



Upcoming Events

December 24-January 1

Holiday Recess
 School Closed

January 2

School Reopens

January 14

BOE Meeting
 6:30 pm MS/HS Library

January 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 School Closed



*The Greenville Central School District
 wishes you a Happy Holiday Season
 and a Joyous New Year*



National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place on Thursday, November 29th. The ceremony recognized twenty-eight new National Honor Society members for their commitment to scholarship, community service, leadership and character. To be eligible for membership, new members had to maintain a 90 or above average for the entirety of their high school career, submit a membership application and essay, and complete an interview with current National Honor Society members. Congratulations to the following students on their induction into the National Honor Society.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Lydia Ackermann | Amelia Baumann | Ryan Blair | Eugene Boertlein |
| Nicole Bowden | Alexandrine Content | Kate Dushane | Austin Field |
| Alexandra Goyette | Baillie Kappel | Jude Kappel | Natalie Krasney |
| Madeleine Makely | Sierra Mistler | Meghan Misuraca | Joseph Nicosia |
| Adam Park | Kasey Pfleging | Ian Ratcliffe | Isabella Ross |
| Rachel Shelburne | Kaitlyn Silk | Emma Smith | Sydney Smith |
| Walter Sutton | Khalifah Tracey | Riley Uht | Deanna VanWagenen |



Now Open: The Spartan Store! by Rachael Finkle

Scott M. Ellis has something new this year: our very own school store! The store, appropriately named the Spartan Store, is a product of the hard work of Mrs. Scher's students. Students spent all fall identifying money, practicing counting money, choosing products, pricing out products, counting inventory, and role playing jobs and customer interactions. In addition, all related

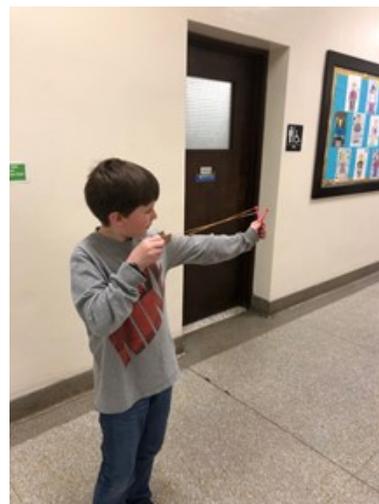


materials were created by students, including price tags, signs, advertising posters, aprons, and name tags. On November 14th, Mrs. Scher's students had their grand opening of the Spartan Store, and business has been booming ever since. Students from all around the building are buying school supplies, fidgets, and other items in the store. Everyone is learning to use money in a functional way. We are excited by the store's success and have already put in orders for new merchandise. The Spartan Store is located in the ground floor elevator lobby at the elementary school. Hours of operation are Monday 8:15 am-8:30 am, Wednesday 2:00 pm-2:20 pm, and Friday 8:15 am-8:30 am.



Welcome to our After School Technology Program by Elizabeth Quell

This is the first year of a new After School Technology Program at Scott M. Ellis. We began the year with 4th Graders learning the basics of block coding, working together to engineer their own creations, taking on challenges and utilizing technology to fulfill makerspace activities. All students began learning some basics in block coding using Code Studio, Tynker and Scratch. We also spent some time talking about collaborating with others and learning how to present out our creations through technology. Starting in January, 5th Graders will be taking on the challenge. I can't wait to see what we'll create next!



Middle School Yearbook News by Faith Bowers

The Middle School Yearbook Club is proud to announce the winner of the Yearbook Cover Contest - Julianna Rini. The first runner up was Emma Cardamone and the second runner up was Jonas Britton. Thank you to all students who participated, we had a very hard decision to make!

Don't forget to order your yearbook early and take advantage of our Early Bird Special of just \$30! Orders must be received before March 1, 2019. After that the base price increases to \$35. Yearbooks can be ordered online at ybpay.lifetouch.com, our yearbook code is: **3500019**. **Order deadline is April 8, 2019**. Order forms are also available upon request. Order yours today!

