

Building Better Communication

Schodack School District has planned a series of initiatives for the upcoming school year to improve communication between the school and the community, as well as the school community itself.

"Improving communication is one of the school district's top priorities," said Superintendent Douglas Hamlin. "We need to ensure residents know about both the great things going on in our schools and the challenges we face. At the same time, we need to reach out to the community in new ways so we fully understand their views and concerns."

A key initiative this year will be community forums where residents and school officials can openly discuss the critical issues facing the school and the community. The district is eager to hear from a diverse cross section of residents and share the challenges all schools are facing, particularly the balancing of educational needs with escalating costs. The forums will be announced to the public as soon as they're scheduled.

The school website also has been improved, providing timely news about student and faculty achievement, educational issues, and school activities. It will become a greater resource, announcing upcoming events and offering downloadable school forms.

The High School parental e-mail system that notifies parents of emergencies and important school news will be expanded to the Elementary and Middle School as well. High School Principal Robert Horan initiated the system last year and can notify hundreds of parents instantly whenever necessary.

"It's worked great. Last year, we had to reschedule an exam and were able to send an e-mail out to more than 300 parents telling them the new schedule. The phone calls to the office came to a screeching halt as soon as we sent it out. A lot of parents thanked us," Horan said.

Parents can sign up for the e-mail system through the school website, or opt out if they choose. All e-mail addresses will be kept completely confidential.



While electronic forms of communication are being expanded, Schodack will continue to put out a district newsletter, budget newsletter, and release announcements in local newspapers to ensure the entire community is kept informed.

School officials also will look to improve communication among faculty and staff, involving them in more conversations about challenges facing the district while offering a more open exchange of ideas and concerns.

And principals, teachers, staff and administrators encourage anyone with a question to please call or e-mail the school.

"If you have a question or concern, please don't hesitate to contact us. We want to hear from you," Hamlin said. ■

CES Building to Open This School Year



A picture of the CES building project in July. Construction is ahead of schedule and on budget, with students and faculty expected to return in February.

The new Castleton Elementary School building is ahead of schedule and on budget, and will be ready for students and faculty to move into after the February winter break.

"Our contractors have really worked well together to get this project done," said Clerk of the Works Ed Goodwill, who oversees the district's construction projects.

The new CES building is part of the \$17.8 million Capital Project voters approved on Oct. 26, 2006, 70 percent of which was paid for by New York State building aid.

The new two-story addition will offer larger classrooms, space for a pre-kindergarten program, a larger, brighter library, and a big gymnasium for school and community use. Fourth graders also will move from the Middle School back to the Elementary School, although not until next school year.

Separate drop off locations for school buses and parents will provide safer conditions for students arriving or leaving school. Workers started paving in August after installing a new drainage system that should alleviate water run off problems on Ransom Avenue.

Construction will be completed by the end of the year, although maintenance staff will need time to get the school ready for students and teachers. School belongings at the CES modular village will also have to be moved to the new building.

Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Matthew LaClair noted the decision to move elementary students to the modular village was the primary reason construction moved so smoothly. Otherwise, workers would have had to work around school schedules as not to interrupt classrooms. Children were also kept safely away from the construction site.

"The modular village was the thing to do," LaClair said.

Elementary School Principal Jason Chevrier stressed that as the CES building opening date draws closer, the school district will keep parents closely informed to help ensure a seamless transition back into the school. Students will take trips to the new building once construction is completed so they're comfortable with the new school.

"There's a tremendous sense of excitement with the new building," Chevrier said. "I think the kids are really going to be excited, I know faculty and staff certainly are."

New School Year Starts September 4

With the new school year starting, all three school principals have the same message for parents.

"If you ever have a question, just pick up the phone or e-mail us. We're always here to answer your questions," said High School Principal Robert Horan.

While parents are encouraged to check their district calendar for complete listings of upcoming school events and activities, here's what each principal pointed to as school opens on Thursday, Sept. 4.

