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SCHODACK

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



SEPTEMBER 2011

OVERVIEW

School Year Starts Wednesday, September 7

If there ever was a year to get involved in your school district, this is the year.

Schools across the state face new challenges and new mandates. But I see these challenges also as opportunities, opportunities that our community can help us with.

Whether you've been involved in our district before or not, please consider doing so this year. Please come to a meeting, give us a call, send us an e-mail, or consider volunteering. We truly want to know what you think.

One of the key issues we need community input on is our Reorganization Feasibility Study. Over the summer, 30 community members from the Schodack and Ichabod Crane school districts have met numerous times to learn about each other's schools.

The committee expects to complete its report this fall but I want to reassure our community that absolutely no decisions have been made yet. While a merger is a possible recommendation, please know that a merger requires a community vote so you will have the final say. For more information, see the story in this newsletter.

The property tax cap will also impact us this year. As a homeowner, I certainly understand the need for property tax relief in New York. But the state provided only minimal mandate relief for schools that makes it difficult to control costs.

It will be a challenge to deal with the limits of this new mandate so I urge residents to get involved in the budget process this year.

Another new state mandate this year is a new evaluation system for teachers and principals. Similar to the property tax cap, we understand the public's desire for such evaluations. However, there are still many unanswered questions from the state about how it will work. The sharp increase in classroom observations will also require significant more work for our administrators.

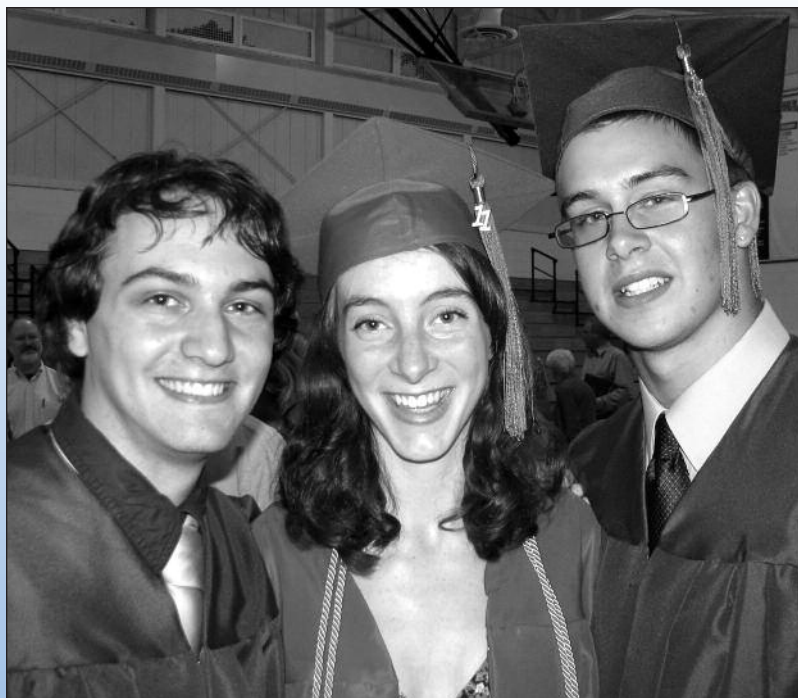
While all this change may seem overwhelming, I can reassure our parents and community members of one thing. We have outstanding faculty and staff who care deeply about our students. I have full confidence in their ability to continue to provide our children with the outstanding education that Schodack schools stand for.

Our 96 percent graduation rate in last year's state report card was the second highest rate in the region and another indicator of our faculty and staff's commitment to our students.

I look forward to another successful school year and hope to hear from you and see you as I'm out in the schools and the community this year.

Robert Horan

Superintendent of Schodack Central School District



Congratulations Class of 2011!

The Schodack Central School District community celebrated the achievements of its newest class of alumni on June 24 as the district held its 56th Annual Commencement Ceremony for 82 members of the Class of 2011.

