of members to keep our NYS charter active. Being part of the PTSA gives us access to many benefits including an affordable rate for necessary insurance to run our events.

Santa's Secret Shop- Pandemic Style!

With the sudden switch to virtual just before Christmas, the PTSA worked quickly to allow our students the opportunity to still shop safely for their loved ones. Thank you to Guarcello's Plumbing and Heating for offering up their warehouse space so we could provide open air, socially distanced shopping. Thank you to the many volunteers who worked at the event, including parents and Key Club members, along with the families who donated not only all the bags for gift wrapping but also stamped each of them as well. The work for the following year's Santa's Secret Shop begins the day after Christmas each year when volunteers begin shopping and then continues throughout the year as additional items are added, items are sorted, put together, and stored for the big event the following December. The idea behind offering Santa's Secret Shop is to give our students the opportunity to give to others and our PTSA is committed to making the experience amazing for our students and a very good value. In the past, the PTSA tried using a company to provide the shopping experience and we were all so disappointed with the quality of the items that when we brought back the shop we took on the huge task of building the shop from the ground up. Hopefully things will be a little more back to normal next year and we can have our shop back at the school.



2021

Meeting Schedule

All meetings are at 6:30 PM in the HS Cafeteria

- * February 3rd
- * March 3rd
- * April 14th
- * May 5th
- * June 2nd

Childcare is available.

It's never too late to join our team.

Keep saving those Box Tops and/or download the Box Tops App to your phone to scan for easy upload of points to the Silver Creek Box Tops account.



Your PTSA was able to give awesome Black and Gold Silver Creek face masks to all faculty and staff in our district as school began in the fall.

Winter Safety Reminders From The Buildings & Grounds Department



It is the Silver Creek Central School District's goal to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for our students, staff and visitors. With the winter season upon us, we are asking everyone to take an active role in ensuring you, your students, and visitors enjoy the winter season injury free.

Here are some tips to help prevent slips, trips and falls:

- 1) Don't hurry when conditions are likely to be slippery. Make sure you have plenty of time to reach your destination.
- 2) Wear slip-resistant footwear appropriate for weather conditions. Leathered-soled shoes or high-heeled shoes are especially hazardous in the winter. You should change into these shoe types after you have reached your destination (classroom, office, etc.).
- 3) Practice good housekeeping habits. Clean up small spills immediately. Identify bigger ones while you advise maintenance/custodial staff of the condition.
- 4) Check the bottom of your feet every time you enter a building and clean off the accumulated snow and ice using entrance walk-off mats.
- 5) Anticipate hazards as you are walking. If you approach a corner, slow your pace to change your direction of travel. If you think a surface is slippery, use short sure steps instead of longer strides.
- 6) Utilize railings when ascending or descending stairs.
- 7) When getting in and out of vehicles, always keep at least one hand on the handle or grab bar to stabilize yourself if you begin to slip.
- 8) Report snowy, icy or wet conditions as soon as possible to your supervisor or manager so building maintenance/custodial staff can address them in a timely manner.

Have a very safe and enjoyable winter season.



Tips for Parents from the School Health Office

Watch for symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever above 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms.

When to seek emergency medical attention

Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

Jennifer Johnson, RN, BSN
School Nurse
716-934-2603 x 1107



Knights of the Semester

Submitted by Henry Hogg, senior and Mrs. Laurenzi-Timmerman, Teacher

This year, our high school character committee is more focused on the social-emotional well being of our students, and due to COVID regulations, we have not been holding character assemblies as normal. The committee hopes to start recognizing students again come the second semester in the high school. Until then, though, the school newspaper, The Knightly Press, has decided to nominate students for the first semester for a strength we feel is important. With this year being so different than any other, the strength is "hard-working." The student Knights of the Month for "hard-working" are sophomore, Matthew Woleben, and senior, Emma Romanik. Matthew was nominated due to his involvement in sports. He trains for football and basketball everyday being sure to lift weights and get in his steps. He eats a strict healthy diet in order to stay in shape. Matt is the starting point guard on the basketball team, the quarterback for the football team, and an outfielder for the baseball team. Matt also is hardworking in his academics and takes honors or upper level courses. Senior, Emma Romanik, not only excels academically but also in her extracurriculars. Emma spends her study halls working in order to get her work done and keep up her grades. She is the president of our school's chapter of The National Honor Society. She is also involved in many other clubs and sports while also maintaining an after school job. Emma has already been accepted into multiple colleges. Both of our Knights of the Semester are motivated, have grit, and are good examples to their peers. We are so glad to be able to honor them.

