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Physics, Engineering & Math Help Students Launch Balloons

Challenged to create a hot air balloon that could lift a 50 gram weight, junior Sherwood Ludwig discovered that calculating the amount of hot air required to lift the balloon was the easy part of his assignment.

Keeping his tissue paper balloon from tearing while attempting to launch it from a dew covered field behind the high school turned out to be much more of a challenge.

“This was a fun project. It definitely was tedious at times, particularly when my balloon ripped. But it was fun,” Sherwood explained. “One thing I learned was that hot air balloons are much bigger than I realized. It took 78 cubic feet of hot air to lift 50 grams.”

Students in Maple Hill High School’s Principles of Engineering class got an opportunity to utilize math, engineering and science knowledge during a class project in October when they designed hot air balloons.

The elective class is for students interested in exploring engineering as a possible career. Students complete

coursework in upper level math and science as well as Computer Aided Design (CAD).

For the balloon project, teacher Kenneth Malloy explained students were first challenged to calculate the amount of hot air required. Students then designed balloons using CAD, building prototypes and final balloons from tissue paper.

“We were aided by Mr. Ryan and his math class,” Mr. Malloy explained. “Mr. Whitfield from the science department also aided in the students’ understanding of convection and the science behind lift and height. The balloons are as much an art project as an engineering example.”

To further enhance the activity, local balloon pilot and business owner Russ Barber visited the class to explain how large hot air balloons work. Mr. Barber was so impressed with the students that he volunteered to bring one of his balloons to school on the day the students launched theirs.

Before students got busy launching their own creations into the sky using a propane heater, Mr. Barber enlisted their help to inflate one of his “smaller balloons” behind the High School. Students listened intently as he explained how it worked.

“I can’t say enough about the quality of these students,” Mr. Barber raved as he watched students launch their balloons. “They are so helpful and interested. To see them and what they made, I thought it was phenomenal the work they put into it. It’s fun and they don’t even realize they’re learning. They’ll always remember this.” To see more photos, visit the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us.



Get Involved in the Budget Process

Schodack Central School District is seeking community members to join its Community Budget Advisory Committee, which will start meeting in January.

For the last two years, community members have volunteered on the committee, learning about the budget process and providing recommendations on how to best deal with the district’s budget challenges.

“This committee has been very successful in the past and we look forward to continuing to hear our community’s ideas and concerns regarding the school budget,” said Superintendent Robert Horan.

The committee typically meets five times in the High School library from January through April. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and last no longer than two hours. A meeting schedule will be made available once dates are confirmed.

If you would like to be involved on the Community Budget Advisory Committee, please call the district office at 732-2297.

CES Students Learn Research and Presentation Skills

In a class project that mixed reading, research skills and group presentations, fifth grade students at Castleton Elementary School recently worked to convince teachers that their weather condition was the most extreme.

"It's been a very high energy project," explained teacher Sid Reischer. "The students have been excited to do the research and present. They've learned a great deal."

The Extreme Weather class project first started with the school's reading program, where students read books fitting with the theme of Nature's Fury, explained reading teacher Tammy Seres.

Students then worked with library media specialist Stacey Rattner to research topics such as tornadoes and hurricanes. Ms. Rattner noted students were required to do individual research using both books and Internet sources. Students wrote detailed notes and had to cite their sources of information.

"They're using multiple 21st Century skills, researching, collaborating and presenting," Ms. Rattner explained. "These are the skills they'll need to succeed in the world."

Once students gathered their information, they worked together in small groups to create PowerPoint presentations, murals and skits.