At **Castleton Elementary School**, Principal Jason Chevrier said faculty and staff are excited after a successful year at the modular village while looking forward to moving to the CES building in February. Chevrier stressed that parents would be kept closely informed when the opening approaches to ensure a smooth transition for children and parents.

Chevrier also recommended new parents and parents of kindergartners attend the Sept. 4 and 5 coffee hours and all parents attend the parent nights on Sept. 10 and 11.

Chevrier encouraged all parents of Castleton Elementary School students to allow their children to ride the school bus starting on the first day of school.

"The separation anxiety is always difficult but it's easier for children and parents if it occurs at the school bus stop instead of at school," Chevrier said.

At **Maple Hill Middle School**, Principal Michael Bennett said the building may look a little different to students with an expanded library and computer room but it's all part of major improvements over the summer.



Bennett said faculty and staff are looking forward to building on last year's successful Wildcat Pride program, which promotes Pride, Respect, Kindness and Responsibility. A kickoff for Wildcat Pride is scheduled for students on Friday, Sept. 5.

Bennett also encouraged parents to attend the MS PTO Ice Cream Social on Sept. 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This informal get-together is for the whole family and will be enjoyed by faculty and staff members. The Grade 4 Parent Lunches will also be held on Sept. 18 with Christine Malone, Sept. 25 with Carole Lovelett, Oct. 2 with Sheila Golden, and Oct. 9 with Scott Charlebois.

"We're looking forward to an exciting year at Maple Hill Middle School," Bennett said.

At **Maple Hill High School**, Principal Horan noted this year's freshman class received a good overview of what to expect in high school from their peers during the Aug. 26 orientation day led by sophomores Dylan Acosta and Ellie Peters.

"They did an outstanding job. They explained class schedules and talked about what it takes to be a successful high school student," Horan said.

The High School will also host several events to welcome back students including the Sept. 12 Back to School Dance and the Sept. 18 Back to School Night. Additionally, Horan said he is exploring ways to open up the high school more to the public this year, including use of computer labs and distance learning opportunities. ■

District Kicks Off Energy Conservation Program

In an effort to reduce energy costs and encourage students and employees to think green, Schodack Central School District will kick off an energy conservation program this year, asking students, faculty and staff to think about ways to reduce the school's energy usage.

"We all know how rising energy costs are affecting our household budgets. Schodack schools are no different," said Superintendent Doug Hamlin. "We think our students, teachers and staff will come up with some great ideas on how we can minimize the impact of skyrocketing energy costs."

While school officials already have some ideas on ways to reduce energy costs, Hamlin said they thought it would be best to open up the process to involve the school community. Just as students, faculty and staff came together last year to create a highly successful recycling program, Hamlin said he thinks the community will similarly embrace an energy conservation program.

"Given how environmentally conscious most young people are today, we think this program will particularly resonate with our students," Hamlin said.

Like all homeowners, Schodack School District is bracing for the impact

of high energy costs, particularly this winter when heating fuel is expected to rise by as much as 40 percent.

The school district has already taken steps to reduce its energy costs. Many of the summer construction projects at the Middle and High School were aimed at improving energy efficiency. More efficient boilers and an improved ventilation system were installed, for example, including a centralized energy management system that will allow for better control of temperatures in both buildings and the new CES building.

Hamlin also suggested that parents who drive their children to school reconsider and put them on school buses to help their own household budgets. Schodack, like every school district in the state, is required by law to have a seat for every student, regardless if the student takes the bus or not. While the district must adhere to that law, parents can minimize their own costs at the pump by choosing school transportation.

"We're required to have a seat for every student in the district," Hamlin said. "It's the most efficient, cost effective and safest way to get kids to school."

Class of 2008 Excels

Schodack is always proud of its graduates and this year certainly is no different. Ninety-three percent of the Class of 2008 went on to college after graduation, including universities such as Dartmouth, Rochester Institute of Technology, University at Albany, Endicott, and Siena.

