



South Lewis Central School District Newsletter November - December 2022

One District. One Building. One Family.



Celebrating our future. Honoring our past.

**Featuring
New Staff Introductions and
Highlighting the Elementary School**

A Message from Douglas Premo, Superintendent

Dear Parents, Residents, and Community Members:

The 2022-23 school year has begun with a welcome return to fully normal operations of our school district. It has felt different this year in a very positive way. For this our entire school community is thankful, and we are off to a great start.

As we look to the future, the District is currently in the very beginning phases of planning our next Capital Improvement Project. While the District just completed a large and historically significant single-campus project with the addition of a new elementary school, it has been approximately 20 years since a renovation project was focused on the original campus that opened in 1963. Therefore, the main aspect of any upcoming capital project will lean heavily towards improvements to our original, or current middle-high school, part of the building. At this time our State Aid for renovations is approximately 85%. When this State Aid is coupled with the district monies already set aside in a Capital Reserve, it would be our goal to complete any new project with a 0% local tax impact.

As part of this process, we are currently reviewing our Building Conditions Survey and have started meeting with internal stakeholder groups as we work to learn what items should be focused on in the next project. Sometime in late winter or early spring, the District will be holding a Public Hearing to hear from our community as part of this initial planning and information gathering process. If all stays on schedule, a public referendum may be put forth to the voters in the fall of 2023.

Also, as we begin November it is a time of thanks and appreciation. Therefore, I wanted to take time to say thank you to a few groups of people.

First, at the October 18th Board of Education meeting, we took the time to celebrate volunteerism and recognized our South Lewis Board of Education members. Collectively, the South Lewis Board of Education has over 70 years of service. Below is a list of our BOE members along with their years of service.

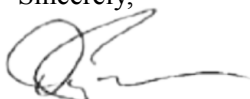
- Andrew Liendecker (President) – 10 years
- Richard Ventura (Vice-President) – 12 years
- Tom Burmingham – 9 years
- Paul Campbell – 23 years
- Jessica Carpenter – 6 years
- Christine Chaufty – 3 years
- Dawn Ludovici – 5 years
- Blake Place – 1 year
- Justin Szucs – 3 years

We also all need to thank the many Veterans who serve and have served our country. School will not be in session on Friday, November 11th in celebration of Veteran's Day. This day is in honor of the countless fine men and women who have made sacrifices to protect our way of life.

Lastly, I would like to thank our School Related Personnel (SRP) staff. This group of support staff does an amazing job and we are lucky to have each one of them. We will formally recognize this group, which includes bus drivers, aides, food service workers, building and grounds staff, and keyboarding specialists among many other titles, on SRP Recognition Day on Tuesday, November 16th. These individuals help to make our school district inviting, safe, and a great place for kids.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season. Stay safe and be well. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any needs, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,



Douglas Premo

South Lewis Elementary Principals' Notes

By Mrs. Christine Sobel & Mr. Chris Villiere

We are off and running with the 2022-2023 school year! In returning to a normal school year, we are excited to welcome more and more people into the school. So far this year, we have hosted an in-person Open House, have sent various classes out on field trips, have hosted the 4th grade cross-country run, have had our first ever UPK-12 PEP Rally, brought back Grandparent's Days, enjoyed our Halloween Parade, and were visited by our local fire departments (Turin, Port Leyden, 3G, Constableville, and Lyons Falls) during Fire Prevention Week. Moving ahead you can expect to see multiple Award Ceremonies, a Holiday Sing Along event, more field trips, in-person Parent-Teacher Conferences, South Lewis Elementary Picnic Day, and more! With the bringing back of these great events, we'd like to express our gratitude for your continued patience as we navigate what each event looks like with a much larger school population.

As both educators and parents, we both understand that many experiences and memories were lost during the pandemic. We will always try our best to offer opportunities of the past and hopefully bring in some new experiences. Each time that we host an event that will be open to the public, we pay close attention to parking access, transition routes and access to the event, seating capacity, student supervision, and much more; all with the end goal of providing our students, staff, and guests with an enjoyable and safe experience. At the conclusion of each event, we ask ourselves.....how can we make it better for the next time?

So, the next time your child is involved in an event at South Lewis that is open to parents or the public to attend, we encourage you to attend. We hope that it will be a most positive experience that will leave a long lasting memory for both you and your child.

As always, we thank you for your continued support as we try to provide the best, most well-rounded education that we can for our children. If you haven't already, please make sure you're connected to Class DOJO, both teacher pages and the school page, as we share as much information as we can via that method! We are looking forward to our best year yet!



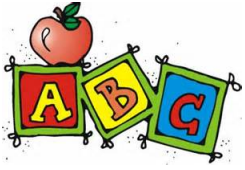
Mrs. Maurer & Mrs. Rowsam

We are having a wonderful start to our year in Pre K and love all our new friends. Everyone is doing a fantastic job learning how to be respectful students. So far this year we have enjoyed making apple cider, and had a great field trip to “The Wild”. A day in our classroom is full of fitness activities, singing songs, interactive centers, stories, math concepts, and a number of hands-on tasks to strengthen our motor skills. In the months ahead we will keep learning through productive FUN !



Apple Cider





Gym Time



New Friends





Ms. Carr and Mrs. Exford

We have had a busy and exciting start to the school year! We are making new friends and loving school.

Through hands-on learning, discovery, play, technology, and teacher-student interaction, the UPK students are excited about their learning experiences.

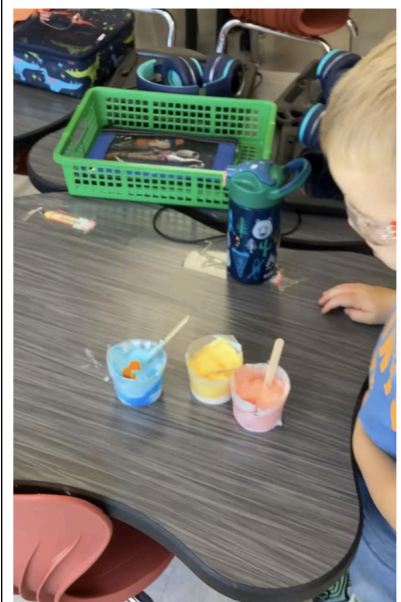
Thank you for sharing your children and allowing us the opportunity to be their first experience at school.



