





Your Kids, Your BOCES

ON THE COVER: Herkimer BOCES Pathways Academy students helped host a “Stuff the Store” event for students to use “BOCES Bucks” they earned for positive behavior to purchase gifts for themselves and immediate family members. Read more on pages 5-8.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wishing you a holiday season that is merry and bright!

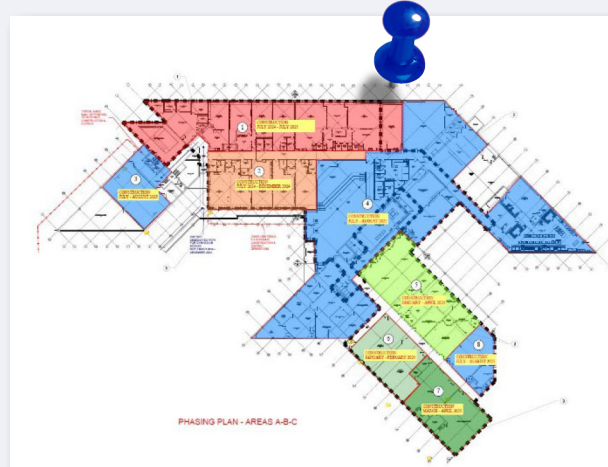
Herkimer BOCES Visual Communications & Media Arts senior Megan March, from Poland Central School District, created this winning design for the Herkimer BOCES holiday card in the Visual Communications class.

BOCES facilities and capital project report

Phase 1a is scheduled for completion by the first week in January. This will provide new secure doors for three entrances at REM.

Our team developed a draft transition plan for the relocation of students and staff during the construction phase 1b. It includes moving all special programs currently located at the WEB to REM for the 2024-2025 school year. Likewise, we will move all adult programming from REM to the WEB. The students will remain in the same location for the duration of the construction. The adult programs will move to different rooms at the WEB during the various stages of construction.

Some tech ed classes will experience "rolling" room displacements as construction moves through the upper CTE hallway. Work in the shop area will be completed after hours.



Draft construction phasing plan (11/28/23)

- Phase 1a nearing completion
- NYSED review of Phase 1b nearing completion
- Phase 1b projected bid in January and February
- Phase 1b construction July '24-fall '25
- Transition planning for student relocation during construction
- Furniture assessment and evaluation this spring
- Phase 2 design-stage begins this spring
- Next capital project in 2026

Our NYSED review is nearly complete. We received comments and have responded to them.

We are on track to start the bid process in January and to award contracts in February.

Phase 1b construction is set for July '24 through fall '25 and will focus on the WEB.

2022 BOCES Capital Project Progress:

Phase 1a Completion:

- Dec '22 - Design Phase
- Dec '22 - SED Submission
- April '23 - SED Approval
- May '23 - Contract Award
- Jan '24 - REM Construction
- REM Closeout

Phase 1b Completion:

- June '23 - Design Phase
- June '23 - SED Submission
- SED Approval
- Bid Process
- Bid Award
- WEB Relocation
- WEB Construction
- WEB Closeout (1b)

Phase 2 Completion:

- Design Phase
- SED Submission
- SED Approval
- Bid Process
- Bid Award
- REM Relocation
- REM Construction
- WEB Relocation
- WEB Construction
- REM Closeout
- WEB Closeout (2)

Pathways students purchase gifts using behavioral rewards at 'Stuff the Store' event

What started as an idea shortly after Thanksgiving quickly turned into a large room full of gift items that Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Pathways Academy students could purchase using "BOCES Bucks" they earned for attendance, participation and positive behavior.

Students were able to shop at the store on Thursday, Dec. 14, and Friday, Dec. 15, using their school rewards to buy items for themselves and their immediate family members.

Kearah Davis, a Pathways Academy senior from Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District, was one of the students who put the most effort into organizing the store, and she was happy with how everything turned out.