PUBLIC BUILDING USE REQUESTS

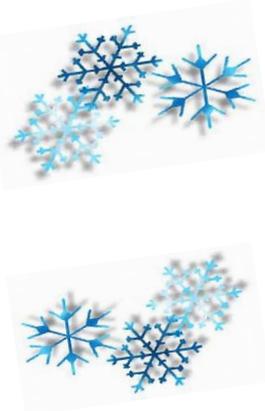
Due to COVID 19, public use of the facilities is not permitted at this time. The building is closed on weekends.



Native American Education Meetings for 2021

Meetings of the Native American Education Committee are open to the public and the community is encouraged to participate. Meetings for 2021 are being held at 5 p.m., virtually until further notice as follows:

- Thursday, February 11
- Thursday, March 11
- Thursday, April 15
- Thursday, May 13
- Thursday, June 10



The Silver Creek Counseling Dept. is committed to providing support to all families within the district. In an effort to increase our accessibility, we are available certain days after traditional school hours to meet with families of students in grades PK-12. During this time, we can provide assistance with:

- Accessing community agencies to assist with food, clothing, housing, etc.
- Accessing and utilizing school and community resources.
- Issues relating to family conflict, parenting difficulties, behavioral difficulties and mental health concerns.
- Crisis intervention.

If interested in making an appointment, please contact School Social Worker Beth Miller at 934-2603 ext. 2991. Thank you!

My Child is Showing Signs of COVID-19 at School: What Do I Do?

Quick Guide for Parents and Guardians

If your child is sick or shows signs of illness, do not send them to school.

1. PICK UP YOUR CHILD



- If possible, pick up your child alone.
- If possible, wait in the car for your child.
- Everyone in the car should wear a mask except for children under 2 years old.
- Open the car windows for ventilation.
- If possible, wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting your car, as that allows more time for the amount of virus in the air of your car to die off.
- If unable to pick up your child, work with your school to identify the best way to safely transport your child.
- Arrange to pick up any of your child's medical supplies (if applicable).

2. KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME AND MONITOR THEIR SYMPTOMS



- Call your child's healthcare provider to discuss whether your child needs to be evaluated and to determine options for getting tested for COVID-19.
- If possible, have the sick child (and anyone else who has symptoms) keep away from others and use a separate bathroom for 10 days. When not able to keep away from others, a mask should be worn by all members of the household.
- After being in contact with someone with COVID-19, it can take up to 14 days to know if you are sick. All members of the household should stay home and avoid contact with others outside of your home. An exception would be going to your doctor if advised.
- Encourage everyone in the household to wash their hands often and avoid sharing personal household items with others (e.g., dishes, cups, towels, bedding).
- Use an effective household disinfectant to clean "high-touch" surfaces and everyday items such as door handles, countertops, and faucets.

3. IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR OR IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING COVID-19



- **If your child tests positive for COVID-19, notify the school.**
- **Your child can return to in-person school only after:**
 - It has been at least 10 days since symptoms started **and**
 - Overall symptoms have improved **and**
 - Your child has had no fever for at least 24 hours (without fever reducing medication).



CS319604-C 11/10/2020

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Substitutes Needed

Silver Creek Central School District has an **immediate need** for the following substitute positions:

- Teaching Assistants
- Certified & Non-Certified Teachers
- Monitors – Cafeteria & Bus
- LPN & RN
- Cleaners
- Bus Drivers—Training can be provided at no cost. Applicants must obtain a CDL 'B' with passenger and school endorsement. Clean license a MUST and pass DOT physical.

Fingerprinting done prior to employment.



Interested candidates should apply through the WNY School Application System <http://www.wnyric.org/> **application** or submit a completed application, Civil Service application, references and certifications to:



Lisa Rohloff, School Business Administrator
Silver Creek CSD
PO Box 270
Silver Creek, NY 14136

Applications accepted continuously

Capital Project 2018 Update

The 2018 Capital Project is 99% complete with the exception of a small amount of work to be completed in the new band vestibule. Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were not able to host an open house to provide tours and highlight certain elements of the completed project. We desire to “show off” some of the items such as the six new elementary classrooms, new elementary entranceway, refurbished elementary multi-purpose room, elementary/middle school courtyard canopy, new carpet/tile flooring throughout the district, new middle school/high school art and technology rooms, auditorium sound and lighting, remodeled special education suite, remodeled middle school office suite, three new bus bays in the transportation department.

Please know we are hopeful that we can host an open house this coming summer 2021 where we can invite students, families, community members and local elected officials into our district to show them the pride and joy that represents all of you as taxpayers. Stay tuned for information this coming spring.



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
2020-2021**

Stephen Boothe, President
Martha Howard, Vice President
Matthew Bogosian
Gregory Cole
Jerry Cross
Marjorie Foxton
Scott Pulver

www.silvercreekschools.org

SILVER CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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