Making New Friends and enjoying our BEAUTIFUL Playground.



Learning about our 5 Senses by making air popped popcorn.



Hands on Science: color mixing



Building "Mat Man"



Learning how to use our scissors and decorating Apples.



Developing Fine Motor Skills: using centers



Creating "Magic" and discovering our initials



South Lewis Elementary Kindergarten

Ms. Battles, Mrs. Bernard, Mrs. Dolan, & Mrs. Brown



Kindergarten is up and running at South Lewis Elementary! The students have worked hard to learn the classroom rules and procedures. We have also made lots of new friends!

We are enjoying our Listening and Learning Domains. Some topics covered during the year will include: Nursery Rhymes/Fables, Stories, Plants, Farms, Native Americans, Kings & Queens, and Seasons & Weather.

In Skills Strand, we have been very busy learning letters, sounds, and blending words. We are working on our handwriting skills. Kindergarteners are writing their names with proper letter formation.

In our upcoming Math Modules, students will learn to order, count and write numbers up to 20, identify and compare 2D and 3D shapes, and to measure objects. Later in the year, we will spend a good deal of time on adding and subtracting with number bonds.

We are looking forward to the rest of the school year. We would like to thank parents for your continued support!





FIRST GRADE



Mrs. Arrigo, Ms. Barber, Ms. Brown,
Mrs. Cornish, Ms. Finley & Mrs. O'Dell

We have had a great start to our school year! We have met so many new friends and have already learned so much this year. During the month of September we worked on building friendships through our character education lessons. We read books like *Chrysanthemum*, *Listen Buddy*, & *Elmer*.

This fall has been busy with various events such as: Bus Safety drills, Open House, School Pictures, a Pep Rally, Grandparents Day & Halloween! We are looking forward to working with your children and watching them grow!



South Lewis Elementary

2nd Grade

Second grade is off to a great start this year! We have 75 bright, eager students that are learning the ropes of a new grade. Our days are spent improving reading, writing and math skills.

In math, our students have reviewed basic addition and subtraction facts and are now learning "tricks" to use when working with bigger numbers. We have also been learning to measure in centimeters and inches.

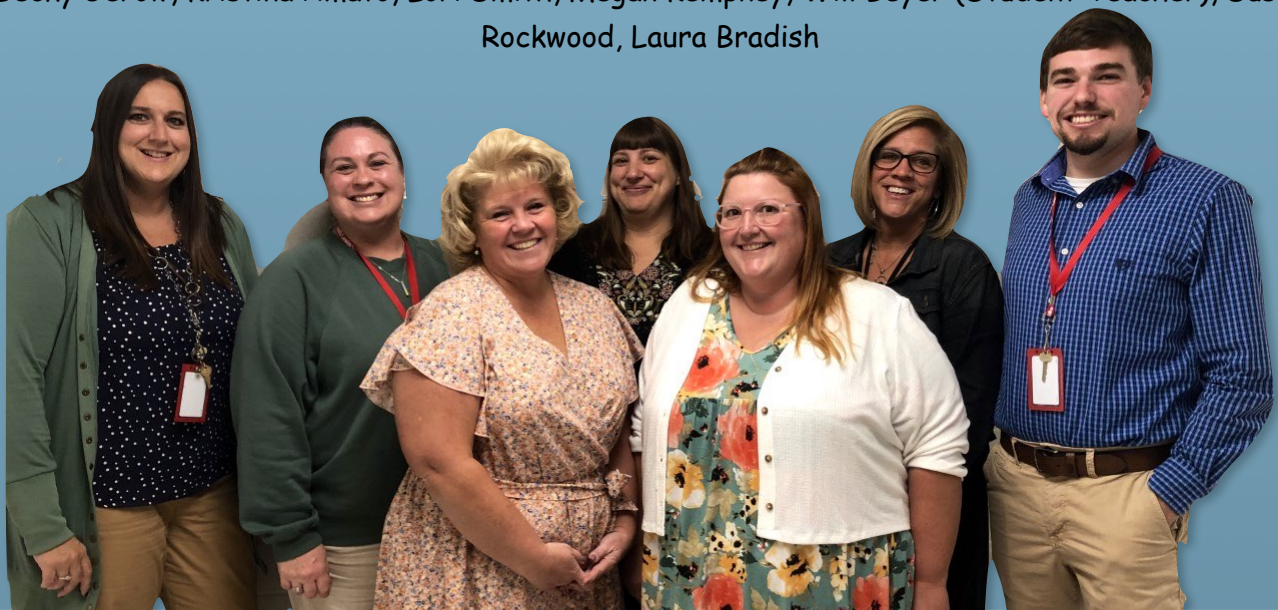
Our second graders have already completed several writing pieces in the short time we've had together. Each child has a journal and is learning to write using the friendly letter format. We have already noticed an improvement in both the neatness of their handwriting and their understanding of how to write a sentence!

Reading is the area encompassing the majority of our day. While learning to read more challenging books, they are also learning to read so that they sound interesting to a listener. We have been stressing to everyone that the only way to improve reading is with practice. Please help your child to become a successful reader by reading with them every day.

In closing, we'd like to thank everyone for all they have done to make the beginning of our year go so smoothly. We look forward to meeting with you at conferences in November and working with your children throughout the rest of the year.

Second Grade Team Members:

Becky Gerow, Kristina Amato, Lori Smith, Megan Kempney, Will Beyer (Student Teacher), Susan Rockwood, Laura Bradish



THIRD grade ROCKS

Mrs. Arthur, Mrs. Markham, Mrs. Peck, and Mrs. Schaefer



Do you know how difficult it is for kids to get books in Finland? Did you also know that in Thailand they have an elephant delivering books, and some countries even have a Biblioburro?! How cool would that be to get books delivered to you by animals?! Our third graders will be learning all about how kids across the world gain access to books. Ask them about some other countries we explored! It made us all feel fortunate to have easy access to books both online and in person at all of our libraries.

Guess what creature is totally see-through? Some weird type of beetle? Nope. A fish or worm? Not even close! It's a glass frog!! This frog is so transparent that you can see inside its whole body and watch its organs at work! It is so cool that our third graders couldn't stop reading and looking at pictures of the glass frog during our ELA unit on frogs. We even flung some elastic frogs while exploring different forces in our Science unit. No need to worry though; no creatures were harmed in any of our experiments!