“The Class of 2008 was an amazing group and they’ll be missed,” said High School Principal Robert Horan. “I can honestly say I’m proud of each and every one of them.”

Of the 76 graduates, 71 went on to college, three entered the workforce after graduating, and two enlisted in the United States military, one joining the U.S. Army and the other joining the U.S. Marine Corps.

Here is a list of all the schools that students went to. Congratulations to everyone in the Class of 2008. We’re proud of you!

Clarkson University
College of Saint Rose
Dartmouth College
Davis College
Endicott College
Hudson Valley Community College
Lake Superior State University
Long Island University – C.W. Post
Marist College
Mildred Elley
New England Institute of Art
Princeton Ballet School
Rochester Institute of Technology
Russell Sage College
Schenectady County
Community College

Siena College
Skidmore College
SUNY Brockport
SUNY Cobleskill
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Fredonia
SUNY Geneseo
SUNY Morrisville
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Oneonta
SUNY Oswego
SUNY Plattsburgh
SUNY Potsdam
University at Albany
University of New Hampshire
University of Vermont



Graduation Rates Continue to Outpace State Average

Maple Hill High School’s graduation rate for the 2006-2007 school year far outpaced the state average, according to the State Education Department’s School Report Card, released on August 11.

According to the annual report, the Maple Hill graduation rate for the 2006-2007 school year held relatively steady at 84 percent compared to the state average of 69 percent. Graduation rates were a key focus of State Education Commissioner Richard Mills when he announced the report results.

Of the 95 graduates in 2006-07, 100 percent earned a Regents Diploma with 60 percent earning a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, according to the report.

“We are proud of our students and faculty for their hard work and focus on success.

Given the faculty and staff support for students through their high school years, it is not surprising that Maple Hill students reach the graduation goal. Yet, there is still work to do,” said Superintendent Douglas Hamlin. “The goal is to ensure every student who enters these schools walks across the graduation stage in possession of an excellent school experience.”

Hamlin noted that New York State’s graduation figures only include students who graduate high school in four years. Students who need extra summer courses or an extra year of classes to graduate aren’t counted in the State report figures, pulling the graduation rates down. Neither does the graduation rate include students who reach graduation in less than four years.

According to Maple Hill High School

records, of the 111 students in the Class of 2007 who started as 9th graders in 2003, 103 graduated on time and four graduated a year early, resulting in a 96 percent graduation rate. One student received his GED while three students dropped out of school.

“Students learn at different paces and some students need extra time to meet all the graduation requirements, some less. The official graduation rate accounts only for those students who graduate four years after entering the 9th grade,” Hamlin said.

The State Report Card also showed continued improvement on state assessment tests. All three district schools are considered in “good standing” and have made adequate yearly progress toward proficiency goals for all students. ■

The Schodack Central School District provides continuing education opportunities to promote lifelong learning in the community.

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. 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 Sept. 12. On site registration is held Sept. 18 from 6 to 7:00 p.m. in the Maple Hill High School lobby.

Early-Start courses — Coed Volleyball begins before on-site registration on Sept. 18. Please call or send in your tuition early.

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

Mail 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!

AEROBIC DANCE AND FLOORWORK

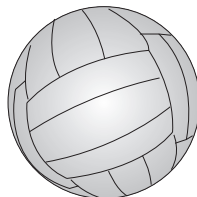
Jump into a healthy fall routine with this diversified program which combines a cardio workout, toning, balance, flexibility and fun. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. in the CES Village gym. Classes begin Sept. 16. Register directly with instructor Debi at 708-9238.

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 to 8:15 p.m. in the CES Village gym. Classes begin Oct. 1. Tuition is \$60. No senior discount.

COED 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 Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the High School gym. It begins Sept. 10. Participants must pre-register (by calling 732-7708), as class size is limited. Tuition is \$45 plus a \$2 materials fee. **This course begins before on-site registration. Please call or send in registration early.*



HALL WALKERS

Walk in a safe, warm place — Maple Hill Middle School! The Middle School is open Monday through Friday from 6:45 to 7:45 a.m., 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 732-7708.