From left: Pathways Student Council co-advisor Dina DeSarro, senior Kearah Davis (Frankfort-Schuyler), junior Adrianna Burris (Herkimer), senior Aiden Johnston (Frankfort-Schuyler) and co-advisor Cheri Evangelista.

"It makes me feel good to see the store and see the kids get gifts for family and themselves," Davis said.

The Herkimer BOCES Pathways Academy Student Council sponsored the "Stuff the Store" initiative in collaboration with the Pathways Academy Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program and received support from other students, staff and the community.

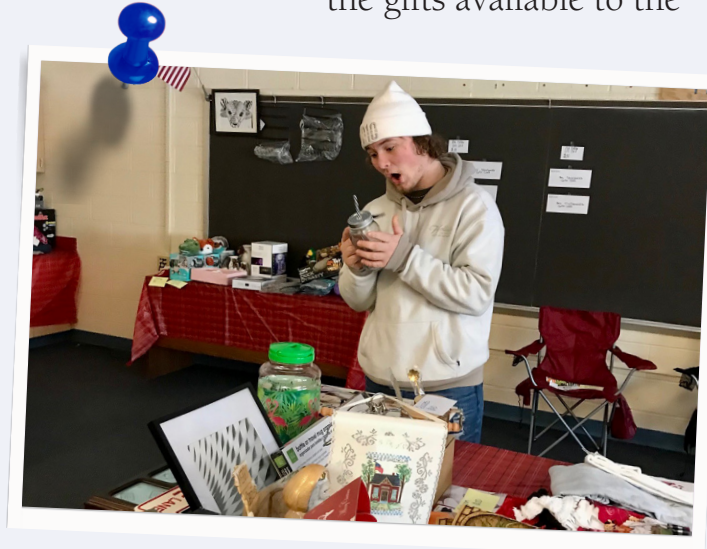
The Herkimer BOCES Pathways Academy focuses on students who have had a difficult time in a traditional school structure or have to catch up on credits but have the ability to get a high school diploma. Pathways Academy classes are project-driven and infuse career and technical education.

The PBIS program includes various aspects including awards ceremonies and students earning "BOCES Bucks" for positive behavior that they can use on reward days to purchase items or experiences.

The Student Council advisers, teaching assistant Cheri Evangelista and art teacher Dina DeSarro, worked on the store with Pathways Academy teacher Erica Haver, who is a team leader for the PBIS program at Pathways. Joining Davis as the main students involved with the effort were Student Council President Aiden Johnston, a senior from Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District, and Student Council Treasurer Adrianna Burris, a junior from Herkimer Central School District.

"These kids worked their tails off to get it all ready," Evangelista said.

The idea was to provide something along the lines of Stuff the Bus, except make it for students 13 and older who aren't the target of Stuff the Bus and other supportive community programs. Specifically, the idea was to make the gifts available to the



Pathways Academy students – including some students who might not otherwise be able to give or receive gifts during the holidays – and the project was dubbed "Stuff the Store."

"Everyone gets something out of this," Evangelista said. "They're going to feel good to be able to bring something home for themselves and their family."

More than 100 students shopped at the store. Senior students also are gift wrapping all of the purchases before they are sent home. Some classes also helped out by removing the barcodes from items.

Two local businesses that made a huge impact were Franco's in Ilion through having a food special and raising money to buy items for the store and Mohawk Valley Markdown through putting out a collection bin. Staff and others in the community also were very supportive, organizers said.

"They all worked together to make this possible," Evangelista said.

DeSarro said she expected to maybe collect a couple of tables full of items for the store,

Pathways 'Stuff the Store' continued...

but they instead filled about a dozen tables with hundreds of items spread throughout a large room. Items included toys, camping chairs, tools, gift cards, speakers, electronics, clothing, boots, self-care items, books, blankets and much more.