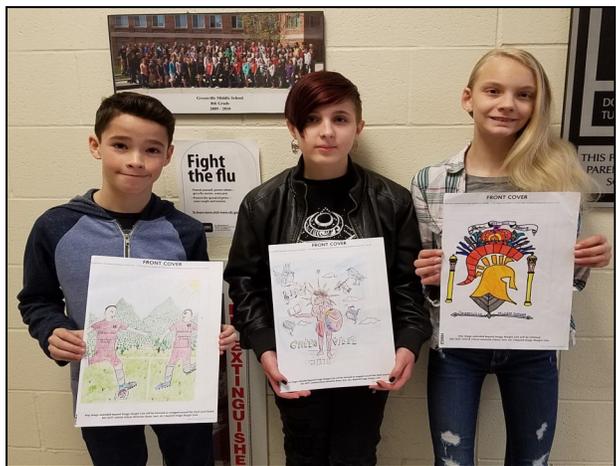


Photo: Jonas Britton, Emma Cardamone, Julianna Rini

The yearbook club will also again be offering the Little Caesar's Pizza Kit fundraiser to students when they return in January. This fundraiser will begin January 3, 2019 and run through January 10, 2019. All students are welcome to participate!

The Middle School Yearbook Club meets every other Wednesday. Our future meeting dates are as follows: **January 2, January 16, January 30, February 13, February 27, March 13, March 27, April 10**. All students are welcome to join, it's not too late! Feel free to contact Mrs. Bowers, MS Yearbook Advisor, at bowersf@greenvillescd.org with any questions. Thank you.

Small Animal Care Class by Lynn Hughes

'Tis the season to give back. Small Animal Care class made and donated cat toys to the Columbia-Greene Humane Society. The students were very happy to do something for the shelter. It was a great way to incorporate community service into the classroom. We also invited Greene County K-9 Officer, Kris Danko and his dog, Havoc. Officer Danko spoke to students about his job, K-9 training, handling, and job opportunities in the K-9 field. He also spoke about K-9 nutrition, conformation, and breeding. The students were very engaged and learned a lot. These dogs are not only used for protection, but also assist in finding lost or sick people, and can even detect medical conditions. Officer Danko made for a great "Fun Friday".



The Greenville FFA Greenery Sale was Another Big Success by Dianne Lewis



In total, members, advisors and parents made over 250 wreaths, 50 centerpieces, 70 kissing balls, 20 boxwood trees and 68 feet of garland. Thank you to all the parents and community members who helped to make this year our biggest sale to date.

A special thanks to our community businesses and those who supported us by purchasing a greenery item. Please notice our wreaths as you drive through the community at GNH Lumber, National Bank of Coxsackie, NAPA Auto Parts and the Episcopal Church. Thank you also to Erin O'Brien and Raphael Bemporad both of whom are from Medusa for the donated greens.



8th Grade Trip to The Egg in Albany

On December 5th, the 8th Grade class went to The Egg in Albany to see a show by Chamber Theatre Productions of Boston. It consisted of a variety of plays based on short stories written by different authors including Edgar Allen Poe, Mark Twain and Washington Irving. It was a great cultural experience for the students.





Baillie Kappel Sings At All-State

On December 1st, Baillie Kappel performed with the 2018 NYSSMA All-State Treble Chorus in Rochester, NY. Baillie auditioned and was selected from a pool of over 2,300 singers to participate in the Chorus. After two days of rehearsals, she performed in the Eastman Theatre to an audience of nearly 2,500 people. Congratulations to Baillie for her outstanding musicianship, passion, accomplishment, and hard work!



Treble Chorus Goes On The Road

The High School Select Treble Chorus performed on December 8th with the Catskill Men's Glee Club. The standing-room-only performance at the First Reformed Church in Catskill featured selections from both choirs and three combined songs for the finale. The Treble Chorus was invited to perform with the Glee Club this year after a well-received performance in 2016 and two snowed-out concerts in 2017. Congratulations to these exceptional singers!



Magic Of Christmas

The Capital District Youth Chorale (CDYC) performed with the Albany Symphony at The Palace Theatre at their annual Magic of Christmas concert. Two GCS singers participated as members of CYDC: Alexandrine Content and Rachel Shelburne. The December 1st concert featured Christmas classics, sparkling holiday favorites, and a special visit from Santa Claus as well as fun family activities before the concert. Congratulations Alexandrine and Rachel for another wonderful performance with CDYC!



