

Spencerport achieved its highest ranking to date: 9th out of 67 area districts

Buffalo Business First released their annual school rankings and the results are outlined below with Spencerport receiving its highest honor to date.

The principle is the same, with districts being evaluated on four years of test data obtained from the New York State Education Department. The rankings reflect the overall performance of all

public schools within any given district, based on test results from third grade through the senior year of high school.

Thank you for the unwavering support that you have provided our students, staff, and learning community to make this possible.



<https://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2019/06/03/rochdist.html>

2019 School District Overall Rankings:

School Districts (Rochester Area)	Ranking out of 67 districts	Ranking for ELA & Math	Ranking for Science & Social Studies
Spencerport CSD	9	10 10	8 11

No other west side school was higher than Spencerport.

Taylor buzzed with excitement to **Save the Bees**

Cosgrove Middle School sixth grader Julia Norbut shared her hobby and love of bees with students at Taylor Elementary School on May 2. Julia visited former teacher, Ms. Laurie Price, and her current second-grade class to explain beekeeping and its importance. The visit coincided with Price's science unit on Save the Bees.

"Julia also wrote the poem on the side of one of her beehives when she was my student in 2nd grade," Price said. "Julia did an outstanding job presenting her PowerPoint and showing us all the tools she uses to tend to her bees!"



Superintendent Message

Dear Community,

Let me publicly express my appreciation to our community of voters for the overwhelming support of the school budget for 2019-20 and proposition to establish a capital reserve fund for classroom furniture and equipment. An almost 80% margin of approval shows the trust and partnership we share with our community, and further validates the common goal we have in educating our students in a fiscally responsible way.

Time has gone by so quickly since the budget vote on May 21, with end-of-year celebrations, assemblies, and recognitions. It's a great time to look back on a fantastic school year, and congratulate our staff and students for a job well-done in our classrooms. I am so proud of our Spencerport students, teachers and staff, and am grateful to work alongside them all.

This edition of Cornerstone highlights news and updates from around our district. Of course, there's never enough room to include everything! But I hope you take time to review this edition knowing that your continued support and partnership makes this possible.

Thank you.

Dan

Dan
Superintendent of Schools

A Top Workplace's Secret for Success? Working with Other Top Workplaces

Take a look at the list of 2019 Top Workplaces and you'll notice the winners span a broad range of services and specialties. Take a closer look and you might be surprised to learn what many of them have in common—a history of partnering together to combine their strengths and tackle tough challenges as a team. Four recent winners have collaborated on various projects together for years, with state-of-the-art educational programs and learning facilities to show for it: Campus Construction Management Group, Hilton Central Schools, LaBella Associates, and Spencerport Central Schools.



Positive Partnerships Deliver Top Teamwork

There are times when building new program spaces or improving existing ones is a necessity.

LaBella and Campus have worked together with the Spencerport and Hilton School Districts on several K-12 capital improvement projects - LaBella as the districts' architect and Campus as its construction manager. Both firms have completed projects for other school districts in the area as well, including Fairport CSD, Webster CSD, and Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES. Both firms are also business partners supporting *A Community Together (ACT) for Education*, an initiative that delivers positive messaging about our local school districts and encourages community support of public education.

Campus, Hilton CSD, LaBella and Spencerport CSD also combine efforts to support local charities, such as Real Men Wear Pink and the Ronald McDonald House. "School districts, businesses and not-for-profit agencies joining together for the good of the community is a win-win for everyone involved," said Hilton CSD Superintendent Dr. Casey Kosiorek, "When we join forces, we set an example for our students that collaboration and teamwork are the keys to our thriving as a community."

Achieve a Common Goal with a Common Mindset

The most rewarding successes are the ones we can share. The Top Workplaces honor is awarded to employers that not only bring out the best in their own employees, but also seek out the best in the professional partners they add to their teams.

"Being recognized as a 2019 Top Workplace signifies the positive culture we have in our organizations," Spencerport CSD Superintendent Dan Milgate said. "This honor means a great deal to me because it is about partnerships - the partnerships we have with our employees to bring quality education to students, and the partnerships we have with our parents and community. I also am proud of the partnerships we have with other TWP winners, like Campus, Hilton, and LaBella. Being able to pick up the phone to collaborate on projects or charitable events with organizations that have been recognized for positive environments and culture has been invaluable to our districts and broader community."



Voters approve 2019-20 budget, proposition

Thank you to our Spencerport voters! A total of 875 voters cast their ballots on May 21, with the community approving the 2019-20 budget, with the following results:

Proposition 1: the \$82.5 million budget and use of \$150,000 of reserve funds for classroom equipment: 695 in favor (79.5%) and 179 opposed;

Proposition 2: re-establish the Classroom Furniture and Technology Reserve fund at a maximum of \$4 million over five years: 683 in favor (79%) and 182 opposed

Two incumbents ran uncontested for the two seats up for re-election on the Board of Education, and they were Greg Kincaid (766 votes) Gary Bracken (708 votes).