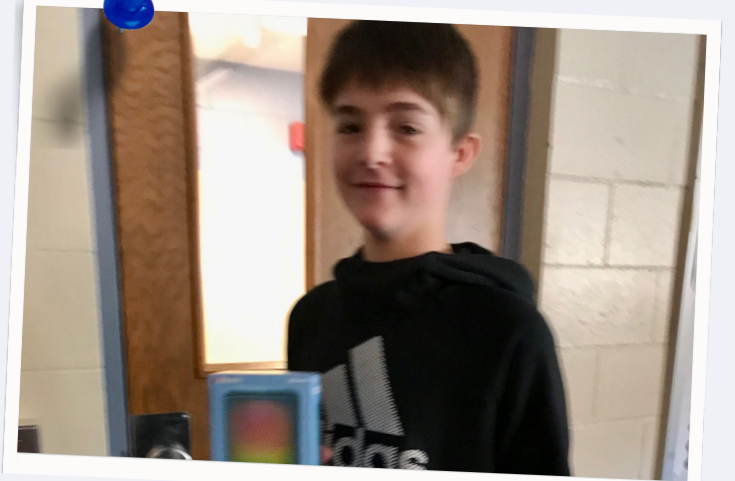
"We kept asking students to help bring more tables in," DeSarro said. "We are overwhelmed with the generosity of everybody."

Davis, Johnston and Burris said they were thankful for the support of everyone involved.

Johnston said he was particularly impressed with the large variety of items that were donated.

"The community has come together for this," Johnston said. "It makes me feel good to be able to give to people who might not otherwise get what they need or want."

Davis and Burris said they felt the same way, and as the students put in some of the final



preparations for the store, they added that they were looking forward to shopping as well.

"I'm excited for it – to be able to get something for my family instead of just them getting stuff for me all the time," Davis said.

The whole thing turned out better than expected, Evangelista and DeSarro said.

"We didn't know how big it was going to be. The students should all go home with something really nice for family members and themselves," Evangelista said. "We hope to do it every year and that it continues to grow."



VP-TECH students organizing Community Closet with help from H&R Block

Students who need something at the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES William E. Busacker Complex can open the Community Closet and often find what they're looking for – with more items now available thanks to a donation from H&R Block.

The Herkimer BOCES Valley Pathways in Technology Early College High School Student Council, in collaboration with the Herkimer BOCES School to Careers program, has been taking inventory and stocking the Community Closet, located outside of the STC office.

“The Community Closet is open to all students in the building and provides much-needed items ranging from school supplies to personal hygiene item,” said Samantha Wahl, VP-TECH Student Council and VP-TECH English teacher. “The Community Closet is a means to support students who may need such items, and all are welcomed to donate items through the VP-TECH Student Council or School to Careers.”

H&R block donated many items to the closet on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

“The VP-TECH Student Council members take great pride in helping their peers in any way they can and are thrilled to have received a generous donation of personal hygiene products from our business partner, H&R Block,” Wahl said. “Our generous community partner delivered many items



In the photo above, from left: Kathy Glanovsky, from H&R Block; VP-TECH Student Council member Landon Davidson, a 12th grader from Frankfort-Schuyler; VP-TECH Student Council member Shawna King, a 10th grader from Herkimer; VP-TECH Student Council member Cooper Jordan, a 10th grader from Herkimer; VP-TECH Student Council member Cierra Tero-Gomez, a 12th grader from Herkimer; VP-TECH Student Council member Makenzie Boardman, a 12th grader from Central Valley; Jennifer Stanton, Herkimer BOCES assistant principal of technical education; and Meredith Bates-Smith, H&R Block senior vice president.

to the WEB Complex on Nov. 1, and after a great deal of heavy lifting, organizing and restocking, the Community Closet is fully stocked.”

H&R Block donated three-in-one soap, loofahs, women's shampoo, tissues, bar soap, cocoa butter, SheaMoisture soap, facewash, moisturizers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tampons/pads, deodorant, packages of socks, hairbrushes, Band-Aids, wet wipes and hair ties.