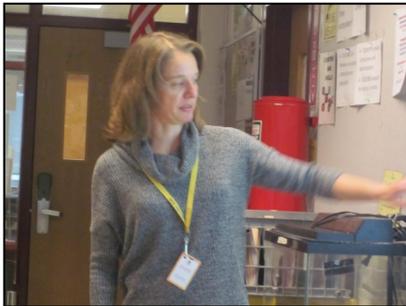
High School Music News-continued

Five Greenville Musicians Celebrate Christmas

Congratulations to five (5) Greenville musicians for their outstanding performances at “Melodies of Christmas” on December 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th. Four GCS singers - Alexandrine Content, Morgan Holznagel, Baillie Kappel, and Rachel Shelburne - sang in the prestigious Empire State Youth Chorale, while Josette Content performed on trumpet for the fourth consecutive year with the Empire State Youth Orchestra. Each year these concerts raise money for research into child cancer and blood diseases at Albany Medical Center.



Dr. Styer Visits 7th Grade Science Classes by James Hutchins



On November 30th, Linda Styer, Ph.D., was a guest speaker in Mr. Hutchins' 7th Grade Science classes.

Dr. Styer is a Research Scientist at the NYS Department of Health Wadsworth Center.

According to their website (www.wadsworth.org), "Wadsworth Center is a science-based community committed to protecting and improving the health of New Yorkers through laboratory analysis, investigations and research, as well as laboratory certification and educational programs."

Dr. Styer's presentation was centered around the question - "Why do we need a flu shot every year?" and covered the following topics:

- The symptoms and spread of the flu;
- The need for flu vaccinations - an average of 50,000 people in the US die from the flu each year;
- The biology of the flu virus, how it makes us sick, and how our body uses antibodies to fight the flu;
- How the vaccine works (and why it sometimes doesn't).

In preparation for her visit, students had read and answered questions about a possible new flu vaccine based on the smaller antibodies found in llamas.

Dr. Styer then had the students participate in a flu simulation. In the first round, none of the students were vaccinated and the flu quickly spread. In the second round, a few students were vaccinated which slowed the spread of the flu significantly. Students compared the data from the 2 rounds as a measure of the effectiveness of vaccinations.

Thanks to Dr. Styer for informative and engaging presentations and activities for our 7th Graders!



GCS-HS Interact Club-Putting Service Above Self by Audrey Hynes, Advisor

The GCS HS Interact Club has been busy interacting in the school and the community in multiple projects over the past few months. As the student organization and affiliate of Rotary International, GCS Interact is part of global network of student service clubs. GCS Interact Club's mission is to "put service above self" by investing our time and efforts for the benefit of our school and the surrounding communities. 100% of our efforts and fundraising goes to support activities such as the Summer Back Pack Food Program, Holiday Adopt-A-Family, Holiday Hooligans, VA Card Drive, UN World Water Day, Global Polio/Public Health Initiatives, Rotary Student Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Albany Medical Center Children's Hospital, Interact Scholarship and other activities. Interact officers are invited to attend Rotary meetings regularly and learn about the global role of Rotary in serving local communities and supporting global efforts related to health, the environment, addressing poverty and providing educational opportunities for youth.

In September, we welcomed Rafa Boechat, an inbound exchange student to GCS. Rafa will be staying at GCS for the entire school year with two GCS families. Currently, Rafa is enjoying her new academic experiences and has lots of opportunities to travel on the weekends and participate in many new experiences. We are anticipating sending a GCS student outbound in the 2019/2020 academic year. Welcome Rafa!



On October 31, GCS Interact set up 10 cars at the Community Trunk or Treat at GNH in conjunction with Rotary. Members were able to collect and purchase over 150 pounds of candy for the Greenville Community Trunk or Treat, insuring a safe and fun Halloween for approximately 1,000 local children. This year, members of the GCS Faculty Association also joined in the fun, giving out playdoh, tote bags and other treats. The event is continuously growing with 42 participating businesses and individuals, as well as civic groups setting up trunks.

In November and December, Interact has been focused

on meeting the needs of families that may need a little boost during the holidays. This year Interact students came together to make this holiday special for three families in our district and filled the pantry of another for the holiday break. This year the club originally planned to help out one large family, but due to the kindness and efforts of members of the community we were able, as a group, to fill multiple critical needs. Students collected food, shopped for clothing, toys and other gifts, and wrapped gifts for distribution to local families. Thanks to all for their efforts!