"I'm extremely proud of our graduates and all their hard work and perseverance to reach their goals," said Superintendent Robert Horan. "I encourage all our graduates to keep in touch through e-mail or by calling us. We'd love to hear what they're doing and everything they've accomplished."

Graduates went on to such colleges as the College of St. Rose, Eastman School of Music, Ithaca College, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Siena College and Virginia Tech. Several graduates also entered the military.

The Class of 2011 earned a total of \$3,284,700 in scholarships.

To see a photo slideshow from commencement, visit www.schodack.k12.ny.us. Congratulations to our newest alumni!

CES to Increase Reading and Writing Time

Castleton Elementary School will implement a number of new changes for the new school year, including increasing reading and writing time by 25 percent for students in grades K-3.



Principal Jason Chevrier explained students have done well with 90 minutes each day spent on English Language Arts. But teachers and administrators believe one of the biggest academic improvements they can make is increase the time to 120 minutes each day.

“Our teachers have all said it’s not enough time for such a critical area of learning,” Mr. Chevrier said. “We’ve built a schedule around providing students a 120 minute block each day.”

The change is just one example of how the school is looking to offer some programs differently this year, largely a result of the budget cuts over the last three years.

For example, students this year will also have a block each day for interven-

tion and enrichment. Teachers will be able to help students who need additional assistance or provide enriched learning opportunities for students who need to be challenged.

Also this year, fourth graders will no longer spend the entire day with one teacher but instead travel with their homeroom class to different classrooms throughout the day, just as fifth grade does. All grades will follow an A-B-C schedule for special classes instead of a Monday through Friday schedule. That will allow the school to maximize the use of teacher and staff time and curriculum expertise.

“The three-day rotation schedule will give us more flexibility to allocate our resources so we can support our students with even more focused, planned

instruction,” Mr. Chevrier said.

Parents will receive a calendar schedule to help remind them what special classes are offered each day.

The art and music programs will also change, with art provided one semester and music the next semester. The change will allow the school to maximize faculty resources while at the same time increasing the total time students spend in art and music classes.

“Due to cuts we’ve all had to make to our school budgets, we have to change how we structure our programs,” Mr. Chevrier said. “Fortunately we have wonderful faculty and staff who are willing to look at different ways to not only maintain but enhance education for our students.”

TAX LEVY SET FOR 2011-12

The Board of Education set the 2011-12 tax levy at its August 18 meeting at \$11,485,159, a 9.62% increase over the previous year.

The tax levy is more than originally proposed largely due to the Town of Schodack adding property to the tax rolls that was previously a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes).

This does not impact the tax rate used to calculate a homeowner’s taxes. The tax rate will increase by approximately 2.99%, as projected during the budget season. However, please note that individual tax bills will vary depending on changes or adjustments to assessment or STAR.

Tax rates (per \$1,000 of assessed property value) are \$19.399992 for Schodack and \$19.399942 for Stuyvesant.

We also want our community to be aware that the state has capped the amount of STAR savings a homeowner can receive to no more than a 2% increase over the previous year.

NEW SECURITY MEASURES IN PLACE THIS YEAR

In an effort to further improve safety for our students and employees, all three school buildings will use a video monitor and buzzer system for their front entrances this year.

Once students are inside the buildings and the school day starts, the front door – and all other doors – will be locked to the outside. They still can be used as exits, however.

Visitors will be buzzed into school buildings and immediately report to the main office. A badge, which must be worn at all times while in the building, will be issued.

The district apologizes for any inconvenience this may create, but it is a common practice for many school districts. We believe it will help to ensure a safe learning environment.

MHMS Excited for New Student Class

For the first time in three years, Maple Hill Middle School will welcome a new class of students through its doors this year.

As Castleton Elementary School has moved from a K-3 to a K-5 building over the past two years, the Middle School hasn't had a new class of students to look forward to.