Overall turnout declined from 1,052 voters in 2018 to 875 voters in 2019. Less than 15%, or 58 respondents, participated in the 2019 exit poll – a significant drop from the 295 survey respondents last year. The results are as follows:

- How did you vote on Prop. 1 (the 2019-20 budget and use of reserve funds for classroom furniture)? 51 voted yes; 6 voted no;
- Top two reasons for voting yes: 24 always support the budget; and 19 indicated the spending plan was reasonable.
- Top two reasons for voting no: 3 the tax rate too high; 2 said other.
- How did you vote on Prop. 2 (Re-establish the Reserve Fund for Classroom Furniture/Equip)? 50 voted yes; 7 voted no.

- The top three sources of information about the school budget were:
 1. The Budget Cornerstone in May: 42 respondents;
 2. The Budget notice postcard mailed: 14 respondents;
 3. District website: 13 respondents

- The top three areas of information about the district that is of most interest:
 1. Academic achievement: 26 respondents;
 2. Student highlights: 18 respondents;
 3. Tax rate, tax levy: 4 respondents;

19 respondents offered additional comments, with nine positive remarks, three negative, and seven making suggestions ranging from technology use in the classrooms to heating and air conditioning in our buildings.

Thank you to the voters who completed the survey and provided critical feedback.



BOCES 2 students **build railing** for Spencerport

Students in Joshua Padlick's Engineering and Metal Fabrication class at Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES WEMOCO created a safety railing for an entrance to our Spencerport District Office building.

The project, pictured here, was a collaborative effort between our facilities department and BOCES 2. The students worked extremely hard, and the completed railing looks incredible. Thank you!



New (and familiar) faces transition into various leadership roles

The administrative retirements for athletic director, Taylor elementary principal and director of student information services have resulted in a number of new appointments across the district. The chart accompanied here has outlined the administrators assuming new roles, as well as the subsequent appointments for the assistant principal openings.

District Administration:

Telcie Pincelli:

The Board of Education has named Telcie Pincelli as the new principal at Taylor Elementary School, effective July 1.

Pincelli has served as the assistant principal of Cosgrove Middle School for 2018-19; a district K-5 instructional specialist from 2015-2018; and as an elementary classroom teacher from 2006-2015.

Superintendent Dan Milgate has described Pincelli as collaborative, caring, and committed to working with staff, students and parents.

“Mrs. Pincelli will be a great match for Taylor Elementary School,” Milgate said. “She demonstrates many of the qualities that staff and parents asked for in their next principal - qualities such as being collaborative, knowledgeable, personable, kind, approachable, and student-oriented. Mrs. Pincelli certainly has all those qualities, along with proven leadership skills.”

Jennifer Placito:

Jennifer Placito has been appointed as the director of health, physical education, and athletics on July 1.

Placito has served as an assistant principal at Spencerport High School since 2017. She has also worked in the Brockport Central School District as a teacher and coach.

“In a short period of time, Ms. Placito has impressed us with her leadership and abilities to connect on all levels with staff, students, and parents,” Milgate said. “I also feel confident that Ms. Placito will do a great job, and I am excited to work with her in this new capacity.”

Tim O'Connor:

The Board of Education has appointed Tim O'Connor as the new director of student information services, starting on July 1.

O'Connor will oversee multiple areas affecting students, including assessments, registration, attendance, positive behavior intervention (PBIS), the tutoring center, student safety, wellness and social-emotional health.

Milgate said of the appointment, “This is a critical position in our district, as it focuses on students. Under Mr. O'Connor’s leadership, we will continue to support and service the needs of our students. He has a proven track record at leading student programs and will continue this important work in his new role.”

O'Connor has served as an assistant principal at Spencerport High School since 2014 and as a technology teacher from 2004-2014.

Assistant Principals

A search for the vacated AP positions did follow the above appointments, and the Board Education has approved three assistant principals, as follows:

Joining the high school, starting on July 1, will be Michael Calzi and Amy Sullivan.

Michael Calzi, *Spencerport High School*

Michael Calzi has served as an assistant principal for East High School in the Rochester City School District for the last two years. Calzi has more than nine years of experience in education, including work as a lead teacher/instructional coach and science teacher at East. Prior to this, he taught science at the University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men. Calzi received his doctorate in 2015 from the University of Rochester in teaching and curriculum.

Amy Sullivan, *Spencerport High School*

Amy Sullivan has more than 10 years of experience in education, most recently as a math teacher at Lancaster High School. In addition to her teaching duties there, Sullivan also served as a substitute assistant principal and teacher leader/mentor for new and veteran teachers.