In addition, members worked to assist the Rotary and mentor younger GCS students while preparing for the Greenville Community Tree Lighting. Interact members managed the photo ops under the direction of community members Debbie and Bob Smith at the November event. They also insured that set-up and clean-up tasks were covered and helped in the annual toy raffle.

At GCS High School, Interact once again sponsored a student Holiday and Birthday card signing for inpatients at the Stratton VA Hospital, created individual craft/activity kits for patients at the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center, and decorated a tree at the Greenville Pond for the Northeast Vietnam Veterans Group. The week before holiday break, Interact sponsored the 5th Annual Holiday Hooligans for students and staff, including Random Act of Kindness Day, Ugly Sweater Day, Flannel Friday and several other theme days to build community and share the joy of the season. Rounding out the month is the Cookies and Clementines for Caring event, where faculty/staff in the HS and MS have the opportunity to send a small token of appreciation to a colleague on Random Act of Kindness Day. Proceeds will be used for future service events and projects to benefit the school and community. In January, members plan to attend a special Rotary Meeting that will take place at GCS on January 17 and an International Night where former Interact students, exchange students, and current collegiate Rotaract members share their experiences with local Rotarians and Interactors. Thank you to all who support our service efforts!

National Junior Honor Society News by Audrey-Hynes, NJHS Advisor

GCS National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) members have been busy volunteering and bringing holiday joy to the community. On November 17th, a very cold and blustery Saturday morning, members gathered at the Greenville Gazebo with several community members including Bob Snyder of FPI Mechanical, Leslie Smith of Caldwell Bankers and staff from GNH to set up and string lights on 75 trees that will adorn the pond area through New Year's. The NJHS student presence was much appreciated, allowing this large task to be completed in record time.

As a follow-up, NJHS members dressed in their best "elf" attire to serve hot cocoa and cookies and entertain youngsters at the Greenville Community Tree Lighting on Black Friday. Approximately 150 youngsters met Santa, had photo opportunities and received small gifts given out by the student elves. GCS students have volunteered at this event for almost 20 years.

During December, NJHS students collected snack foods, and gently used games, puzzles and movies to create "staycation activity boxes." These snacks and theme boxes, such as movie night, game night, cookie baking, hot cocoa and puzzles, and New Year's Celebration, were distributed to several families "adopted" for the holiday. Thanks to all for their generosity and creativity. NJHS volunteering enables middle school students to build on service and engage positively in the school and the community.

Attention parents and students: Applications for 2019 NJHS Induction were distributed in early December to students who meet the national criteria. Both students and parents were notified by email about the process. Applications are due back to school by January 7. Please contact hynesa@greenvillescd.org with any questions regarding the process. Induction will take place in late winter.

Hour of Code Week at Ellis!

by Vikki Hawkins, K-12 Instructional Technology Coach



No matter what job your child decides to go into in the future, there is a good chance coding will come in handy. Almost every profession uses computers and those computers need to be coded by someone. Even if your child doesn't become a coder, coding skills are still useful. Coding teaches problem solving and organization. Students use their creativity when they design programs online.

During the week of December 10th-14th, all Grades K-5 students had the opportunity to participate in coding stations with Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Persico, and Mrs. Morris in the ES library and computer lab. Students coded Spheros through mazes, used color codes to control Ozobots, coded themselves in an "unplugged" hopscotch coding activity, coded Ozmo games using manipulatives, coded on the Lightbot Code Hour app, and coded on www.hourofcode.com. This website is free to use, has many coding activities and games, and has coding courses your child can do if they are interested in pursuing coding further.



More photos on next page →

Hour of Code Week at Ellis!-continued



Ready, Set, PE Fitness Center Classes

Coach Conrow and Coach Warga, High School PE Classes

Over the past four weeks our high school physical education classes have been using the fitness center to learn concepts of how to develop a work out program, components of a quality fitness program, and how to use fitness gram testing results to create an action plan to improve their fitness. The classes have had the choice of developing their aerobic endurance and capacity on the various pieces of cardiovascular equipment, including indoor soccer play in the gym and using new spin bikes recently purchased by the Athletic Department. The students have really enjoyed using this equipment - and our goal is to meet each kid at the level they are at to take them up to the health or competitive sports zone they want to reach.