"It will be great to welcome new students this year," said Principal Michael Bennett. "Seeing new faces and having the energy of new students will be exciting and a positive for our school."

In addition to new students, there are a number of changes also planned for the Middle School.

The 7th grade Connections class, for example, will no longer be offered. However, service learning opportunities – including the popular Wall of Honor event – will be integrated into the English Language Arts curriculum. Teacher Christine Fowler will teach ELA this year.

But while budget cuts over the last three years have necessitated changes, the Middle School has also found ways to expand student opportunities at no cost.

Eighth graders, for example, will for the first time have the opportunity to take Earth Science. The new accelerated opportunity will be taught by a High School teacher. Health class will also be expanded from 7th and 8th grade to 6th grade as well.

The school also will have a second computer lab at no cost to the district. Laptop computers that were taken from class to class on a cart have been moved to a new lab, along with classroom computers that teachers agreed would be more useful in a lab setting.



All extracurricular and modified sports offerings were also kept for the 2011-12 school year.

"Despite the budget cuts, we've still been able to add some opportunities for students by looking at how we can offer things differently," said Mr. Bennett.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS REACH AN IMPASSE

The Schodack Central School District and Schodack Teachers Association have been unable to reach an agreement to a new contract, with both parties jointly declaring an impasse.

As a result, faculty will operate under the previous three-year contract for 2011-12. Both parties met with a mediator in August and will do so again in September in an effort to reach an agreement.

"We essentially have agreed to disagree," said Superintendent Robert Horan. "The one thing we want our community to be certain of, this will have no impact on students."

Rules of collective bargaining prevent either side from discussing the exact details of the contract negotiations. But Mr. Horan stressed that the Board of Education is mindful of community views as the district continues to negotiate and work toward resolution through the mediation process.

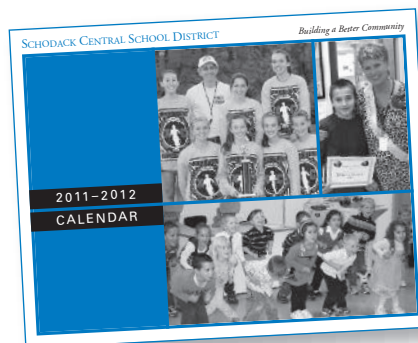
Contracts for the other two district unions, CSEA and Schodack Administrator Association, expire in June 2012. These groups will meet with district leaders later this year as part of negotiations.

District Calendar Available Online

Schodack Central School District's 2011-12 school calendar is now available on the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, in an easy to print format.

Please note, due to the district's efforts to cut costs, the calendar will again not be mailed to residents this year. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause; however we feel this is a prudent cost-saving measure given the current cost of mailing and printing.

If you would like a calendar and do not have access to a computer, please stop by any one of Schodack schools'



main offices to pick up one of a limited number of printed copies. You can also contact the District Office at 732-2297 if you need one mailed to you.

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 Sept. 10. On site registration is held Thursday, Sept. 8, 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 Sept. 13 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 Sept. 15 (no class Sept. 29) 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 Monday, Sept. 12 (no class Oct. 10) 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 Oct. 3; Wednesday night begins Oct. 5. 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 Sept. 13 (no class Sept. 29 or Nov. 8). 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 Sept. 18. Participants must pre-register by calling 732-7701 as class size is limited. Tuition is \$45 plus a \$2 materials fee. Single week play sessions are available for \$5 each.

NEW COURSE!

ZUMBA

Are you ready to party yourself into shape? Zumba is an exhilarating, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness program. Zumba classes feature exotic rhythms set to high-energy Latin and international beats. Karilyn Tremblay has been a Zumba instructor for two years and a dance teacher for 10 years. Zumba requires no dance experience, but Karilyn's class is recommended for teens and adults due to the high energy dance moves she will teach you. Wear comfortable clothes, sneakers without a lot of tread, bring water, and get ready to join the dance party! Zumba classes meet for eight weeks on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 13 (No class on Sept. 20 or Nov. 8) in the MHMS cafeteria. Tuition is \$60. No senior discount.

opportunities to promote lifelong learning in the community.