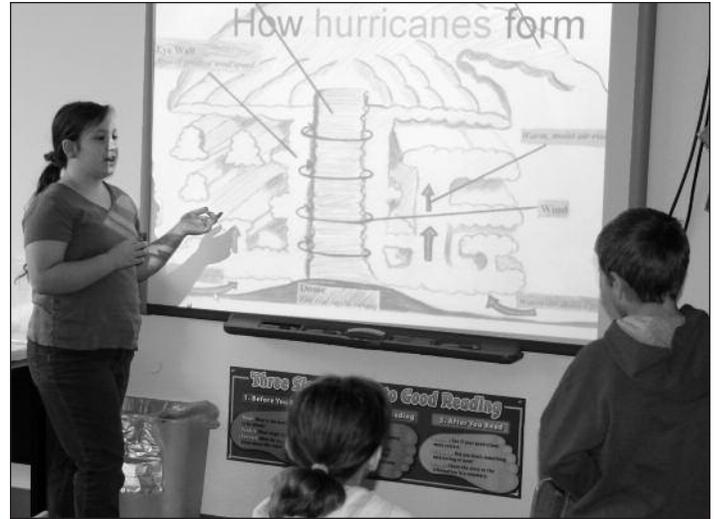
Presenting before their classmates, Mr. Reischer, Ms. Seres and Ms. Rattner, students Cassidy Berger and Alaina Rossetti made their case for earthquakes using a PowerPoint

presentation they created, discussing the San Francisco earthquake in 1906 and this year's Haiti earthquake.

"The capital of Port-au-Prince was in ruins," noted Alaina.

"The people in Haiti are still recovering," added Cassidy. "You can still help."

"That was very good," Mr. Reischer said after their presentation. "You had a lot of really good information on your slides."



Newsletter Earns First Place Award

Schodack Central School District has received a first place award for its 2010-11 budget newsletter from the New York School Public Relations Association.

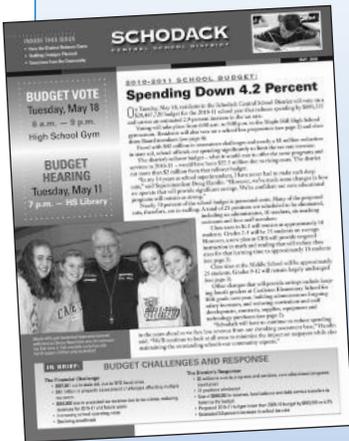
The district earned an "Award of Excellence" in the Budget Newsletter category from the association in its 31st Annual

Communication Awards. Each year, the association honors school districts that use established best practices in school communications.

This year, more than 400 entries were judged in categories such as newsletters and school websites. The entries are judged by communications professionals from around the country.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Communications Specialist Jason McCord on our staff here at Schodack," said Superintendent Robert Horan. "Not only has he

done an outstanding job on our budget newsletters but he is also responsible for the informative Schodack eNews, publication of the district newsletters and our outstanding webpage. He is very passionate about his work. I'm proud to have him with us."



EPCOR & Town Resolve Assessment Challenge

The town of Schodack and EPCOR Power have resolved the River Street company's assessment challenge, agreeing to reduce the property's assessed value, which was originally \$40 million, to \$10 million.

As part of the agreement, EPCOR Power also agreed to forgo several years of tax refunds that the town and school district would have otherwise been liable for.

The impact for Schodack Central School District will be a loss of \$565,000 in annual tax revenue, noted Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services Sherri Fisher.

"While the result was not as favorable as we may have liked, it is good to have the uncertainty of the tax certiorari resolved," Ms. Fisher noted.

The town of Schodack and EPCOR Power have worked for the last couple of years to resolve the company's tax assessment challenge. The situation created uncertainty for the school district as officials had to estimate the loss of assessment and prepare for the possibility of more than \$1 million in tax refunds.

"The town was able to negotiate no retroactive tax refunds," Ms. Fisher said. "This will allow us to take some reserves set aside for tax refunds to apply to the 2011-12 budget. However, the loss of annual tax revenue going forward will be a challenge."

While the district is pleased to have the largest assessment challenge with the town resolved, Ms. Fisher noted there are still three smaller outstanding claims from Schodack businesses.

Students Earn College Credit in Math Class

Maple Hill High School students are getting a jump start on college this year by earning college credits in their advanced math classes.

Teacher Janice Balogh explained that students in her Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry class now have the option of earning college credit from Hudson Valley Community College.

Students have been able to earn college credits for Pre-Calculus for the last five years, noted Ms. Balogh. By working with HVCC, her students can now also earn college credits for her other math classes.