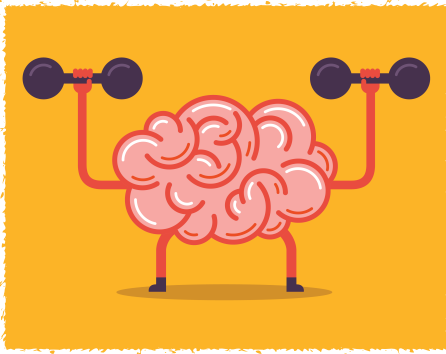


What tool is best suited for math? Multi-pliers!! Haha! We sure need plenty of multi-pliers in our classrooms this year with all the math we're learning! Students have been hard at work memorizing multiplication facts and using their math brains. These mathematicians have become word problem wizards, doctors of division, masters of measurement, and rounding rocketeers!

What else have we been up to? This fall we made some yummy apple cider. It took a lot of muscle strength from our third graders but they sure did have fun doing it. Did you know it takes about 30-40 apples to make just one gallon of apple cider? In the spring we will start a mini-unit on making maple syrup! We are also embracing the opportunity to attend some virtual field trips to enhance our learning! We love "traveling" to see new places and to learn new things!



3rd Grade AIS with Mrs. Abrial and Mrs. Lemieux



Third Grade AIS students have been hard at work this 2022-2023 school year!

We have done lots of math and reading work to help exercise and grow our brains so far this year! In math with Mrs. Abrial, students have been building their fact fluency (memorizing math facts quickly) and number sense (understanding numbers and their relationships, such as how many tens are in 56 and picturing what is happening when you multiply numbers together).

HELPFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS (Encourage your child to...)

MATH

- create dances, songs, or chants to help memorize math facts
- say “3 groups of 6” NOT “3 times 6” for 3x6
- label the parts and whole in word problems and determine what still needs to be found
- draw a picture to help understand math problems
- practice using the RDWW (read, draw, write a number sentence, write a word sentence) strategy when solving word problems

WRITING

- write creative stories or poems
- use challenging words instead of sad (depressed, miserable), mad (furious, perturbed), and happy (delighted, ecstatic)
- when spelling words, stop and think about different letter combinations that make each specific sound (ex: ay and ai make the long a sound); try different combinations and see which one looks correct
- write challenging words from a text and practice spelling, saying, and defining them

READING

- read every night
- break words apart by locating the vowels and determining what sound the vowels will make (if a vowel is at the end of a “chunk”, it will usually say its name and if it’s not at the end, it will usually make the short sound); check to see if the vowels are with another letter to make it say a special sound, like ow, ar, o_e
- draw a picture of what happened in a specific chapter or paragraph
- make inferences (think beyond what the text says) about WHY a character might react or feel a certain way
- find clues/evidence (a sentence or two) in the text to support their inferences
- figure out the problem and resolution in a story
- make inferences about character traits based on a character’s FAST (Feelings, Actions, Sayings, and Thoughts)

Reading with Mrs. Abrial and Mrs. Lemieux

In reading groups, students have been working on their decoding skills (breaking apart and sounding out a word). They have also been learning about how to tell whether a vowel makes its long or short sound, depending on where it is in a word. Remember: The more you practice reading, the better you become at it!

4th GRADE

Mrs. Leichty, Ms. Paulsen, Mrs. Carvel, Ms. Compo, Ms. Lehman, Miss Ossont

Fourth grade has been busy so far this year in their new classrooms. Some of the many things that we have learned about in science are the human body and light & sound waves. The students love using Mystery Science during science. In social studies we have learned about geography, New York Native Americans, and the Revolutionary War. In math, we've been working on place value, measurement, and multiplication. We are using all of these skills to solve multi-step, real life problems. For ELA, we are working on nonfiction text features and story elements. The 4th grade also completed a cross country run and hiked up Bald Mountain. We are having a wonderful and eventful year in 4th grade!





Mrs. Herring's Resource Room

Hello! I am excited for this new year in a new position! We are off to a great start. I work with students from second, third and fourth grade providing them special education services in a resource room setting. Already this year, we have established goals that we want to accomplish ourselves, worked towards our individual education goals, and worked on building foundational skills. We work on a variety of academic tasks, focusing mainly on reading skills, comprehension, writing, and math facts. I am excited to see my group of students progress throughout the 2022-2023 school year!





We are off to a great start in the computer lab this year. Students are picking back up their technology skills and learning new things. They continue to work on:

- Typing Club (K-4); keyboarding/typing lessons. Students are increasing their speed and accuracy.
- Code.org and Kodable- beginning computer programming lessons
- Scratch- 4th grade students create their own "video game"
- All things Google- Classroom, Docs, Slides, Forms
- Digital Citizenship- learning to be safe on the internet and make good choices while using technology.
- Robots- using programming skills to complete tasks with the robots (Bee Bots, Dash, Sphero, Ozobots)
- Mouse skills- kindergarten students are learning how to use the mouse to navigate the computer.



Miss Paluck's Classroom

We have had a busy start to our year so far; we have welcomed a new teacher (Miss Paluck), new students and new aides. We have all adjusted nicely to these new changes and students remembered what to do and got right to work! We started out our year learning and reviewing skills, and discussed rules in our classroom, school and community. We have also learned about Hispanic Heritage month, famous women in history and our rights that our Constitution protects.

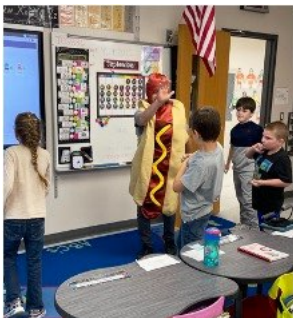
We have also had some fun learning the scientific method and making magic milk, and experimenting with lemons, using our five senses. Students continue to work to improve on their goals in the areas of reading, writing, and math. We still have many topics to cover this year, including, our sun, traditions around the world, history that has changed us, and many more!!