OVER 30 BASKETBALL

There are a limited number of openings in Over 30 Basketball, which meets on Monday or Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Middle School gym. Monday night basketball begins Oct. 20. Wednesday night basketball begins Oct. 15. Tuition is \$50, payable the first week of class. Please call 732-7708 to register, as space is extremely limited.



YOGA

Each day more people are experiencing the benefits of yoga, reducing stress, enhancing powers of relaxation, and increasing physical strength and flexibility. We offer two yoga classes taught by Ellen Sadowski, a certified Hatha yoga teacher and licensed massage therapist who has been practicing yoga for 25 years. Tuition is \$60. No senior discount. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat to sit on.

YOGA I

This beginner's class serves as an introduction to yoga or for those who prefer a slower, more gentle class. Classes meet for eight weeks on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. in the CES Village cafeteria. Classes begin Sept. 23. (No class Nov. 11).

YOGA II

This class combines a range of postures from gentle to challenging to help create a practice that stretches and strengthens the body and calms the mind. It is intended for those who want to further develop their yoga style and pace. Classes meet for eight weeks on Thursdays from 7 to 8:15 p.m. in the CES Village cafeteria. Classes begin Sept. 25.

Dog Obedience, Pre-Licensing, & Chinese Language/Culture

BASIC DOG OBEDIENCE

This course offers a structured approach to dog handling. Dogs must be at least 6-months-old with current vaccinations (send proof with registration) and be on a leash. The course is taught by Mary Maltbie, who has been involved in competitive dog obedience and hunting training for more than 15 years. She is a member of the International Association of Canine Professionals. Classes meet for seven weeks on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria. Classes begin Oct. 2. Tuition is \$50 with a \$10 materials fee.

FIVE HOUR PRE-LICENSING

Those holding a learner's permit must complete this course before scheduling a road test for a driver's license. A valid permit is required and a photocopy must be included with the registration form and must be brought to class. Students must attend both sessions to complete the time requirement. Dates and times are TBA, please contact 732-7708 for more information. Classes meet in High School Room 138. Tuition is \$25. Students must pre-register. High School students may drop off registrations at the Continuing Education office, High School Room 134.

NEW CLASS!

INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE LANGUAGE & 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 Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the High School distance learning lab. Classes begin Oct. 9. Tuition is \$40.

Financial Planning

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 library. Tuition is \$10 for district residents, \$20 for non-residents, and free to Schodack Central senior citizens with a Gold Card. All participants must pre-register, even those who can attend tuition-free. For more information or to register, contact Theresa Hovish at 732-7708. For information about workshop topics, e-mail Frank Guiffre at fguiffre@hallidayfinancial.com.

MINIMIZE YOUR TAXES, MAXIMIZE YOUR INCOME

Tax laws and regulations change as often as the seasons. It's important to stay up-to-date on these changes so you can minimize your taxes. This informational course will answer such questions as: what forms do I file, what can I deduct, and how do my investments impact my taxes. Workshop is offered Oct. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m.

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLANNING

During peak earning years, we often set aside assets that are earmarked to provide for our retirement needs. Unfortunately, very few people establish a financial plan that covers every aspect of their financial life. This informational seminar will focus on the importance of comprehensive financial planning, demonstrating how investment, tax, insurance and estate planning work together to provide the coverage and security that everyone is looking to enjoy during a long and fruitful retirement. Workshop is offered Nov. 3 from 6 to 8 p.m.

BABY BOOMERS

This informational seminar is for the "baby boom" generation. Over the next several years, baby boomers will be exiting the workforce and

enjoying a long and fruitful retirement. This workshop will discuss the financial transition that will face this generation. Topics will include, but not limited to, rolling over your 401(k) plan into something you can control, asset distribution management, required minimum distributions, and Individual Retirement Accounts. Workshop is offered Nov. 17 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

UNDERSTANDING STOCKS, BONDS AND MUTUAL FUNDS

Learn the basics of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, the backbone of most portfolios. Discover how to use the Internet and daily newspapers to track your investments and learn about the various types of investments. Workshop is offered Dec. 1. from 7 to 9 p.m.