Jewelry Making, Cake Decorating and More!

BASIC JEWELRY MAKING

No prior experience is necessary in this basic level jewelry making course. During this fun and creative class you will learn to use basic tools, beading wire, findings, and a variety of colorful beads to create beautiful jewelry. Class lessons will focus on creating necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. Use your imagination and learn basic techniques to create special items that you make yourself. Price includes supplies. This class is taught by Tricia Spencer. Jewelry making is held for four weeks on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in MHHS room 213 starting on October 6. Tuition is \$70 (supplies are included). No senior discount.

NEW COURSE!

INTERMEDIATE JEWELRY MAKING

For those with some basic experience with jewelry making. Class lessons will focus on creating necklaces, bracelets, and earrings, with some wire wrapping. Use your imagination and learn basic techniques to create special items that you make yourself. This class is taught by Tricia Spencer. Intermediate Jewelry making is held for four weeks on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in MHHS room 213 starting on November 10 (no class Nov. 24). Tuition is \$80 (supplies are included). No senior discount.

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 Oct. 4. 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 Nov. 15 (no class Nov. 22). 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 Oct. 25 and 27, and February 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 three weeks on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. starting Oct. 4 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 tips, #7 flower nail, two coupler sets, small box of decorator bags, and slanted spatula (needed for week 4).

BEGINNER GUITAR

Intended for those who have never played (or practically never played), this course will start with the absolute basics and progress to simple chords and melodies, and the fundamentals of reading tablature (a written music form for those who don't read standard sheet music). The goal of the course is to give students a foundation for future learning, whether on their own or with additional instruction. Fee includes classroom materials. Any student who does not own a steel-string acoustic or electric guitar is encouraged to contact the instructor at help4beginners@musician.org for buying advice. Classes meet for eight weeks on Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. beginning on October 6 (no class Nov. 24) in the HS chorus room. Tuition is \$75. No senior discount.

NEW COURSE!

GUITAR, STEP TWO

For those who have a small amount of playing experience or instruction, this course will review the basics before moving into scales, more chord shapes and basic standard notation (reading music) as well as technique-related material like strum patterns and alternate picking. The goal of this course: to provide the information and skills necessary for students to make substantial progress in their playing with the practice materials provided and, if desired, with additional self-teaching or professional instruction. Fee includes classroom materials. Any student who does not own a steel-string acoustic or electric guitar is encouraged to contact the instructor at help4beginners@musician.org for buying advice. Classes meet for eight weeks on Thursdays from 8 to 9 p.m. beginning on October 6 (no class Nov. 24) in the HS Chorus room. Tuition is \$75. No senior discount.

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 Sept. 21 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 Oct. 26 from 6:30 to 8 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
- Finding the right college for your children and your budget

This one-night course will be offered Oct. 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Instructor is Jason Tabor from Halliday Financial Group.



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.

New Electives Introduced at MHHS



Entering his second year as principal of Maple Hill High School, Ron Agostinoni wants the community to know his door is always open if they have a question or concern. “Last year was great getting to know the students, parents and community members. I want to continue that open communication,” said Mr. Agostinoni.

While not a lot of change is expected at Maple Hill High School this year, Mr. Agostinoni pointed to a number of new courses for students.

A partnership between Hudson Valley Community College and Schodack, Saratoga Springs and Averill Park school districts will provide a new biology of the human genome class, for example. The class will be taught through distance learning and is paid for by a grant.

“A lot of students are really excited about that class,” Mr. Agostinoni said.

The school will also expand its College in the High School course offerings with creative writing and mass media classes this year. Students taking the classes, which are taught by Maple Hill teachers, can earn both high school and college credit from Hudson Valley Community College.