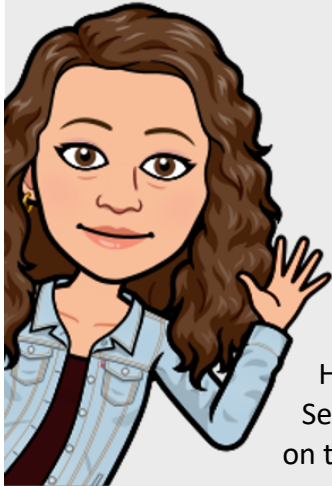


Sticking with our theme to bring happy back we have created lots of new hands-on crafts that reinforce what we are learning about; for example we tie-dyed our hands for the letter T, made cider for the letter C, homemade play-doh for the letter T (smelled like tangerines), and made apple mouths for the letter A as a fun yummy snack! We are also working very hard as a classroom to put together a weekly newsletter so parents, friends and family can see what we are learning and completing each week.



With everything that we have done and learned about we managed to squeeze in some major fun, that was a first; we attended our first pep rally and really enjoyed it, we cannot wait for the next one!!!! Our 4th graders climbed Bald Mountain and we also welcomed back our grandparents for grandparents' day!





Elementary Counseling

Mrs. K. Whalen

Hello South Lewis Families, I hope the start of the year has been a successful one so far. September was Attendance Awareness Month. Students, please remember to show up on time everyday. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces!

The elementary years are a time when students begin to develop their academic self-concept and their feelings of competence and confidence as learners. They are beginning to develop decision-making, communication and life skills, as well as character values. It is also a time when students develop and acquire attitudes toward school, self, peers, social groups and family. Comprehensive developmental school counseling programs provide education, prevention and intervention services, which are integrated into all aspects of children's lives. Early identification and intervention of children's academic and personal/social needs is essential in removing barriers to learning and in promoting academic achievement. The knowledge, attitudes and skills that students acquire in the areas of academic, career and personal/social development during these elementary years serve as the foundation for future success.

I have many exciting lessons and activities planned for the school year, and I look forward to seeing your students in class. Character Education and the Six Pillars of Character is always a major focus with our students. During the first few months of school, character education lessons have focused around feelings and managing emotions, school readiness skills, and respect.

Falcon Friends continues to be a wonderful opportunity offered to students. The goal of this program is to provide a mentor-like relationship for an elementary student with a positive older role model from the high school. Falcon Friend "littles" will have the opportunity to attend an after-school event with their "bigs" in November!

Looking ahead to future events from the Elementary Counseling Department, Kindness Week will take place in the winter and Kidskamp will be in the summer. Kindness Week is a time where we are more intentional with our acts of kindness and your student will have the opportunity to participate in kindness activities throughout the week at school. Have any ideas to spread kindness in the community, at school, or at home? Let me know and I will see if we can incorporate those ideas into our week! Kidskamp is another opportunity offered to our 4th grade students who will be moving up to 5th grade in the fall of 2023. The focus of the program is the importance of having dreams and aspirations and that challenges in life are to be confronted and overcome. This program is offered in the summer and a field trip to Beaver Camp is part of our week!

For more information about school counseling services or any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Whalen by phone, (315) 348-6251 or email, kwhalen@southlewis.org.

Gratitude

From: Mrs. Marino's Room

After the last two and a half crazy years that we have had with the pandemic, I took some time to reflect on what is really important. I know we have had to sacrifice many things during these last two and half years that are important to us. I have seen how this has impacted my own children negatively and brought disappointment to them. So upon doing some reflection, I have decided for my children and myself that instead of focusing on the negative, we are going to have "Gratitude" for the positive things that we have in our lives.

After doing some research I discovered how important the attitude of gratitude is to children. Research studies have shown that grateful children tend to be happier, more engaged with schoolwork and have better relationships. Gratitude also has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety. Finally, it has been shown to increase children's abilities to learn and make good decisions.

Here are some ways to help teach an Attitude of Gratitude to kids:

1) Manners

Teaching children to have manners shows them that we shouldn't feel entitled to things, just because. Teaching children simply to say please and thank-you throughout their day is a good way to teach manners.

2) Make Kindness Automatic

Teaching children to be kind is an important way to teach gratitude. There are so many different ways for them to be kind: giving compliments, helping someone in need, being friendly, donating unused items, volunteering in the community, writing a thank you note, etc...

3) Find the "WOW" in their day

Teach kids to look for something positive that happened during their day or that they did. Encourage them to share these with you.

4) Always look on the Bright Side

Teach kids to have a positive mindset and not focus on the negative things that happen to them. Teach them to turn a negative into a positive.

5) Model Gratitude

Show children how to have an attitude of gratitude by modeling it yourself so they can see it in action. Gratitude goes much deeper than just saying please and thank-you, it's a mindset, one

Gratitude IS THE BEST *attitude*



Welcome back to school from Mrs. Winslow's 15:1 Program

I like to begin the school year with teaching students to have a positive mindset. I use a variety of books and resources to reinforce the concept that learning is important and each of us learn at different rates. Students are encouraged to begin their day by sharing one good thing or something they want to discuss with the group. This has helped us to build positive relationships and show empathy towards each other.

Students are working consistently each day to gain new skills and keep a positive mindset even when new skills are quite challenging. It has been a pleasure to get to know my students on a personal level so they can continue to learn and grow. It would be helpful if students would continue reading at home for at least 20 minutes a day. Parents can ask questions and talk about what has been read aloud. In the area of math, students should practice their basic facts so they can answer questions quicker and solve problems. During my class time, students are taught new skills as well as frequent repetition of skills to help them gain confidence. I have enjoyed the school year so far, and I look forward to continued success!



Elementary Art with Ms. Murrock

Hello, my name is Ms. Murrock and I teach K-4 Art Education at South Lewis Elementary. We have so many talented artists at SLCSO! We have been very busy this year creating lots of Artworks and learning all about the fundamentals of Art. We have been drawing and creating all kinds of Fall leaves as well as learning about the Artist, Georgia O'Keeffe.

In Art class we learn about Art History as well as the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. The students work very hard on their drawing skills through directional drawing activities and also create Art using Process Art. We have a lot of fun creating and making Art in the Art Room and that is what it is all about! Creating Art!

In the Art room we have positive attitudes and support one another in the creation process. We also use Meditative Art and practice ways to quiet our minds or to release some of those big emotions in a positive way through Artwork. A technique that we have been learning about is called Zen Tangle. Zen tangling is doodling repetitive patterns, lines and designs to help us relax. It is a practice that combines both Meditation and Art. We also practice Meditative Art while listening to Shaman Drumming.