In the spirit of differentiation some of the students spent more time on muscular endurance and strength by using the multiple pieces of resistance equipment that we have available. Some students chose to develop endurance with a program that uses the cable resistance machines. Other students worked on dumbbell workouts and free weights with the new Smith Machine which gives spotting options when you do not have extra help. Also students were taught how to properly use strength training to develop a plan catered to their individual sports goals - with a few students interested in using programs that need more time out of their school day to complete. Finally, some students developed a plan in which they used the concepts of Yoga, Pilates and Tabata routines to improve their overall fitness level.



Both our department and our students are thankful to Mrs. Wickham, Director of Athletics, PE and Health, the Board of Education, Superintendent Sutherland and all other administration for all of the new equipment infused with some of the other equipment to give us a high quality place to do this fitness work. We have been focusing on the positive benefits of fitness work and how to use all the various options we have been afforded. Many students wish we did not have to have a break in their new routines. We plan to offer a class in the Fitness Center in January to continue where we leave off on December 21. Overall, this unit has been very rewarding to the hundreds of students a day that have been able to use this space. Our middle school students have also focused on fitness this year with new fitness warm ups designed by Mr. Haller - that base knowledge will help when those students move to the high school. Coach Warga also has a fitness for life class that has been working on these skills since September. Have a good holiday from the HS/MS PE staff and consider starting a new health routine in the New Year.



Greenville Athletic Corner by Denise Wickham**Girls Basketball** by Coach Gipprich

The Greenville Girls Varsity Basketball team are currently 5-2 entering into the holiday break. We have wins over Cairo-Durham, Taconic Hills, Catskill, Albany Leadership and Coxsackie-Athens. Currently, Isabella Trostle and Tess Fitzmaurice are leading the team in points. We will be at BKW Thursday, Dec 27th at 3 pm and Dec 28th for their holiday tournament.

Boys Basketball by Coach Carpenter

The Varsity Boys Basketball team is 2-3 so far this season. The JV boys' basketball team is 5-0. Boys are working hard in practice and will start to turn it around soon.

Boys Volleyball by Coach Evans

The Varsity Boys Volleyball Team is 3-3 at this point in the season; they have played strong matches against Taconic Hills and Cobleskill-Richmondville; played excitingly close matches against Chatham, losing in 5 sets at home, and winning in 5 sets away, and coming up short against Germantown and Voorheesville. This week they play Hudson and play the remainder of their matches (13) after the New Year. The team is working hard in practice to gel as a fine-tuned team and learning to play at a high level against all the teams they face.

Cheerleading by Coach Lagace

The Greenville Varsity Cheerleading Squad is reaching new heights on and off the mat going into the New Year! They have been working to achieve new twists and tosses at an entirely new level. They are striving to create a routine that will be previewed at halftime during the Spartan's basketball games. Their routine will be taken to Middleburgh on January 19th to kick off their competition season. If you haven't seen the GCS cheerleaders already, you can catch them at the Varsity basketball games on the sidelines and on the court supporting their Spartans and Lady Spartans!

Wrestling by Coach Cullen

Although Greenville wrestling lost 6 seniors at the end of last season, they are off to a great start this year. Lead by Junior Captain, Aidan Cullen, 126 lbs, (currently 16-2 and ranked #1 in the section), the Spartans have had great showings at the Bethlehem Round Robin, Colonie Duals and Ravena Duals this past weekend. The Spartans core is based with a solid group of underclassmen. 7th Grader Kieran Cullen, 99 lbs, (currently 18-2 & ranked 3rd in the section) won the two day Bethlehem tournament going 5-0. 8th Grader Kaden Bensen, 106 lbs, also put forth a solid performance capturing 3rd place. The team only gets stronger as the weights drop with solid performances and key wins from Freshmen Vincent Davis, 120 lbs, (currently 10-8) and Cole Flannery, 160lbs, (currently 10-10 & MOW @ Ravena). The team can only grow with their youth and athleticism. Rounding off this solid roster are Eric Heath, Hunter Parker, Melody Sprague, Schuyler Wilson, and Gabe Giovaniello.

