SCSD Food Committee Seeks Student Input & Action

Henninger junior Nolan Spears noticed that some of his classmates were skipping lunch at school. Some would roam the halls, causing disruptions, while others would leave school to go to a corner store or fast-food restaurant to purchase a meal.

“I saw this as incredibly dangerous, both for them and the school,” Nolan explained. “When the opportunity came up to join the Food Committee, I jumped at it. I saw it as a way that I could help those people stay in school and help my friends be safe. I felt obligated as a Henninger student that if there was a way to help improve my school that I should do my best and work for it.”

In partnership with ACTS Youth Council, this year, the SCSD Department of Food & Nutrition Services sought high school students with an interest in helping to improve school meals and bring change to their school. A student leader from each school helps serve as a sounding board internally, meeting regularly with his or her peers and gathering feedback.

“From my classmates, I hear common things like: the food tastes bad, it’s not fresh. The portions are either too big or too small and there is usually too long of a line to bother getting food,” Nolan said. His peers have suggested a bigger variety of options for vegetarians, a staff member to ensure that food is prepared appropriately, faster or additional servers and more.

Each quarter, the student subcommittees from each high school come together as a large group to share their insight. This winter, the full committee will visit With Love restaurant and in the spring they will venture to the Dewitt Wegmans and host a pot luck dinner at one of the high schools.

The Food Committee is a true community effort, with ACTS, With Love restaurant and Cornell Cooperative Extension joining in to work as partners and answer student questions. At the first full group meeting, the group worked together to identify individual and collective action steps and a time table.

At Henninger, for instance, students on the Food Committee have been making surveys for data collection to find out from more students what they want for lunch and their suggestions for improvements. They have also been recruiting additional students who have an interest in joining the committee.

“This group is inspiring,” Rachel Murphy, SCSD Director of Food & Nutrition Services, said of the Food Committee. “This entire initiative will require change: a change in operations, mindset and student attitude toward school lunch and about foods from different backgrounds. We are very excited to move forward to transform our program!”

“I just love hearing the ways others think to solve a problem and how we can all benefit and learn from it,” Nolan added. “I expect that this program will do great things for our school’s future.”

Keep up the great work, SCSD Food Committee!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents & Families,

Happy New Year!

As we begin the second half of the school year, I encourage you to sit down with your child and discuss your goals for the remainder of the year. If there is anything that we—as a District—can do to support you or your child, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher, school counselor, administration or myself.

My primary goal continues to be ensuring that each student in the Syracuse City School District is adequately prepared to graduate from our district as a college, career and civic-ready individual. Our schools are working toward this goal each and every day, and you’ll read about just a few of the ways they are doing that in this newsletter.

Literacy is a key component of success, and a reading program at Dr. King is ensuring that our youngest students are developing strong literacy skills. An expanding partnership with Onondaga Community College at Roberts and Meachem is helping our young students see themselves continuing to on higher education.

To help students become career ready, SCSA Barbering and Cosmetology students put their skills to use by giving free haircuts and hair styling to Dr. Weeks students. Of course, the most important thing we can all do to give our child’s teacher, school counselor, administration or myself, is in school every day. Please make every effort to see that your child is in school every day. These activities are essential to their academic success.

Please sit down with your child and discuss your goals for the remainder of the year. If there is anything that we—as a District—can do to support you or your child, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher, school counselor, administration or myself.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

SCSD Students Recognized in Mayor’s Holiday Story Contest

Students from Porter and Ed Smith were recognized with winning entries in Mayor Miner’s annual Holiday Story Contest. They were asked to share their favorite holiday book or story and explain why it means so much to them—or draw a picture of their favorite scene.

(continued) Ed Smith sixth grader Kaden Clark submitted an entry about the book ‘Night Catch’ and how it helps him feel connected to his father, who is in the army. Porter fifth graders Haylee Zobra, Raven Parrott, Tiara Coleman, Lorene Semida, Briana Cruz, Adelena Lazore and Miracle Campbell also submitted winning entries. The students were all invited to assist Mayor Miner in the lighting of the Clinton Square tree.

Congratulations!

Henniger Journalists Recognized for School Newsletter

Henniger Journalism students were recognized for their work on their school newsletter; Henniger Knight Life, at a recent newsletter, Henninger Knight Life, at a recent "Night Catch" event. The students received three bronze awards. Sophomore Rocco Tedd also received first place in the ESSPA 'Photo Shoot Out,' a photography competition.

HW Smith Students Attend Project Lead the Way Summit

HW Smith Technology teacher Scott English and students Hakima Ahmed, Adriana DiFlorio, Aniyah Jones and Victoria Beard were selected to attend a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Summit in Orlando, Florida. There, they interacted one-on-one with attendees, networked with PLTW alumni and leaders from businesses and higher education institutions interested in students with STEM skills.

Nottingham Music Students Recognized at All-City

Nottingham senior Eve Llanos and junior Curran Shannon were recently recognized at All-City for their musical talents. Among hundreds of students auditioning from throughout Onondaga County, Eve placed 7th overall out of at least 27 Flutists and will be 3rd chair in the All-City Band. Curran placed 5th overall out of at least five Tenor Saxophonists.