"Students have the opportunity to earn up to eight college credits over two years by taking math classes here," said Ms. Balogh. "They're going to be that much further ahead when they get to college."

Students interested in receiving college credits register with HVCC. They have to pay for credits but it's at a reduced rate, noted Ms. Balogh. Credits typically can be transferred to any SUNY school as well as some private colleges.

Junior Stephanie Renslow said the college credits are an attractive option for her. Not only would they help her get ahead but she thinks having already earned college credit will help her when she applies for colleges.

"I plan to study psychology in college and it would be great to have my math credits taken care of already," Stephanie said.



Maple Hill Middle School Holds 11th Annual Wall of Honor

Standing beside her uncle, Matt Gilbert, eighth grader Stefanie Wood talked proudly about the work he does with the U.S. Coast Guard.

When disasters like the BP oil spill occurred this summer or Hurricane Ike hit the Texas coast in 2008, Stefanie explained her uncle has to leave his family to go wherever help is needed with relief efforts.

"This is a sacrifice he did for his country that we don't always recognize," Stefanie said.

On November 9, Maple Hill Middle School students recognized family and friends for their service to their country during the 11th annual Wall of Honor Ceremony.

In front of an audience of more than 200 people, seventh grader Kayla Carlin talked about a class trip to the VFW Post 7337. She explained the trip was the first for many students where they met with veterans who shared stories

"We learned about their service to our country," Kayla said.

VFW Post 7337 Commander Fred Schultz thanked the students for the ceremony, noting how important it is to local veterans. He added how much they enjoy the students' visit to the VFW Post and the opportunity to talk with them.

"It's so special when you talk with kids and you see a sparkle in their eye when they realize a family member is also a veteran," Mr. Schultz said.

Students honored both veterans they knew and police officers, firefighters and emergency responders. As individuals were asked to stand during the ceremony, they were met with loud ovations from the audience.

"It's an amazing program," Principal Michael Bennett said after the ceremony, crediting the work of teacher Christine Fowler for organizing it. "You often see parents and grandparents with a tear in their eye as the students honor them."

To see more photos, visit the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us.

The Schodack Central School District provides continuing education

General Information and Registration

Eligibility — Registration is open to all residents of the Schodack Central School District. Nonresidents may enroll in courses on a space-available basis.

Senior Citizens — District residents who are age 60 or older may attend many courses tuition free or at a reduced rate. Courses that are not free or offered at a reduced rate are noted in the course description. All materials fees are the responsibility of the participant.

Continuing Education is self-supporting, with no bearing on the district's tax rate. It is only through the continuing support of the community that this program is possible.

Fees — All course fees must be paid by the first course meeting. Registrations are binding because financial commitments are made based on the number of registrants for each course. We are sorry, but no refunds will be made unless the class is canceled due to insufficient enrollment or the class is filled to maximum capacity. Each class must meet a minimum enrollment. If a course is canceled due to insufficient enrollment, or over-enrolled, notifications and refunds will be sent by mail.

Registration must be made in advance. Mail registrations are due by January 7. On site registration will be held on Tuesday, January 11, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Maple Hill High School lobby.

Early-Start courses – Please call or send in registrations now for early start courses.

To register, please fill out a separate registration form provided for each course, enclose tuition and any materials fee (if noted in the course description) with a check payable to **Schodack Central Schools to:**

**Director of Continuing Education
Maple Hill High School
1216 Maple Hill Road
Castleton, NY 12033-1699**

You will be notified only if a class is canceled.

Sports, Fitness & Fun!

** Please check with your physician prior to beginning any new physical activity*

YOGA I

Yoga I is for beginners who are looking for an introduction to yoga or people with experience who prefer a slower, more gentle class. This course is taught by White Lotus-certified Hatha yoga teacher Ellen Sadowski. Yoga I classes meet for eight weeks on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. beginning Jan. 18 (no class Feb. 22) in the CES auditorium (old gym). Tuition is \$60. No senior discount. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat.

YOGA II

Yoga II combines a range of postures from gentle to challenging. This class is designed to help you create a practice of stretches that strengthen the body and calm the mind. Students who want to further develop the style and pace that Ellen uses in her yoga classes should sign up for this class. Yoga II classes meet for eight weeks on Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. beginning Jan. 20 (no class Feb. 24) in the CES auditorium (old gym). Tuition is \$60. No senior discount. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat.