SPRING SPORTS SIGN-UPS

Spring Sign-Ups will open:

Feb 4, 2019 for JV and Varsity Sports

(Baseball, Softball, Boys Tennis, Track & Field)

Feb 18, 2019 for Modified Sports

(Baseball, Softball, Track & Field)

On-line Athletic Registration

The Greenville athletic department is excited to provide online registration to the Greenville community beginning the Winter 2018-19 season. FamilyID is a secure registration platform that provides parents/guardians with an easy way to register children for our athletic programs. Parents/guardians can register by clicking this link <https://www.familyid.com/greenville-csd-athletics>

Call FamilyID directly at 1-888-800-5583 ext. 1 with any questions or concerns you have.

Are you following Greenville Athletics?

If you are not doing so already, follow Greenville Athletics on Twitter at @AthleticsGCSD.

Nurses' Corner

Reminders from your Nurses:

- Remember the best way to enjoy the holidays is to be healthy. Keep yourself hydrated and well rested.
- Get your flu shot if you haven't already.
- Hugs & Kisses? If you are feeling a little like you may be coming down with something, do your family members a favor and don't offer the hug or kiss. Just say, "I love you."
- Remember good handwashing. Cough and sneeze away from the people who are near you. Don't share your germs.



We wish you ALL the best of the holidays, health and hope for the New Year.

Karen Gardiner, RN & Deb Mackey, RN
School Nurses at the Middle/High School

Cold Weather Recess at Ellis

At Scott M. Ellis Elementary the students go outside for recess unless the temperature falls below 20 degrees (this includes wind chill). Getting outside to play is an important part of a child's day. Dressing for the outside temperature is very important. Children need to have a hat, mittens or gloves and a warm winter coat. When there is snow on the ground, children love to play in it, but they need to wear snow pants and boots. Keeping children healthy and warm is very important to us, so dressing for the weather is necessary. Recess is a great time for physical activity and for social free time for students, so when they are dressed for the weather it adds to their enjoyment of the school day. Please remember that students also need to be dressed warm for their ride to and from school on the bus. If you are in need of winter clothing for your child please call the Health Office at (518) 966-5070 ext. 320 and we will try to help out.



Ellen Warga, RN and Sally Collins, RN
School Nurses at the Elementary School

Counseling Corner: 'Tis the Season

by Nicole Mahoney

While the holidays can often be a joyous time for many, they can also bring some unwanted guests: anxiety, stress and depression just to name a few. Holidays are often high-demand periods of time with gatherings, shopping, cooking, cleaning and entertaining. Sadness over the loss of a loved one who can't share in the holiday spirit, tense or unenjoyable family obligations, or stress related to finances can make the holidays a dreaded period of time for many.

Here are five tips on maintaining balance and peace during the holiday season:

1. **Keep up healthy habits** – Eating healthy, exercising and sleep can all be healthy habits. Don't forget about them just because you are in the hustle and bustle of the season.
2. **Rest and rejuvenate for the year ahead** – Don't over plan every day. Take time for yourself and relax when you can! Say no to plans if you need to.
3. **Don't sweat the small stuff** - Remember what this time of year is all about: caring for others, spending time with loved ones and reflecting on the past year.
4. **Set new goals** – The New Year can offer a fresh start. Set new goals and write them down!
5. **Recognize that "this too shall pass"** – If you find yourself experiencing more stress and anxiety than usual, remember it is normal and it should pass soon.

Get help if you need it – Recognize and speak up if you need help. Your general practitioner or local crisis centers are here to help.