RETIREMENT PLANNING

Have you figured out how to maintain your income during retirement? This workshop will show you ways to figure 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. Workshop is offered Dec. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Continuing Education Registration Form on Page 6.

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 732-7708, or e-mail at thovish@schodack.k12.ny.us.

There are a limited number of openings in Schodack's Continuing Education Fall Driver Education program. The semester-long driver education program is conducted in accordance with the state Education Department and Department of Motor Vehicles. Classes will begin in September and end in January. Each week, students attend one class and have one "car" session. Dates and times for classes and car sessions will be announced shortly. Please call the Director of Continuing Education at (518) 732-7708 for more information. There is a limit of 28 students per semester. Students must be 16 years old by Sept. 1 and have a learner's permit.

Because there are so few opportunities to make up missed classes, students may not take driver education during the same semester they are involved in sports, unless approved by their coach and the instructor. Preference will be given to Schodack Central School District residents, older students and those with sports- and work-related scheduling conflicts. If a student misses a number of classes for legitimate reasons, such as extended illness, accommodations will be made for completing the course at a later time. Those with incomplete class work or driving as defined by the instructor will not be issued a certificate of completion (blue card).

Tuition is \$325 for Schodack Central residents, \$350 for nonresidents. Register by sending check or money order made payable to Schodack Central Schools, along with a photocopy of the student's learner's permit or license to: Director of Continuing Education, 1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton, NY 12033. Students are not considered registered just because their name is on the interest list; the Director must receive the tuition check and paperwork for the student to be registered.

The Director of Continuing Education will assign students their car times, making every attempt to accommodate students' special circumstances, (work, transportation, etc.), but cannot guarantee a specific placement. Please give details regarding car time needs when registering. The Director has the sole authority to assign students to a car, taking into consideration many factors. A student's car assignment may be changed up until two weeks after the course begins.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Code of Conduct of Maple Hill High School. Driver education classes will be held in High School Room 101. This course is taught by Maple Hill High School technology and certified Driver Education teacher Jason Derby.

Driver Education Registration Form

Attach photo copy of learner's permit, make check or money order payable to Schodack Central Schools and mail to: **Director of Continuing Education, Maple Hill High School, 1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton, NY 12033-1699** (no cash through the mail, cash will only be accepted if registering in the Continuing Education office at Maple Hill High School).

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (home): _____ (work): _____

Special circumstances for car assignment? (Please describe): _____

Students are expected to behave in accordance with the Maple Hill High School Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may be cause for expulsion of the class with no refund. Students and parents/guardians must sign below to acknowledge their understanding and agreement.

Student Signature: _____ DATE _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ DATE _____

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.

BOE Finalizes 2008-2009 Tax Rates

On August 21, the Schodack Central School District's Board of Education finalized the 2008-09 tax rates at \$18.301779 per \$1,000 of assessed value for Schodack residents and \$24.402309 per \$1,000 of assessed value for Stuyvesant residents.

Individual tax bills will be mailed out in September, based on the 2008 assessed value for the parcel, any applicable exemptions (STAR, senior citizens, etc.) and the school tax rate.

Schodack residents will see a 75.4 percent reduction in their tax rate compared to 2007-08 because properties are now being assessed at full market value. Last year, prior to the Town of Schodack's reassessment, properties were only assessed at 25.5 percent of their full market value. Now that properties are assessed at 100 percent of full market value for the 2008-09 school year, the tax rate per \$1,000 has declined significantly.

Stuyvesant residents, who did not have a town-wide reassessment last year, will see a 5.3 percent increase in the tax rate over 2007-08.