CARDIO KICKBOXING

Cardio-kickboxing is a workout that's fun for everyone! This class incorporates kickboxing-style cardio movement and toning exercises into a power-packed 45-minute class. The class is taught by Aileen Flach, who holds a BS in physical education and adult fitness. Classes meet for eight weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30 until 8:15 p.m. in the CES auditorium (old gym). Classes begin Jan. 19 (no class Feb. 21 and Feb. 23) Tuition is \$60. No senior discount.

OVER 30 BASKETBALL

There are a limited number of openings in Over-30 Basketball, which meets at 7 p.m. in the Middle School gym on either Monday or Wednesday evenings. The Monday night basketball program begins Jan. 26; Wednesday night begins Jan. 19. The cost of the course is \$50. Please call to register, as space is extremely limited. Coordinators for this program are also needed. If interested please call Theresa Hovish at 732-7701.

HALL WALKERS

Walk in a safe, warm place — Maple Hill Middle School! The middle school is open from 6:45 to 7:45 a.m., Monday through Friday, when school is in session, for district residents who wish to walk. The program is free and self-monitoring — walk when you wish, at a pace that is comfortable. Walkers no longer need to sign in and out, but will be issued a special visitor's badge to wear while in the building. To register and receive a badge, call Theresa Hovish at 732-7701.

AEROBIC DANCE AND FLOORWORK

Tone, strengthen and flex your body as you dance your way to better health. Also floorwork with optional pilates and miniball movements. Learn daily stress reducing and energy lifting techniques. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Middle School gym. Classes begin Jan. 11 (no class Feb. 22). Tuition is \$60. Register directly with instructor Debi Filkins at 708-9238.

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Join other intermediate players for an evening of fun and competitive volleyball play. This course offers no instruction, coaching or officiating — warm-ups and games will be self monitored. Players should play at an intermediate to advanced-intermediate level to participate and must wear kneepads. Volleyball meets for 10 weeks on Sundays from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. in the High School gym beginning Jan. 23. Participants must pre-register by calling 732-7701 as class size is limited. Tuition is \$45 plus a \$2 materials fee.



opportunities to promote lifelong learning in the community.

Beginners Dancing, Cake Decorating and More!

BEGINNERS BALLROOM DANCING

If you want to "Dance With the Stars" here's your chance to learn how to dance in a relaxed, comfortable setting that's affordable. Learn American style smooth ballroom dances consisting of Foxtrot, Waltz and Tango. Singles and couples are welcome. Karen Mason of Learntadance Dance Studio is an experienced ballroom dance instructor. Classes meet for eight weeks on Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria. Classes begin Jan. 18 (no class Feb. 22). Tuition is \$50. No senior discount. Register for Beginners Swing and Latin Dancing as well and receive 50 percent off the second class.

BEGINNERS LATIN DANCING

If you want to "Dance With the Stars" here's your chance to learn how to dance in a relaxed, comfortable setting that's affordable. Learn American style rhythm dances consisting of East Coast Swing, Rumba, and Cha Cha. Singles and couples are welcome! Karen Mason of "Learntadance Dance Studio" is an experienced ballroom dance instructor. Classes meet for eight weeks on Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria. Classes begin Jan. 18 (no class Feb. 22). Tuition is \$50. No senior discount. Register for Beginners Ballroom Dancing as well and receive 50 percent off the second class.

INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

This class explores the basics of Mandarin Chinese, the most widely spoken language in the world. Students will also learn about the simplified writing character system that is taught to all Chinese students in mainland China. Schodack Chinese Language and Culture Instructor Mark Hoyt teaches the course. Classes meet for four weeks on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the High School distance learning lab. Classes begin Feb. 2 (no class Feb. 23). Tuition is \$40.

CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE II

This four-week course is a continuation of Introduction to Chinese Language and Culture class. Students will continue to explore the Mandarin form of communication. Some basic knowledge of Mandarin Chinese is required. Schodack Chinese Language and Culture Instructor Mark Hoyt teaches this course. Classes meet on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the High School distance learning lab. Classes begin March 23 (no class March 30 and April 20). Tuition is \$40.