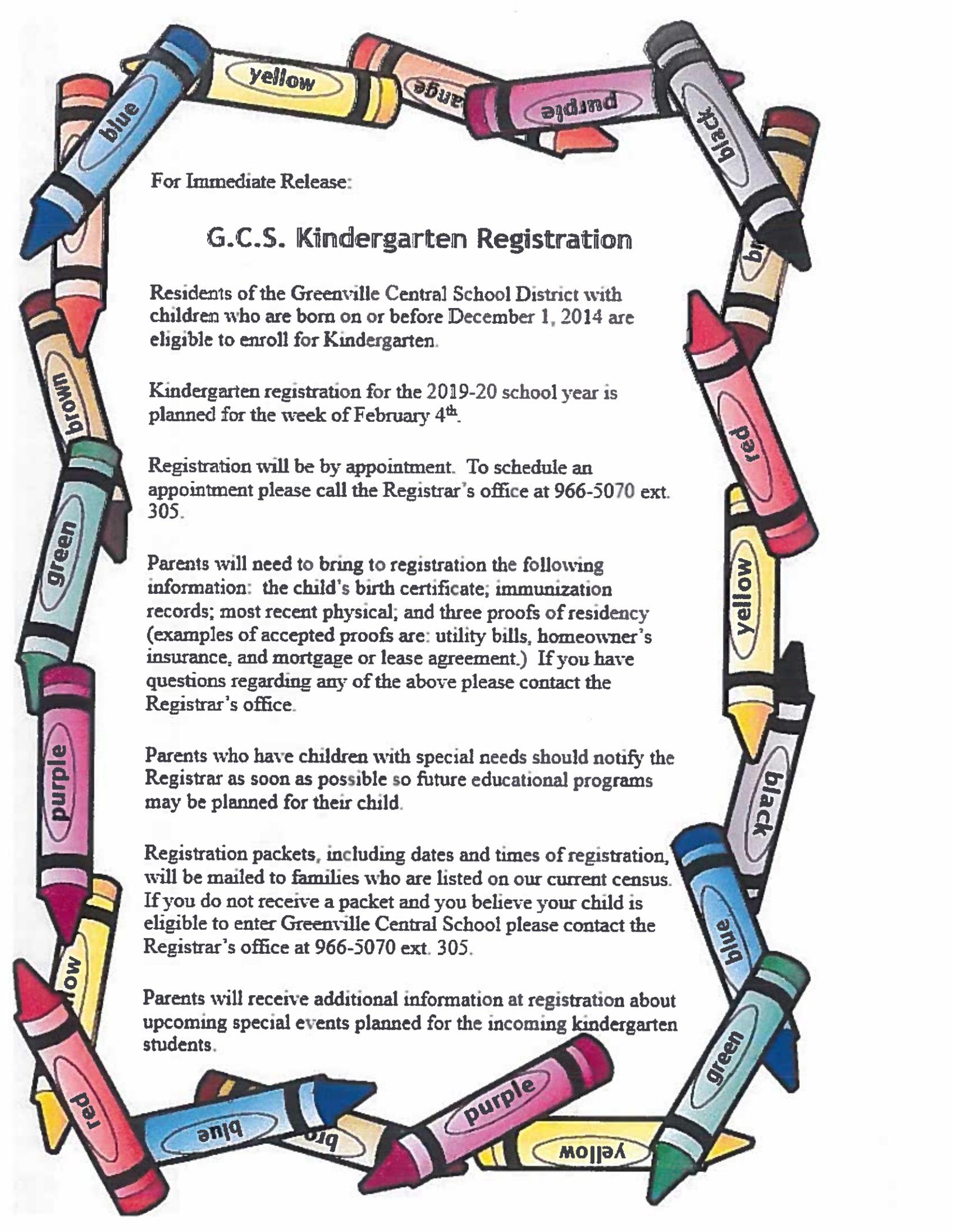
Greene County Mobile Crisis (MCAT):

518-943-5555

Albany County Mobile Crisis:

518-549-6500





For Immediate Release:

G.C.S. Kindergarten Registration

Residents of the Greenville Central School District with children who are born on or before December 1, 2014 are eligible to enroll for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration for the 2019-20 school year is planned for the week of February 4th.

Registration will be by appointment. To schedule an appointment please call the Registrar's office at 966-5070 ext. 305.

Parents will need to bring to registration the following information: the child's birth certificate; immunization records; most recent physical; and three proofs of residency (examples of accepted proofs are: utility bills, homeowner's insurance, and mortgage or lease agreement.) If you have questions regarding any of the above please contact the Registrar's office.

Parents who have children with special needs should notify the Registrar as soon as possible so future educational programs may be planned for their child.

Registration packets, including dates and times of registration, will be mailed to families who are listed on our current census. If you do not receive a packet and you believe your child is eligible to enter Greenville Central School please contact the Registrar's office at 966-5070 ext. 305.

Parents will receive additional information at registration about upcoming special events planned for the incoming kindergarten students.