The overall tax levy increase for the 2008-09 school year is 4.71 percent, which matches the estimate that school officials put forth for the June 17 budget re-vote. Here is a breakdown of the school tax rates:

Town	2007-08 Tax Rate	2008-09 Tax Rate	Actual Change in Tax Rate	Percent Change in Tax Rate
Schodack	\$74.52	\$18.30	-\$56.22	-75.44%
Stuyvesant	\$23.17	\$24.40	\$1.23	5.3%

Additional information is available on the school district website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us. If you have any questions about the tax rate or your tax bill, please call the Schodack Central School District Business Office at (518) 732-2124.



Help Keep Our Students Safe

One of Schodack Central School District's top priorities is maintaining a safe school environment for all of our students.

To make sure the upcoming school year is a safe one for students, as well as employees and visitors to our school, Schodack asks all drivers to take their time and obey all signs and painted traffic flow indicators on school grounds.

For parents dropping off or picking up children, we ask you to allow enough time to do this safely. It may be necessary for parents to wait in a line of cars for a few minutes but those few minutes certainly are worth it to ensure all our children are safe.

For our student's safety, please:

- Slow down. Fast moving cars present a danger to students and adults who may be walking to parking lots or between buildings.
- Do not park in fire lanes.
- Do not pass school buses when their red lights are flashing. It is illegal to pass a bus with its red lights flashing, even on school property.
- Do not try to beat out buses at school dismissal. This can cause an unsafe situation.
- Please follow the directions of all school bus drivers and staff directing traffic.

On behalf of the Schodack Central School District and our students, thank you!

School Website Now Updated Regularly

Looking for a schedule of this year's sporting events? Interested in learning yoga, planning for your retirement or taking one of more than a dozen Continuing Education classes? Need to find an e-mail address or phone number of a school employee?

Then visit www.schodack.k12.ny.us, Schodack Central School District's website which now features regularly updated school announcements and news about student and faculty achievement. The district also is committed to making the website a better resource for the community, so you'll be able to download school forms and get important information such as what immunizations your child needs.

So if you want to sign up for a dog obedience class, see the Maple High Senior Newsletter that students create, or read letters from our building principals, visit www.schodack.k12.ny.us!



Summer Construction Improves Middle & High Schools

Students will return to school this year to find improved classrooms, a healthier school environment, and more energy efficient and secure school buildings.

Construction crews worked through the summer to complete extensive renovations at the Middle and High School buildings as part of the \$17.8 million Capital Project voters approved on Oct. 26, 2006, 70 percent of which was paid for by state building aid. The new CES building will complete the Capital Project.

“Since the day school ended in June, our contractors have been working nearly every day – including a lot of weekends – to get the schools ready for the opening of school,” said Matthew LaClair, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds.

Classrooms in the Middle and High Schools were extensively renovated, including major technological upgrades. The Middle School library and computer lab were both enlarged, providing more spacious, state-of-the-art facilities. Fire alarms and public address systems were upgraded in both schools and a new telephone system in the Elementary and Middle School will allow parents to connect easier with teachers.

Dozens of new air ventilators were installed in the Middle and High School, improving the circulation of fresh air and providing more efficient heating and cooling. All upgrades are tied into a new Direct Digital Control system that can control temperatures



Maple Hill Middle School's library and computer lab were gutted this year so they could be expanded and improved technologically. The rooms will be ready for the opening of the school year.

remotely throughout all three school buildings for increased energy efficiency.

New energy efficient boilers replaced outdated units at the Middle and High Schools. New water-saving fixtures were also part of extensive Middle School bathroom upgrades.

New security systems were installed at both schools, including new exterior doors

that utilize swipe cards for improved security. Additional security cameras also were added and extensive asbestos removal was completed over the summer.

In addition, the bus garage received much needed improvements including a new bus wash system, vehicle lift, and spill containment area for above ground fuel pumps. ■

Schodack Central School District
1216 Maple Hill Road
Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033

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