Congratulations.

NYSED Internships for High School Students

Nottingham and Cicero-Nalden students are earning college credits while learning critical skills and gaining real-world experience. There are still spots available for students in grades 9-12. View the list of available internships at www.nysedinternships.org.

Congratulations.

SCSD Students Recognized by State and National Organizations

Congratulations, students and staff! The following students received recognition for their achievements:

- HS Students Learn to Quilt for School Block Challenge

HW Smith students stayed after school for several weeks to work with Home and Career Skills and PACT/CTE teacher Sally Siliman to create their own 16x16 inch square quilt blocks. Their work was submitted to the 25th annual School Block Challenge, sponsored by Moda Fabrics and coordinated by the National Quilt Museum.

"I wanted to learn more so one day, I can start my own company where I can make clothes instead of buying them," sixth grader Pierreonna Cosley said.

OCC Partnership Exands Into Three SCSD Schools

This year, Onondaga Community College announced that they would partner with three SCSD schools, exposing students to mentorship and college preparedness activities. Plowed in McKinley-Brighton last year, this program is also at work in Meachem and Roberts.

The first partnership

SCSD Staff Visit Kuwait as Part of Educational Partnership

PSA Arabic Teacher Abdallah Al-Duabi and Assistant Director of Special Education Matt Williams recently traveled to Kuwait, where they observed and provided feedback in seven schools over the course of five days. Sponsored by a Kuwaiti education consulting firm, KOT Consulting and Training, the trip came about after 25 Kuwaiti principals visited the SCSD and surrounding districts last school year. Both trips were initiated by the Kuwait government in an effort to reform the school system and educate students in a way that meets the country’s changing economy.

Nottingham Teachers’ Research Published in Journal

Nottingham teachers Rebecca Wilk and Naomi All wrote an article based on an internship they did over the summer at a Zubarah Lab at Syracuse University. The internship helped them create and implement laboratory activities with their Living Environment students at Nottingham. The piece, titled "Using Zebrafish To Bring Hands-On Laboratory Experiences To Urban Classrooms," has been selected for publication in "Zebrafish,” a peer-reviewed journal.

PK-8th Grade News

HW Students Learn to Quilt for School Block Challenge! HW Smith students stayed after school for several weeks to work with Home and Career Skills and PACT/CTE teacher Sally Siliman to create their own 16x16 inch square quilt blocks. Their work was submitted to the 25th annual School Block Challenge, sponsored by Moda Fabrics and coordinated by the National Quilt Museum.
activity this year consisted of working with fifth grade classes to plant blackberry bushes outside of each school building. The lesson tied into a talk about responsibility, community and engagement. Throughout the school year, various classrooms will also create journals, learn about table etiquette, create personalized bookmarks, participate in drumming circles, create school mascot images, design a school bookcase and more.

Syracuse Latin Spanish Lunch Club Expands’ Students Cultural Knowledge
Twice a week, a group of Syracuse Latin students chooses to gather in Spanish teacher Serena Castiglione’s classroom for a Spanish Lunch Club. There, they reinforce vocabulary that they learn in their regular Spanish class, while taking a more cultural focus in learning about Spanish food, music and more.

“Learning languages at this age is so important,” Spanish teacher Serena Castiglione explained. “They just absorb it. Sometimes they’re just having fun and they don’t even realize they’re learning a language! And, of course, it takes more than 45 minutes a week to learn a new language, so this enhances the learning they get in class.”

Grant Middle School Helps Teach More Than Just a Sport
Grant Middle School students, thanks to Charter Communications, welcomed a panel of veterans as part of a ‘Take a Vet to School Day’ event. Guests included Navy veteran Bruce Tompkins (Charter Communications Director of Technical Operations), Army Reserves veteran and Corcoran graduate Anne-Marie Mancilla and Army veteran Earl Fontenot, as well as retired Onondaga County Court Judge Joseph Falsely.

Seymour Students Enjoy 27th Annual Carrier Holiday Party
Kindergarten students at Seymour visited Carrier for the 27th Annual Carrier Corporation Holiday Party. It was a magical day for these young students as they saw ‘Bubble Man’ perform, sung carols and even received a gift from Santa!

Want more photos? Check out SCS’s Flickr page
Visit www.sclongview.syr.edu for high-quality images from Carrier event.

High School News

Syracuse Police Chef Frank Fowler and Congressman John Katko. Veterans shared their story with students and then took part in a question and answer session. This was a great opportunity for our students to show appreciation for veterans and become #SCSDsCivicReady!

Dr. King Reading Program Helps Improve Student Literacy
Greetings to a reading program started by the Park Central Presbyterian Church, each week, about 35 community volunteers spend an hour in the Dr. King library working with first and second grade students who could use some extra reading assistance.