We will continue learning and growing as Artists and creating fantastic works of Art! The students will be learning about many more Artists and their techniques as well as developing their own artistic talents. Anything is possible, just one stroke at a time!

"I've been absolutely terrified every moment of my life and I've never let it keep me from doing a single thing that I wanted to do." Quote by Artist Georgia O'Keeffe



Elementary AIS

We use lots of acronyms in education, so what is AIS? That's a great question, so let us try to explain. AIS stands for Academic Intervention Services. It is extra support for students who are having difficulty reaching grade level expectations in the areas of math and/or ELA. Students are selected to receive this support based on teacher recommendations and testing. Parents are informed when their child qualifies for these services. These services can look different depending on the grade level and teacher. Sometimes, the AIS provider works in the classroom alongside the teacher and other times, the AIS provider may work with a small group of students separately. At South Lewis, we are extremely fortunate to have two AIS providers at each elementary grade level. AIS providers are certified teachers who are in close contact with classroom teachers to provide each student with a quality education.

Our AIS teachers at the elementary level are:

Ms. Hoch and Miss Carpenter at kindergarten, Ms. Barber and Ms. Finley at first grade, Miss Amato and Mrs. Smith at second grade, Mrs. Abrial and Mrs. Lemieux at third grade, and Miss Lehman and Miss Ossont at fourth grade. If you would like to know more about AIS, please contact your child's classroom teacher.



Welcome to the South Lewis Elementary Music Room!

With Ms. Chamberlain

We are off to a great start in music classes so far! The following is an update to let you know what we will be working on in music classes this year.

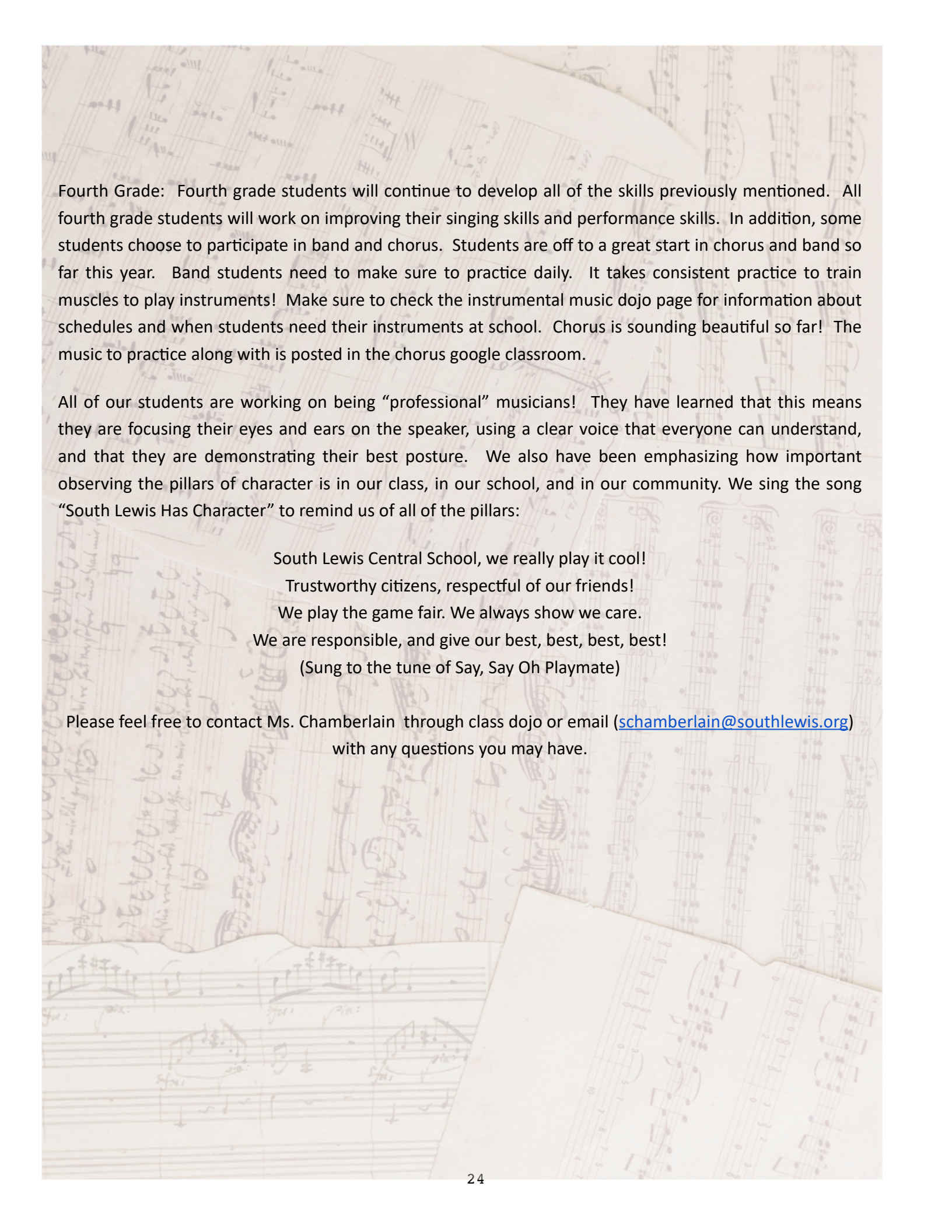
Kindergarten: Students in Kindergarten will be learning the difference between singing voice, speaking voice, whispering voice and shouting voice. Once students understand the concept of singing voice they will learn about pitch direction and working on matching pitch when singing with other students. Students will learn how to keep a steady beat and demonstrate this on rhythm sticks and classroom percussion instruments. They will learn to echo simple melodies and simple rhythms. The kindergarten students will have a busy year learning all of the patriotic songs that we sing together at school. *America, America the Beautiful, The Star Spangled Banner, and Grand Old Flag* are just a few. We will also work on songs like the alphabet song, Twinkle, Twinkle and Mary Had a Little Lamb. We will do listening activities and movement activities to round out our music studies! In addition, kindergarten students are learning about instruments in the different instrument families.

First Grade: In addition to practicing the skills learned in kindergarten, students in first grade will learn to read simple rhythms using quarter notes and eighth notes. They will practice improving their reading skills using classroom percussion instruments. Hopefully, we will be able to get the mallet instruments out this year too! Listening and movement activities are also an important part of first grade music class. They will learn about dynamics (volume) and tempo (speed) as well.