NEW YORK STATE POINT AND INSURANCE REDUCTION PROGRAM

The NYS Department of Motor Vehicles approved six-hour program is based on film presentations followed by discussion of driving strategies. Principal vehicle operators completing the course will receive a 10 percent insurance cost reduction and up to 4 points subtracted from their driving record for three years. By law, individuals MUST ARRIVE PROMPTLY and attend both nights in order to receive the certificate. Courses are taught by Peter R. Mackay. Two night sessions are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. on Jan. 11 and 13, and June 7 and 9 in MHHS Room 136. Tuition is \$40. No senior discount.

BEGINNERS CAKE DECORATING

This fun and easy class will teach you how to level and ice a two layer cake and make an assortment of flowers to decorate your cake. The course is taught by Karen Casey. Enrollment is limited. Classes meet for four weeks on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. starting April 26 in MHHS Room 203. Tuition is \$50. No senior discounts. Instructions and equipment lists will be provided at sign up. List of supplies: Tips: #3, 16, 21, 104, and 12. #7 flower nail, two coupler sets, small box of decorator bags, slanted spatula (needed for week 4).

HOW TO SELL ON eBAY

This dynamic and fun class will provide you with an eBay curriculum that will get you selling in no time! Do you want to make a part- or full-time income? Or, would you like to sell items around your home or for others? There are lots of great ways with eBay to start earning cash. Join Stephanie Daly for a new way to make extra cash in the comfort of your home. This course will be held on Jan. 20 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the MHHS computer lab (Room 117). Tuition is \$60.

SAT PREPARATION COURSES

The standardized SAT I exam is of great importance when it comes time for your student to enroll in college. Help your student prepare for this exam with our SAT prep courses. This year the SAT I exam will be held May 7 and June 4.

The Math Prep Course will be taught by MHHS Math teacher Andrea Faoro. Classes meet on Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in MHHS Room 224. Classes meet from March 3 through May 5 (no class March 24 and April 21).

The Verbal Prep Course will be taught by MHHS English teacher Caitlin Donahue. Classes meet on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in MHHS Room 138. Classes meet from March 8 through May 3 (no class on April 19).

Tuition is \$50.00 per course; students can sign up for one course or for both. Students will need to purchase "The Official SAT Study Guide" before classes begin. This review book is available at www.collegeboard.com, www.amazon.com, or at local bookstores; prices vary according to the store. Students must bring their school ID and Social Security Number to the first class and pencils and loose leaf paper to each class.

The deadline to register for the May 7 SAT I exam is April 8; late registration is April 22 (late fee applies). Registration deadline for the June 4 exam is May 6; late registration is May 20 (late fee applies). SAT II exams will also be held on May 7 and June 4.

Would you like to take a course you don't see offered? Would you like to teach a course?

Please contact the Director of Continuing Education with your ideas! Call Theresa Hovish at 732-7701, or e-mail at thovish@schodack.k12.ny.us.

Free Financial Courses!

All one-night financial planning workshops offered at Schodack are taught by licensed financial advisors with the Halliday Financial Group in Albany. Workshops are all strictly educational – there will be no soliciting for any investments. All workshops are held in the High School distance learning lab, Room 113. Tuition is now free to all Schodack CSD residents. All participants must pre-register. For more information or to register, contact Theresa Hovish at 732-7701. For information about workshop topics, e-mail Frank Guiffre at fguiffre@hallidayfinancial.com.