The VP-TECH Student Council members are 12th grader Makenzie Boardman, of Central Valley; 12th grader Landon Davidson, of Frankfort-Schuyler; 12th grader Cierra Tero-Gomez, of Herkimer; 10th grader Cooper Jordan, of Herkimer; and 10th grader Shawna King, of Herkimer.

Herkimer BOCES VP-TECH focuses on technology, project-based learning and real-world work situations. VP-TECH is a six-year program that can also be completed early in four or five years.

VP-TECH students have the opportunity to earn a Regents diploma, complete a Career and Technical Education program, make connections with local businesses and earn a no-cost associate degree from Herkimer College.

The associate degree can be in quality assurance, business administration, computer network and security, or electrical engineering technology.

VP-TECH Student Council members will continue to accept donations from those within Herkimer BOCES, other community members or business partners.

Interested parties may contact Wahl at swahl@herkimer-boces.org for information or to make a donation.





VP-TECH students compete in Engineering Wars

Students from VP-TECH traveled to Corning to compete in Engineering Wars at Great Southern Tier BOCES.

Students participating on this year's VP-TECH team were:

- Theresa DeLong, from Frankfort-Schuyler
- Cooper Jordan, from Herkimer
- Sarah Maine, from Central Valley
- Ross Richards III, from Herkimer
- Keeghan Spring, from Central Valley
- Caileigh Youker, from Dolgeville
- Kaden Kleist, from Dolgeville



Visual Communications & Media Arts students capture top spots in competition

With less than a week's notice, Mr. Haskins' Visual Communications & Media Arts senior class was able to script, shoot and edit together not one, but two winning videos for the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority's recycling awareness video campaign

competition. A Poland student also captured the other top-three spot.

The video contest tasked students from all grades throughout the region to create an awareness video with a strong message to promote recycling to better our planet.

Herkimer BOCES Visual Communications & Media Arts submissions placed first and third in the high school category.

The winning entries from every category can be seen at <https://www.ohswa.org/trash-can-film-festival>.

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Recycle
Garbage
Compost
Household Hazardous Waste
Special Programs
Business

1st Place

Herkimer BOCES | Group Video

2nd Place

Lee M. | Poland High School

3rd Place

Herkimer BOCES | Individual Video

Culinary and Hospitality students cater New Staff Reception, CTE administrators luncheon

Herkimer BOCES Culinary and Hospitality students catered a luncheon for career and technical education principals and directors who were at Herkimer BOCES for the ACTEA meeting. Attendees from other technical education centers commented on how good the meal was and how professional the students looked and acted.

Photos on the left side of this spread are from the CTE administrators luncheon.

Culinary and Hospitality students also catered the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education's New Staff Reception on Nov. 2 to welcome new employees.

One of our most popular employees, therapy dog Luna, also joined in on the fun.

Photos on the right side of this spread are from the New Staff Reception – including pictures of desserts prepared by the Culinary and Hospitality students.



Special Programs providing opportunities

Holiday guests visit students

Special Programs at Central Valley provided many recent opportunities for students. Preschool and elementary classes participated in the schoolwide food drive at Fisher Elementary to learn about giving back. All of the donations collected went to the Ilion Food Pantry sponsored by Catholic Charities.

Barringer Road students celebrated Veterans Day and participated in an assembly to honor veterans.

Jarvis Middle School students learned about Day of The Dead or "Dia Los Muertos," a holiday celebrated after Halloween in Latin American countries. Students learned this holiday celebrates families.

High school students learned about banking through the GPO Federal Credit Union. Students learned how to budget money and prevent identity fraud.

Special Programs students at the Herkmer BOCES WEB Complex hosted a schoolwide talent show. Students sang, danced and acted out skits for family and friends.

The Special Programs Career Awareness class has a new job site. They are now working with Gigi's Italian Feast in Little Falls. Students are learning about food preparation. They are enjoying this new work site, and Special Programs leaders are appreciative of this opportunity.