Second Grade: Students in second grade will continue to improve their singing voices while singing in unison, rounds and partner songs. Students will work on their music reading skills while they learn to play mallet instruments like bells and xylophones. They will also start learning about musical “road map” symbols needed to follow along and read sheet music. Some of the “traffic” signs they will learn are coda, repeat signs, first and second endings, D.S. signs and dynamic markings. In addition to working on dynamics and tempo, they will also work on articulation.

Third grade: Third grade students will take their music reading skills to a new level while learning to play more complicated rhythmic patterns and pitches. Third grade students will continue to work on singing voices, following pitch direction they see in written notation with their voices and rhythmic accuracy. Students in third grade will do an in-depth study of the instruments of the concert band at the end of the year. The goal is to help them choose a concert band instrument that they would like to learn to play once they are in fourth grade.

(continued on page 24)



Fourth Grade: Fourth grade students will continue to develop all of the skills previously mentioned. All fourth grade students will work on improving their singing skills and performance skills. In addition, some students choose to participate in band and chorus. Students are off to a great start in chorus and band so far this year. Band students need to make sure to practice daily. It takes consistent practice to train muscles to play instruments! Make sure to check the instrumental music dojo page for information about schedules and when students need their instruments at school. Chorus is sounding beautiful so far! The music to practice along with is posted in the chorus google classroom.

All of our students are working on being “professional” musicians! They have learned that this means they are focusing their eyes and ears on the speaker, using a clear voice that everyone can understand, and that they are demonstrating their best posture. We also have been emphasizing how important observing the pillars of character is in our class, in our school, and in our community. We sing the song “South Lewis Has Character” to remind us of all of the pillars:

South Lewis Central School, we really play it cool!
Trustworthy citizens, respectful of our friends!
We play the game fair. We always show we care.
We are responsible, and give our best, best, best, best!
(Sung to the tune of Say, Say Oh Playmate)

Please feel free to contact Ms. Chamberlain through class dojo or email (schamberlain@southlewis.org) with any questions you may have.

SOUTH LEWIS WELCOMES

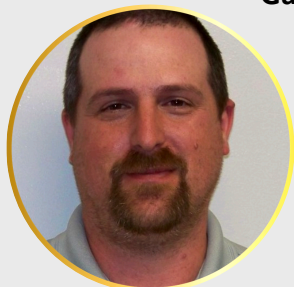


Kristina Amato joins the South Lewis family as a 2nd grade AIS/Resource provider. Kristina has a B.A. in Elementary Education from Long Island University Southampton College and a M.S. in Teaching Students with Disabilities from Long Island University Riverhead. Ms. Amato has 15 years of teaching experience, mainly in Early Education. She loves to garden, read (mainly historical fiction), kayak, travel (including road-trips), bake (she's working on becoming a better cook!), visit Farmers Markets, and is always looking for the perfect cup of coffee! Ms. Amato says that she's very excited to move to this area and be part of the South Lewis family! She's also looking forward to a school year full of laughter, learning, and growth!

Wendy Amidon joined the South Lewis family in September, 2022 as the new teaching assistant in the 15:1:1 classroom. Wendy's career has granted her many opportunities in both education and biological research. Most recently she was a teaching assistant in the Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES at the Midlakes School District where she worked with various special needs students. Wendy and her husband Jake, along with their cat Snoozie, relocated to the Boonville area from Clifton Springs to make their beloved camp their permanent home. They have three grown children, a son Nathan, and two daughters, Natalie and Josiane who have all begun to venture far and wide. In her spare time, Wendy enjoys hiking, camping, reading, playing her guitar, and attending music festivals. Wendy is very excited to be a part of the warm and inviting South Lewis family and hopes to make a great impact on her students here.



Garrett Austin joined South Lewis in April as a building maintenance worker. Garret has lived in the county for his whole life. He has 10+ years of construction experience with heating and plumbing. In addition to this he has four years of building maintenance experience at Lewis County Health Systems. He loves camping with his wife Lucy and two boys as well as hunting and fishing. He is very excited to join this South Lewis family.



Brian Cameron Nelson Jr. joins South Lewis after becoming sidetracked in his studies to be a librarian. Brian is also known as Cameron, a cashier, at a local store, who won't stop harassing his customers. If you're getting confused by the names at this point, you may recognize him from Boonville. Brian is working primarily as a special needs attendant on the Horse bus this year!

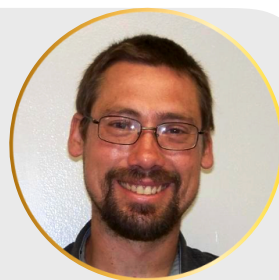


Vera Lucia Canova is South Lewis' new District Clerk and Public Relations/Communication Specialist. Vera comes to us from Madison-Oneida BOCES where she served as a Labor Relations Associate. She, her husband Chris, and three sons, thirteen-year-old Christopher, and nine-year-old twins, Emmett and Ethan, love spending time at home gaming and watching television in the company of their many pets. Vera will be working closely with the Information Technology Department and media to highlight South Lewis' fantastic faculty, staff, and students as well as serve as the Board's District Clerk.

(continued on page 26)



Peter Collins grew up on a farm in Lewis County and attended Faith Christian School. After graduating, Peter worked in construction for six years before changing careers to follow his interest in culinary arts. He has been cooking in area restaurants ever since. Peter enjoys the outdoors, farming, and gardening. We are happy to have him in the Food Service Department at South Lewis.



Andrew Eaves joined the South Lewis Family in September as the new School Safety Officer. He will work in the evenings and attend after-school activities; during the day he helps on his family's dairy farm. Andrew is a 2004 graduate from Lowville Academy & Central School. He was previously employed as a Federal Border Patrol Agent for the United States Department of Homeland Security based in Douglas, Arizona. Andrew lives in Lowville with his wife Amanda, their three sons Zane, Zaid and Zander and her daughters, Riley and Addyson. Their family dogs, Rucio and Raider are Dobermans. He is an avid Syracuse and Dallas Cowboys fan. Andrew is excited to join the Falcon Family and provide safety to the South Lewis School District.