Abnormal psychology and a new physical education elective also will be added this year. The school is also looking to expand its online learning classes.

“I’m very excited for another successful year at Maple Hill, academically, athletically and in co-curricular activities,” Mr. Agostinoni said.

SIGN UP FOR e-newsletters

In an effort to provide our community with more news about their schools, Schodack eNews will again feature eNewsletters this year.

The eNewsletters feature stories about student and faculty success, announcements of upcoming events, and challenges facing Schodack schools. To receive the eNewsletters, just visit the school website at www.schodack.k12.ny.us and sign up to receive Schodack eNews.

We currently have more than 700 subscribers to Schodack eNews who receive announcements about upcoming tests, student concerts and other school news in their e-mail inboxes.

With the cost of printing and mailing continuing to climb, we hope our community finds these eNewsletters to be an effective way to learn about your schools at no cost. However, since we realize not everyone has access to the internet, we will continue to mail all district residents print newsletters throughout the school year to ensure our entire community receives information about its schools.

Online Calendar Added to Website

Need to check when the school concert will start or what day the parent teacher conferences will be held?

Check the website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, where the online calendar lists the event dates for the entire school year in an easy to use scrolling format.

The calendar function features a district calendar with all events on the main homepage and school specific calendars on the elementary, middle school and high school homepages featuring events just for those schools.

The calendar utilizes the free Google calendar function which allows users to sync school events to their own Google calendar if they already use that service.

Ask a Question at “Have You Heard?”

Do you have a question about Schodack schools? Wondering if a rumor you heard is true?

Visit “Have You Heard?” on the school district’s website, where residents can submit questions with answers posted for the entire community to read.

“Have You Heard?” was modeled after similar services offered by school districts such as Shenendehowa and Averill Park, which have proved popular with residents looking for answers to common questions.

Just visit www.schodack.k12.ny.us and click on the “Have You Heard?” logo. Please note, for individual or private concerns, residents are encouraged to contact the school or district office directly by phone.



Opportunities for Parents

From open houses to parent-teacher conferences, Schodack schools offer opportunities for parents to meet with teachers about their children's education in the first few months of school.

Here is a list of upcoming events. For a full list of events, including parent group meetings such as the PTO, download the district calendar from the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, or call your child's school.

Castleton Elementary School

Sept. 7 & 8 . . . K & New Parents Coffee Hour, 9 a.m.

Sept. 14 Grades K-2 Parents Night, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 15 Grades 3-5 Parents Night, 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 4-6 K Parents Luncheon with Teachers, noon

Nov. 3, 8 Parent Teacher Conferences

Maple Hill Middle School

Sept. 20 Grades 6-8 Parents Night, 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 19 Parent Teacher Conferences, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Maple Hill High School

Sept. 22 Back to School Night, 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 Parent Teacher Conferences, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Nov. 17 College Financial Aid Information Night, 6:30 p.m.

Reorganization Feasibility Study

Over the past four months, 30 community members from Schodack and Ichabod Crane school districts have poured over data about the two districts and learned about the similarities and differences of each district.

The work is part of five meetings the Community Advisory Committee has had, a representative group split evenly between the two communities that is weighing the positives and negatives of a possible merger or reorganization of the two districts.

Meetings will continue to be held through the fall with a report from the committee coming later this year. That report will be provided to both Boards of Education which will discuss whether to proceed with a merger or pursue shared services between the two districts.

“The most important thing for our community to understand is that even if the committee and both Boards decide a merger is the best option for our two districts, the communities have the final say,” said Schodack CSD Superintendent Robert Horan. “State law requires communities to vote on any school district mergers.”

Residents interested in learning more about the study are encouraged to attend the next meeting on Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. at Ichabod Crane High School library, talk to members of the committee or visit the Reorganization Feasibility Study webpage on the district website.

Schodack Central School District

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Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033

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