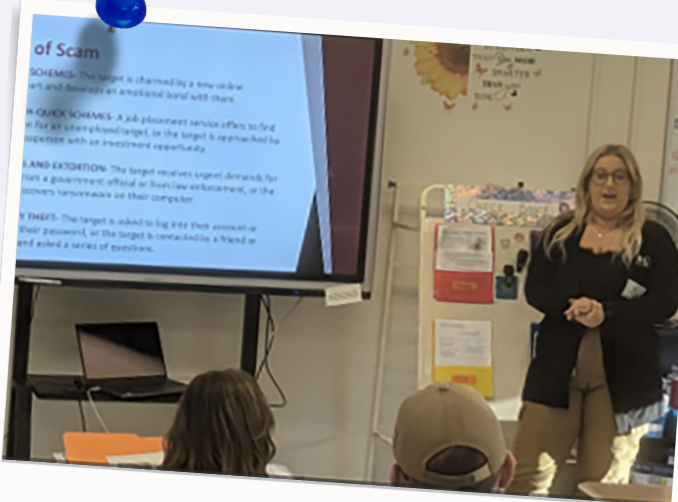
Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and the Grinch also paid a visit to Special Programs students at the WEB Complex to boost the holiday spirit.



Students supporting schoolwide food drive at Fisher Elementary.



Veterans Day Celebration at Barringer Road.



Learning about banking from GPO Federal Credit Union.



Special Programs talent show at the WEB Complex.



Giving a high five to Santa Claus.



Holiday photo time with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.



Herkimer BOCES Career Awareness students at their new job site, Gigi's Italian Feast in Little Falls.



Posing for photos with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.



Hanging out with the Grinch.

Pathways clubs: meaningful student engagement makes a difference

The Herkimer BOCES Pathways Academy is buzzing with newfound energy during lunchtime, thanks to the latest clubs that are transforming the school's atmosphere. Led by dedicated supervisors, the Chess Club, facilitated by Mr. Hafelin and Mr. Jaros, challenges minds with strategic moves. The Creative Writing Club, guided by Mr. Blair and Ms. Clements, unleashes imaginative expressions.

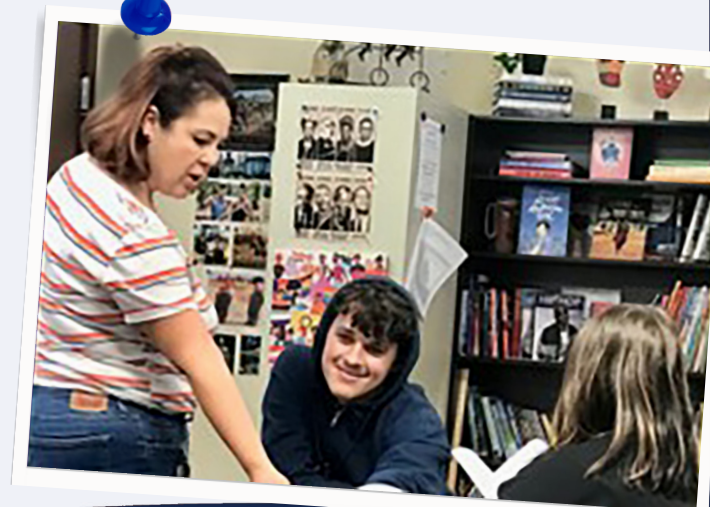
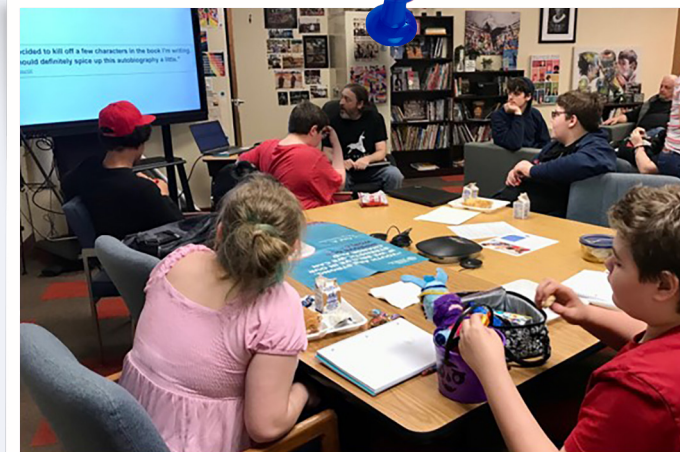
Complementing these new additions are the established Student Council and Yearbook Club, providing avenues for student leadership and memorable documentation.