Eric Fynmore worked for 27 years at his family's business, before owning it for 10 years. After the hard decision to close the business, Eric changed careers to drive school bus and train drivers at nearby Adirondack CSD before coming to South Lewis. Eric, a father of four to Jack (19), Avery (15), Kyler (5) and Bennett (2), enjoys growing a plentiful garden and tending to his chickens.



In September, **Tiffany Gregg** joined our staff as a monitor in the middle and high school. Tiffany is a 2008 South Lewis Graduate and has an Associates Degree in Applied Science from Herkimer County Community College. She resides in Lyons Falls with her husband, Andrew and their three beautiful children, Dawson, Demi Jane, and Dallas. She has five years of experience working in a school setting. She was employed by Cayuga Onondaga BOCES in the Moravia School District from 2013 to 2017 as a Special Education Classroom aide for grades k-3. It was in that occupation that she fell in love with working with students and e knew she wanted to do this for a career. She enjoys camping, catching rays at the beach, watching her son play sports and daughter do dance, and mostly just spending time with her friends and family. Tiffany is very excited to be a part of the Falcon Family once again, only this time as an employee and is very thankful for this opportunity to work for such a wonderful school district.

In November, **Hannah Haase** joined the South Lewis Family as an aide in the middle school. Hannah recently moved from Plainfield Indiana, where she worked in special education for 10 years with children K-12. Hannah now resides in Glenfield with her daughter Jayden. Some things Hannah enjoys doing is spending time with her daughter, fishing, hunting, kayaking, and camping. Hannah loves being able to say that she's part of the South Lewis Family and is looking forward to the years to come!



(continued on page 27)



For **Missy Hoch**, this is what retirement looks like! We welcomed Ms. Hoch back as a Teaching Assistant in Kindergarten part-way through the 21-22 school year. Before retiring, she'd actually spent 22 years at South Lewis, teaching 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th grades over the years. In addition to teaching, she likes to spend time at the lake, boating, swimming, and fishing with her grandkids. She enjoys going on trails in the side-by-side, especially in a group with other riders. Ms. Hoch believes we live at an amazing time, when information is right at our fingertips. She loves learning, and is curious about the world around her, whether it be historical, scientific, political, or most any other topic. That curiosity leads her to investigate to learn and understand the world in which we live. Ms. Hoch says, "As a teacher, it gives me great pleasure and fulfillment to share this enthusiasm and knowledge with children. It is the greatest blessing to see a child's eyes light up and their faces beam with excitement and wonder as they learn. To all the parents, and to South Lewis I wish to thank you all for the honor and privilege to serve as an educator in the school district."

This year, **Haley Kaiding** joins the South Lewis family as a permanent substitute. She is currently completing her teaching degree at Utica University. Haley loves spending time with her family - her husband, their two dogs (a German Shepard and a Boxer) - enjoying the great outdoors. They especially love to go hiking and four-wheeling. They also enjoy spending time with their very supportive extended family. Before starting a career in education, Mrs. Kaiding served in the Marine Corps as a diesel mechanic for four years. This summer she taught Earth Science at summer school. Haley says that she is looking forward to working with the South Lewis team, getting to know and help students, and learning from all of the great teachers that she works with!



Carolyn Narbone joins South Lewis after working in the casino industry for 18 years and driving for Birnie Bus for two school years. When Carolyn isn't working, she enjoys reading, bowling and spending time with family. This year Carolyn will be driving the Kangaroo bus!

This year we welcome **Jaedyn Ossont** to the South Lewis family as a Teaching Assistant in 4th Grade! After graduating from South Lewis in 2015, Ms. Ossont went on to complete a degree at SUNY Canton. She has spent the last year subbing at all levels, coaching, teaching summer school, and helping run our Summer Recreation program at South Lewis. She is thrilled to be part of the team! In addition to working with 4th graders, Jaedyn is also coaching boys' modified soccer and girls' modified volleyball! Ms. Ossont says, "I am just excited to be a part of the team here and looking forward to the future at South Lewis!"



Mike Remeczky began as a cleaner at South Lewis in December of 2021. He was born and raised in Lowville and graduated from Lowville Academy in 2001. Prior to working at South Lewis, he spent 13 years at Qubica AMF. He and his wife Danielle were married this past August and now he has three step-daughters. When not at work, he enjoys playing golf in the summer and watching hockey in the winter.

(continued on page 28)



Reuben Rocker was born and raised in Port Leyden, graduating from SLCS in 1991. Reuben served as a police officer for the North Las Vegas Police Department in Nevada, retiring in 2016. From 2016-2020, Reuben worked as a bus driver for the District. Reuben returns to South Lewis as a bus driver and a monitor within the school. Reuben loves being outside doing whatever activities and spending time with friends and family.

Kim Rowsam joins the elementary staff as our newest UPK aide. A Beaver River grad, Mrs. Rowsam has lived in the South Lewis district for the last 30 years! Outside of school, Kim enjoys doing crafts, baking, spending time with her family (she and husband Ron have been married for 29 years and daughter, Haile, a SL grad is currently working on her Masters Degree at U of Albany), and going for rides in the side-by-side. Working in the school setting is a career change for Kim, and she has discovered that she loves watching the students learn! Mrs. Rowsam says, "I love to see the excitement on their face when they have learned something new and can do a task on their own that I was part of teaching them! I am very excited being part of the South Lewis family!"



Doug Seelman comes to South Lewis after over 30 years of driving truck. In his spare time, Doug enjoys spending time outdoors, riding his four wheeler in the warmer months and his snowmobile while the ground is frozen. Doug has been married for 41 years and his greatest joy is anytime spent playing with his grandchildren. This year Doug will be driving the Octopus bus!

Shawna Seelman joined the South Lewis Family in August of 2022, as an Account Clerk in the District Office. Shawna is a graduate from South Lewis Central School. Shawna earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Morrisville State College. She has worked within the finance field for 10 plus years within the local community. She resides in Constableville with her husband Jim and two children, Gavin and Regan. Shawna is also very involved with the local 4-H Horse groups within Oneida and Lewis County. Shawna and her family are very involved with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for Central New York Chapter. Shawna is very excited to be part of the South Lewis Family.