PSLA Cosmetologists Give Dr. Weeks Students Confidence Boost
Barbering and Cosmetology students at PSLA took a trip to Dr. Weeks prior to the elementary school’s picture day to offer students free haircuts and hair styling, with parental permission. “Look Like a Wildcat Day” in its fourth year, is part of the Dr. Weeks community model in which the school partners with the community to help address all aspects of a

Johnson Center Students Attend College Fair in NYC
Talk about being #SCSDCollegeReady! Cultural Voices students enrolled in the EPIC Program at the Johnson Center requested to attend a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Fair in NYC this fall. Students wanted to know more about college—especially HBCUs—as they approach their senior year or graduation in June. Students worked with their teachers in planning the trip and will create a major research project that includes a website, video clips, a paper and a presentation of
"This group started about five years ago as a way for our ENL students to make sure that their cultures are being represented in our school," Ms. Cirulli explained. "They're kind of our eyes and ears among the students. They let us know if their classmates are voicing any concerns or if they see any issues."

The group has taken the lead in hosting parent nights for ENL families, as well as community-building breakfasts for all ENL students in the building. There, they have worked together to brainstorm their goals for Nottingham, the top issues they’d like to see addressed at school and study tips to provide to their peers. Keep up the great work, ENL Advisory leaders!

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**Alumni Spotlight**

**Stefan Green**

**SCSD Schools Attended**

Danforth Elementary (1st Grade); Van Dyu Elementary (2nd-6th grade); Clary Middle School (7th & 8th); Corcoran High School (‘17)

**College and Major(s)**

OCC (Associates Degree in Liberal Arts & Humanities); Le Moyne College (B.A. in Communication, with a concentration in Documentary Filmmaking)

**Career Path**

I am currently a Producer at WCNY, Syracuse NY’s PBS Affiliate. I started at WCNY as a studio production assistant, I was promoted to associate producer after 6 months, and then to full-time Producer of Public Affairs Programs. Now, I serve as Segment Producer on a number of our local programs and special productions.

**The coolest thing about my job is…**

being able to tell important stories about my hometown and the Upstate NY Region. I was born and raised here in Syracuse and it is important to me that people from all over NY State know what makes Syracuse a special place.

**The most valuable thing I learned in school is…**

that success is built on hard work and dedication, even through personal and home life struggles. One has to stay focused and positive. I also learned to appreciate SCSD staff who strive to help students succeed.

**I’m proud to be a SCSD graduate because…**

One piece of advice I’d give to SCSD students is…

You have to believe in yourself. As great as it is to have others fight for you and believe in you, the most critical aspect is to fight for you and believe in yourself. This is a wonderful student. He makes wonderful connections in his classes and always uses his higher order thinking skills. He is always respectful to his classmates and his teachers. He sometimes struggles with reading and writing due to English being his second language, but always volun-

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**E-Sports Club Brings Competitive Gaming to ITC**

The ITC E-Sports Club, now in its third year, meets weekly after school, offering students the opportunity to take part in competitive online gaming. Together, students compete in Wii games on a smart board, play Dungeons & Dragons, take part in an online card game, Hearthstone, and more.

"We use video games and board games as a way to strengthen problem solving skills, allow creativity to flow and develop conflict resolution skills," ITC Math teacher and club advisor Matt Cosgrove explained. "But our club is not just about competing; it is also a great place to create a positive and safe after school environment. We have many students that are a part of our club that never compete and still are able to contribute in very meaningful ways."
The Syracuse City School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it is committed to providing equal access to all categories of employment, programs and educational opportunities, including career and technical education opportunities, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, Native American ancestry/ethnicity, creed or religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or expression, disability or any other legally protected category under federal, state or local law.

Inquiries regarding the District’s non-discrimination policies should be directed to: Chief Ombuds/Student Support Services Officer, Civil Rights Compliance Officer/ Syracuse City School District/ 725 Harrison Street • Syracuse, NY 13210/ (315) 435-4131
Email: CivilRightsCompliance@scsd.us

MISSION
To build, support and sustain school communities that provide all students with a high-quality education that prepares them to graduate as responsible, active citizens ready for success in college and careers and prepared to compete in a global economy.

VISION
To become the most improved urban school district in America.

ULTIMATE GOAL
An educational community that graduates every student as a responsible, active citizen prepared for success in college, careers and the global economy.

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Driver’s Education
The Syracuse City School District is pleased to offer Driver’s Education courses for students aged 16 and older. The next seven-week course will begin in March. Registration is first-come first-serve, with a class size limit of 25-30 students. The cost for the course is $405 for Syracuse residents.

Register Today!
Visit the High Schools page on www.syracusecityschools.com to download the application.

Questions?
Please call (315) 435-4964.

YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!
2018 Climate Survey
January 15 —February 15

Your participation in the 2018 Climate Survey this year is very important! Staff and families will be receiving the survey in the mail and it will also be available online at www.syracusecityschools.com. Please complete your survey before February 15!

In order to continue to make progress as a District, we need information on the current school climate so that our efforts to improve accurately target areas needing attention.

Syracuse City Schools
Let’s Talk!

>> Share your questions, comments or concerns 24/7 using the Let’s Talk tool at www.syracusecityschools.com