These lunchtime gatherings have quickly become highlights, offering students a daily dose of camaraderie and excitement.

The Herkimer BOCES Equity, Diversity & Curriculum Initiatives (EDCI) office has had the privilege of hosting the Pathways Academy Creative Writing Club. Corrie Clements and Gerry Blair advise 8-10 student participants each week. Students wanted to try out the "flexible seating" arrangements for which the EDCI office allows. The question was: "How do students respond to a non-traditional school setting?"

Hands down, students love the atmosphere and the choice of seating. They look forward to being with this affinity group of like minds. Students are visibly comfortable and at ease in the room and with each other. It really helps their cognitive juices flow.

This affinity group is made up of aspiring writers and lovers of reading. Along with the Chess Club photos shown here, the Creating Writing Club photos show students working on writing projects for the Halloween season. Two-line, spooky stories were the theme. The kids were in full participation mode. The EDCI office has fun hosting this club of focused writers.





Pathways, CTE team up for Haircut and Manicure Clinic

The Herkimer BOCES Pathways Academy and the Cosmetology career and technical education program teamed up for an inaugural Haircut and Manicure Clinic.

It allowed students to choose between a fresh haircut, a manicure or both. The event, offering a unique blend of talents, left students across all component districts overjoyed with their transformed looks.

This successful interclass cooperation highlights a positive impact within the BOCES community, setting a precedent for future collaborations.



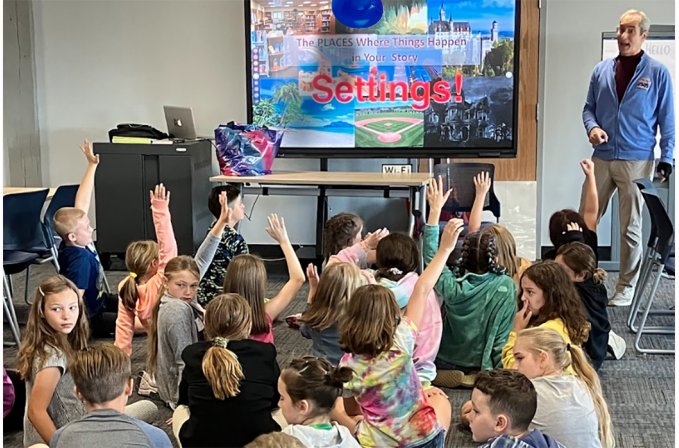
Students from all 10 component districts participate in several fall Honors Programs



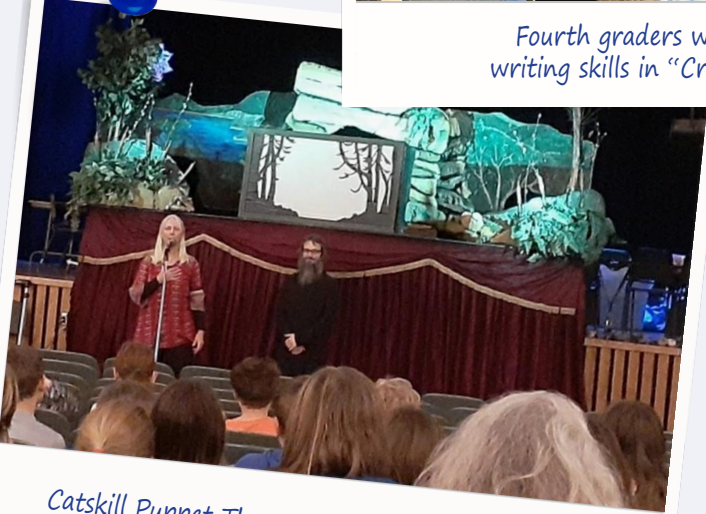
Students engineer airplanes using the scientific method at "Drone Camp."