UNDERSTANDING STOCKS, BONDS, & MUTUAL FUNDS

Learn the basics of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, the true backbone of most portfolios. Discover how to use the internet and daily newspapers to track your investments. This course will help you understand the differences and the similarities of various types of investments. It will also show you how proper asset allocation will lower your overall risk. Understand the benefits of using mutual funds to build a balanced portfolio and help plan for a successful retirement. This course is strictly educational and there will be no attempt to promote any specific investments. Workshop is offered Wednesday, March 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

THE GOOD...THE BAD...THE ANNUITY

The Annuity or “personalized pension” as it is commonly referred to have been an investment vehicle long since insurance companies have been around. Years ago, the word “annuity” made people cringe. To this day the stereotype of high fees, illiquidity, and bad investments still linger. But there’s hope! The more recent annuities are now more revised, highly regulated, lower fees, and offer income guarantees. Learn about these new annuities compared to their ancestors and how the revisions of today can be carried forward with your older annuities. Topics discussed (but not limited to) will be: how an annuity works, fees of an annuity, the guarantee of income, the most updated revisions, the tax advantages of this investment, and how you can pass this legacy along to your loved ones. Workshop is offered Tuesday, Feb. 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE WITHOUT GOING BROKE

Are you and your family sitting around the kitchen table wondering how you are going to pay for your children’s college costs? Are you concerned that you will miss out on all of the financial aid, grants and scholarships you deserve? If your answer is “yes” then you cannot miss this workshop. We will discuss the following topics and more: maximizing the college financial aid process, how to avoid costly mistakes when paying the bills, avoiding scams that could cost you thousands of dollars, paying for college without sacrificing your retirement savings, and finding the right college for your children and your budget. This workshop is taught by Jason Tabor of the Halliday Financial Group. It will be offered on Tuesday, Feb. 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

PUT YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Have you figured out how to triple your income during retirement? Most retirees derive their income from three primary sources: Social Security retirement benefits, qualified retirement plans and individual savings/investments. Traditionally, retirement was spent relaxing with minimal financial concerns. Retirement is now often defined by activities such as travel, returning to school, volunteer work or the pursuit of favorite hobbies or sports. With proper planning, these needs can be met. We will show you ways to determine how much retirement will cost and provide strategies during your accumulation years to reach that goal. This course will define specific retirement plans and offer strategies in order to meet your goals to live a long, comfortable retirement. Feel free to email instructor Frank T. Guiffre at fguiffre@hallidayfinancial.com for more course information. Workshop is offered Wednesday, March 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Continuing Education **Registration Form**

Please use a separate form for each course. Payments may be combined. Make check or money order (no cash through the mail, cash is OK at on-site registration) payable to Schodack Central Schools and mail to: **Director of Continuing Education, Maple Hill High School, 1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton, NY 12033-1699.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email (optional): _____

Telephone (home): _____ (work): _____

Course Title: _____

Tuition: _____ Fees (if any): _____ Total: _____

Resident of Schodack Central School District: Yes No

All information must be completed (address, including zip code, etc.) before this registration can be processed.



Students Turn Nature into Art

Students in Advanced Studio in Art class this fall transformed the woods outside the school into works of art as part of the annual Land Art project.

After learning in class about the Land Art modern art movement, which explores the relationship between art and the environment in which it exists, students created their own works behind the High School.

Maple Hill students worked together to create site-specific sculptures. They then documented their work with digital photographs.

"Land art is often inspired by natural processes. Land artists rejected the commercialization of art, and were also concerned for the environment," explained art teacher Theresa Hovish. "Advanced Studio in Art did a wonderful job with their Land Art projects."

To see more photos, visit the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us.

Register Kindergartners Now

Parents of children who will enter kindergarten in September are encouraged to register them now at Castleton Elementary School.

Registration forms are available on the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, under "Forms and Publications." Or you can call the school at 732-7755 to have registration forms mailed to you.

A child must be five years old by Dec. 1, 2011 to attend kindergarten in September.

Registering your child now will ensure they are ready to start the 2011-12 school year on time. It also helps the school district plan for the 2011-12 school year by providing an estimate of how many students will enter kindergarten.

District to Study Shared Services

Schodack and Ichabod Crane school districts are moving forward with a study that will help the two districts work together to reduce costs and increase opportunities for students.

A \$49,500 Department of State grant will help pay for the comprehensive study, which will examine areas that could benefit both districts. The districts applied for the grant in February. But the late approval of the state budget postponed the awarding of the grant.

Superintendent Robert Horan explained that with cuts to state education aid expected to continue, this is an opportune time to take a look at all possible ways to reduce costs. He noted grants for studies like this have been awarded across the state to help school districts look for ways to reduce costs without impacting programs.