Brianne Seymour is a 2006 Adirondack graduate who currently resides in Boonville with her husband, seven-year-old son, four-month-old daughter, and two dogs. In her free time, she enjoys most outdoor activities. Brianne is very excited to be a Food Service Helper at South Lewis and is very happy that this opportunity will allow her to spend more time with her family.

(continued on page 29)



Sarah Shambo is our new Middle School Spanish Teacher. She is a native of Lowville, New York. She attended SUNY Old Westbury in Long Island, New York and received her undergraduate degree in Spanish Language, Literature, and Culture. She is currently earning her Masters degree from Utica University in Adolescent Education. She has spent the last ten years working in the Medicaid health insurance field, following as a care manager in the medical and social work field serving individuals with chronic illnesses and disabilities. She resides in Lowville, with her husband Nate, son Ethan, and daughter Adeline. She is looking forward to embarking on the journey in education and is proud to be a Falcon.

Britney Swiernik is our new Middle School math resource teacher. She is a native of Port Leyden, New York. She attended SUNY Cobleskill and received her undergraduate degrees in animal industry and animal science; she is in the process of receiving her Master's degree from SUNY Empire State College in special education K-6. She has spent the last two years working for BOCES in Lowville as a resource teacher working specifically with students with learning impairments and trauma. Last year, she was a long-term substitute for 2nd through 4th grade students at South Lewis. As an alumni, she is very excited to be back at South Lewis school and can't wait to further her journey as a Falcon.



Jessica Yelton came to South Lewis after being a 911 emergency services dispatcher for the past seven years. When Jessica isn't working, she enjoys camping with her husband and three children. Jessica will be driving the Alligator bus this year.

**WELCOME
TO THE TEAM!**



One District - One Building - One Family



High School Counseling Office



Seniors

By now you should have met with your school counselor regarding your future plans. Reminder for Seniors - Get your college application transcript requests to the Counseling Office before Thanksgiving (Friday, Nov. 18th)! Consult the information in your senior packet. If you are still searching for colleges, please contact your school counselor and ask for help. You will apply online to colleges through their websites (www.suny.edu) or (www.commonapp.org)

Financial Aid Forms

1. The FAFSA is available online after October 1, 2022. Students planning to attend college must complete this form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. ID numbers must be obtained at www.fsaaid.ed.gov in order to complete the FAFSA. Students and parents are encouraged to file as soon as possible after October 1, 2022. It helps to organize records prior to sitting down to complete the FAFSA.
2. Be sure to click on the TAP (New York State financial aid) button on the FAFSA application. It will automatically fill in your TAP form for you.
3. The CSS Profile, available at www.collegeboard.com, is a financial aid form that many private schools require. CSS profile is not free. Go on the website to see if your colleges require it.

Scholarships

Seniors are encouraged to take responsibility for seeking out scholarships for which they may be eligible. Local scholarships are posted on the High School Counseling Office page on the South Lewis website. Scholarship bulletins are distributed to seniors each month via email. Check the deadline dates. Sources of aid are available in your senior packet and on the web at www.fastweb.com. The High School Counseling Office will be emailing the scholarship bulletin, to the email address of the contact parent in Schooltool, each month.

ASVAB Test – Juniors and seniors considering entering the military should take the ASVAB on November 10th. The ASVAB is required by all branches of the military for entrance. The results tell students where their skills lie, what interests them, if they are “college-ready,” and what careers (both military and civilian) match both their skills and their interests. This is a great way for students to start planning the rest of their lives. The ASVAB will be offered again to all interested juniors and seniors at Howard G. Sackett Technical Center (BOCES) in the spring.

10th & 11th Grade - Students should continue their college research using the resources available to them on the internet. Parents who would like to discuss their child's future plans may phone Mrs. Birmingham or Ms. Green for an appointment at 315-348-2530. Visit colleges this year! It is considered a legal absence if a child goes on an official college visit.

(continued on page 31)

Juniors will review their PSAT scores in class with their school counselors in January. Scheduling for senior year will also begin in January. You should be researching college and career options now. Many virtual opportunities exist for visiting college campuses this year.

The High School Counseling Office has many resources to assist you with your college selection. Please use the following “tips” to help you prepare for college and careers:

- Attend class every day.
- Use activity period to work with your teachers.
- Do all homework and make sure it is handed in on time.
- Take challenging courses.

Sophomores - Representatives from the Howard G. Sackett Center in Glenfield (BOCES) will provide virtual information about programs that are available at BOCES. Students who would like more information about BOCES should speak with their school counselor. The following criteria must be met prior to enrolling in a BOCES program:

- Successful completion of ninth and tenth grade English and Social Studies
- Earn at least ten academic credits prior to attending BOCES
- Junior or senior standing at South Lewis
- Completed application for BOCES with parental consent

These guidelines have been established to ensure that students who attend BOCES will be successful in their program. Students will only have the option to enroll in a BOCES program once they have met their requirements.

Freshmen have had time to become familiar with high school expectations. If you have any questions or concerns about academic, social, or career issues, please contact Ms. Green or Mrs. Birmingham. If you are considering college, you should begin your research. We are happy to assist you. It is important to set college and career goals based on solid information.

Below are the Elks Scholarships which will be due in November (with the exception of the Legacy). Those students interested must apply online. More information is available in the High School Counseling Office. Online deadline is November 14th for the MVS Elks Scholarship. Do not wait until the last day to turn these in and ask for help if you need it. Please print out a copy of the application you submit and give it to Mrs. Bronson by November 4th.

The 2023 Most Valuable Student Award, is open to any senior student and is due on NOVEMBER 14th. For more information and to download the application please visit the following website:

<http://www.enf.elks.org/mvs>

The 2023 Elks Legacy Award is open to any child or grandchild (step-child or step-grandchild) of an Elks member who entered the order on or before April 1, 2020. Applications are completed entirely online and are due on or before February 6th. For more information and the application please visit the following website: <http://www.enf.elks.org>

(continued on page 32)

If you are applying for the NYS Elks Scholarship, please complete the MVS application, print it out, complete the NYS Elks Scholarship application cover page, and give the entire scholarship application to Mrs. Bronson before November 4th. These applications will be forwarded to the local Elks Lodge.

Lastly, there is the New York State Elks Association Scholarship which is open to a senior student who is a child or stepchild of an Elk member in good standing. The application is the SAME as the Most Valuable Student Application, with the only difference being a cover page which you can obtain in the High School Counseling Office.