"Theater, Masks and Mimes" with seventh and eighth graders.



Fourth graders worked on their writing skills in "Creature Crafting."



Catskill Puppet Theater worked with fifth graders.



Students in grades 9-12 working on a "mindfulness belt" during the "HS Health and Happiness Workshop" for honors athletes.



School to Careers hosts career days

The office of School to Careers was busy putting on three career fairs for our component districts during the month of November.

At West Canada Valley's event, a dozen speakers provided interactive presentations for students in grades 5-8. This event featured mainly alumni of WCV to highlight what amazing things graduates of WCV can accomplish.

The Journeys Beyond Jarvis event, also focusing on grades 5-8, had more than 30 speakers spanning the building from classrooms, to the gym, to our heavy equipment and tree removal presenters showcasing their skills outside. Many Herkimer BOCES CTE students from CVA had the opportunity to give back to their middle school community by being presenters as well.

In addition, Scott Grates was the keynote speaker. He is a local insurance agent and professional development coach, who wrote the inspirational book, "Essential F-Words for Teens."

Grates shared a message of hope, emphasizing that it does not matter where you start in life, that failure is a valuable tool, and that the journey to success will not be a straight path. He encourages everyone to strive to help one person each day.

CVA's Countdown to Careers, an event for students in grades 9-12, showcased 30 presenters in the school gymnasium in a new format that allowed students the freedom

to interact with industry professionals that matched with their own interests and goals.

In addition, Denise Cavanaugh, executive director of the Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce, was the keynote speaker. Her varied background includes work in many industries, but they all tied together through a similar theme of "business with a heart." This made her the perfect conduit for the message, "every piece of your journey is a stepping stone".



Scott Grates presenting at CVA's Countdown to Careers.



Scott Grates and MaryBeth Napolitano.

Career exploration and readiness

Career Interest Inventories were provided to students in Central Valley and Frankfort-Schuyler. These inventories identify which of the 16 career clusters best fit their own interests and can be a powerful tool in answering that question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The inventories are given as part of a larger activity in which students engage in activities that teach them just how important it is to know their own interests, so that they can find personal satisfaction in their work. As the saying goes, if they love what they do, they may never have to "work" a day in their lives.

In addition to the career interest activities, the data collected from the student inventories is used to set up multiple job shadowing days for CVA juniors throughout November and December. All juniors were given the opportunity to spend a day at a business or organization that matched their career interests. Students spent the day at veterinary clinics, Little Falls Hospital, schools, restaurants, legal offices, engineering and welding firms and more. In addition, students interested in the sciences spent a day at SUNY Polytechnic Institute going on tours, and meeting with faculty for a very personalized and hands-on experience in what a career in the sciences can offer.

As always, Resume Rescues have been on the agenda for component district seniors. Workshops were held at Mount Markham and Frankfort-Schuyler. Students received tips and assistance with creating and updating their resumes so that they can land that important interview whenever it comes along.



Newport Fire Department impressing the students with their gear at the WCV Career Day.



Emily Arthur, head of HR at Riverhawk, a locally based Advanced Manufacturing company looking to hire many new workers in the coming years, presents to students.



Students compete to build the best fence and win a prize from BD Fence Solutions at the WCV Career Day.



Instructional Support Services updates

New Teacher Seminar

Twenty-eight teachers from BOCES and component districts (and the town of Webb) are participating in New Teacher Seminar – a year-long supportive program incorporating hands-on professional development, instructional coaching and site-specific problem-solving.

In November, teachers learned to analyze behavior patterns and work through the behavior pathway. In December, teachers focused on student engagement strategies, the importance of formative assessments and questioning strategies.