"This is an excellent opportunity for us to dig deep into our districts and have some research and data to see areas where we could possibly share resources," said Mr. Horan. "We need to develop long range goals so we can continue to

provide a challenging education program for all of our students."

In the grant proposal for the study, the two school districts specified they were looking for opportunities to do two things: reduce costs and increase opportunities for students.

Mr. Horan noted the study will examine all possible options from shared services to a merger. If the study recommends a merger, Mr. Horan stressed that both boards of education and communities would have to agree because mergers require a public discussion and public vote.

"In the meantime, we're already talking with Ichabod Crane to see if there are ways we can reduce our costs and increase student opportunities," Mr. Horan said.

Mr. Horan noted the district already has started efforts to share services, including sharing Transportation Director Mary Mabb with New Lebanon Central School District and Director of Facilities and Grounds Matt LaClair with Chatham Central School District.

Puccio Receives Highest State Award

Board of Education member Paul Puccio was honored as the school board member who has done the most for public education in New York State by the NYS School Board Association at its annual meeting on October 21.

Mr. Puccio was presented the Award for Distinguished School Board Service, the association's highest honor for a school board member. The award is given to one school board member each year amongst the thousands serving in the state.

"One thing that has been made clear by his colleagues on all three boards is Paul's consistent leadership," said NYSSBA President Florence Johnson. "His leadership and work on behalf of children is truly outstanding. He is a role model for other board members and a consummate advocate for the value of public education."

First elected in 1980, Mr. Puccio has served on the Schodack CSD Board of Education for 30 years. He spent 10 years as president of the Board. Mr. Puccio also has been a member of the Questar III BOCES Board for 11 years. He also serves on the Board of Tech Valley High School, a nationally-recognized school that emphasizes teaching 21st century skills in a project-based learning environment.



At the NYSSBA's annual meeting, Mr. Puccio spoke to a large audience of school board members and superintendents from across the state. Superintendent Robert Horan, who attended the meeting along with Board member Bruce Romanchak, said Mr. Puccio's speech about the challenges and opportunities facing schools captivated the audience.

"His enthusiasm, passion, and excitement about change that we are facing electrified the audience," said Mr. Horan. "Paul received a well deserved standing ovation. He made all of us very proud."



Maple Hill Athletic Teams Excel

Maple Hill's athletic teams had outstanding seasons this fall. The girls cross country team, boys varsity soccer team, girls varsity soccer team, girls tennis team, and girls varsity volleyball team all won Patroon Conference championships. The boys soccer team and girls tennis team also won sectional championships.

Boys Basketball Coach Scott Hanrahan was also named the 2009-10 High School Coach of the Year for Class C by the Basketball Coaches Association of New York on September 24. This is the second year in a row Mr. Hanrahan, who also serves as a music teacher at Maple Hill, has earned this honor.

Congratulations to all our athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers for working so hard and representing Maple Hill with pride!

HVCC to Offer Courses at Schodack Schools

Starting in January, residents interested in taking a college computer class, math class or general psychology class at night can do so at Maple Hill High School.

District officials recently finalized an agreement with Hudson Valley Community College to start offering some college courses at Schodack schools. HVCC has similar agreements with other area school districts.

Superintendent Robert Horan explained the collaboration allows local residents to take a college credit course at night without traveling to the college's Troy campus. The initiative will start with Personal Computer Concepts and Applications, College Algebra and Trigonometry, and General Psychology courses but may expand to include offerings such as English, Social Studies or certification programs.

"We would like to hear from the community about what type of courses they would be interested in," said Mr. Horan. Mr. Horan asked anyone interested to call him at 732-2297 or e-mail him at rhoran@schodack.k12.ny.us.

Mr. Horan said his hope is to grow the relationship with HVCC to allow Maple Hill students to take classes and get a jump on college by earning college credits. He also hopes Maple Hill teachers will be able to teach some of the HVCC courses as adjunct professors.

For information about the courses or to register, please visit www.hvcc.edu.

Schodack Central School District

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Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033

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