Project Based Learning

In Part 1 of Project Based Learning, teachers worked through the components of a Gold Standard PBL Unit and received feedback on their ideas for their own classroom units.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

Six districts worked with Instructional Support Services in November to begin work on their Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) plans. The districts were Central Valley, Herkimer, Little Falls, Owen D. Young, Poland and West Canada Valley.



New Teacher Seminar



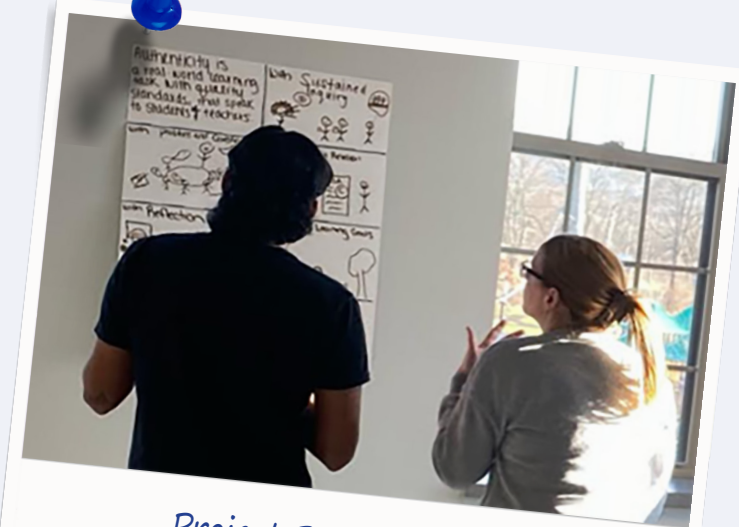
Project Based Learning



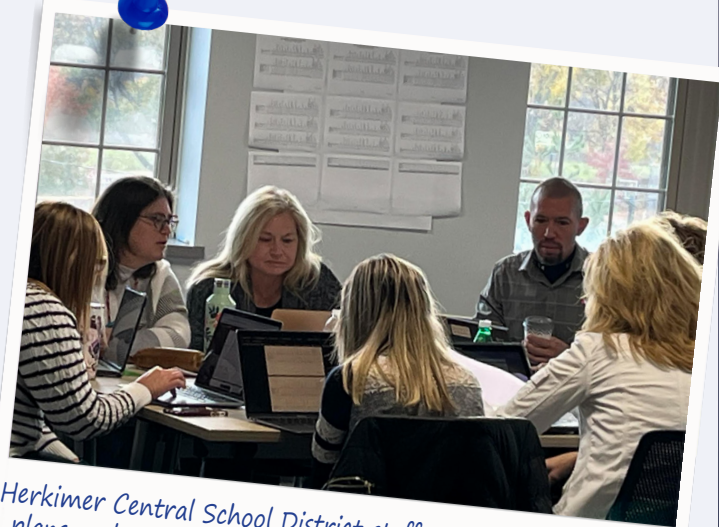
Project Based Learning



New Teacher Seminar



Project Based Learning



Herkimer Central School District staff worked on their MTSS plans and analyzed student attendance and behavior data.

More Herkimer BOCES news online...

Click on any of the photos in this section to view the full stories online.



Herkimer BOCES Pathways Academy Awards Ceremony helps motivate students



2023 Herkimer County Youth Summit student leaders switch focus to helping younger students



SkillsUSA students receive leadership training at state conference, raise money for suicide prevention



Local adults complete Herkimer BOCES CNA class



Herkimer BOCES announces 1st marking period Technical Education Honor Rolls



Riverhawk Co. tours Herkimer BOCES Career Tech Center



Herkimer BOCES Salon Illusions cosmetology clinic now open



Herkimer BOCES offering classes for English Language Learners



Herkimer BOCES Spotlights on staff now featured online



Herkimer BOCES Career and Technical Education students color for a cause



***Thanks for reading the fourth issue of
“Your Kids, Your BOCES!”***