On a side note, Sullivan has coached the Lancaster JV tennis team for three years – two of which have been undefeated seasons.

David Russell III, *Cosgrove Middle School*

David Russell has taught in special education in the Sodus Central School District for four years. For the last two summers, he has also served as an assistant principal at the Western Wayne Summer Academy for the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES.

Russell has also taught at True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School and at Rush Henrietta High School. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Education in school leadership through the University of Rochester.

Tracey D'Alonzo, *Cosgrove Middle School*

In January, the Board of Education appointed Tracey D'Alonzo as an assistant principal at Cosgrove. She filled the open position left vacant by Jim Centola, who became the new Cosgrove principal. D'Alonzo started her new position in January.

D'Alonzo has been part of the Spencerport faculty since 2014, as a teacher in the special education department. Prior to that, she has worked as an English Language Arts teacher in the Rush-Henrietta School District and in New York City. She has also taught in the special education program at the Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES.

D'Alonzo is a graduate of Spencerport High School (2007).

Spencerport Administrative Transitions

Retirements



John Pelin
Director of Health,
Physical Education and
Athletics



Linda Howell
Coordinator of Student
Information Services



Monica Macaluso
Taylor Elem. School
Principal

Appointments



Jen Placito
Director of Health,
Physical Education,
and Athletics
—
Previously SHS
Assistant Principal



Tim O'Connor
Director of Student
Information
Services
—
Previously SHS
Assistant Principal



Telcie Pincelli
Taylor Elem.
School Principal
—
Previously Cosgrove
Assistant Principal



Jim Centola
Cosgrove Principal
—
Previously Cosgrove
Assistant Principal.
Appointed Principal
in December, after
vacancy left by Ned
Dale.

Asst. Principal Appointments



Amy Sullivan
New SHS
Assistant Principal
—



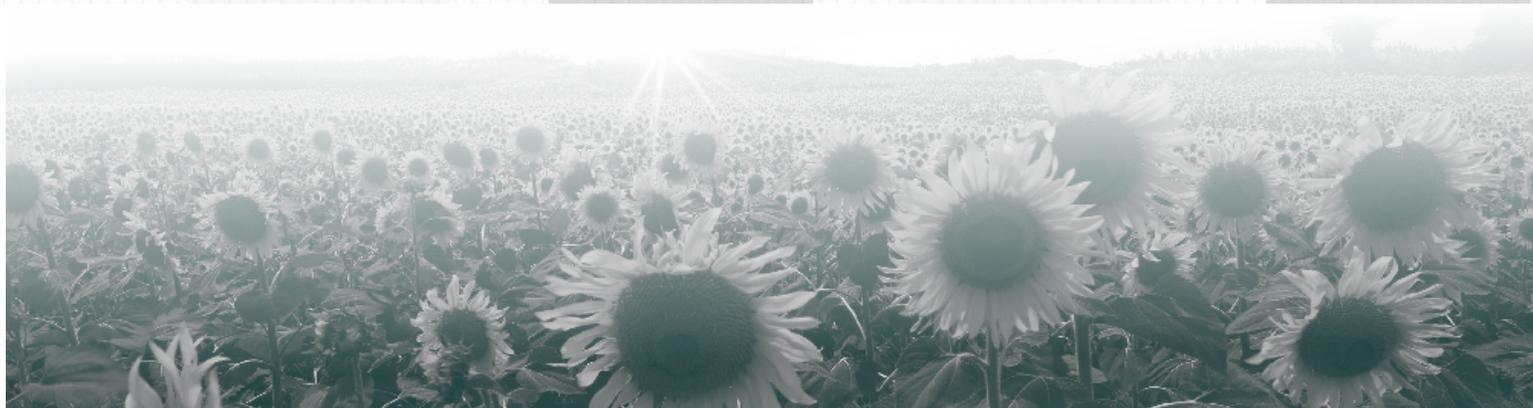
Michael Galzi
New SHS
Assistant Principal
—



David Russell
New Cosgrove
Assistant Principal
—

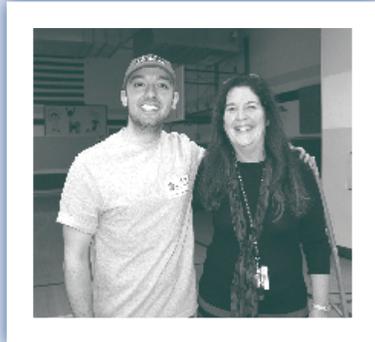


Tracey D'Alonzo
New Cosgrove
Assistant Principal
—
Filled the vacancy left
by Centola in January.



Catching up with Andrew Colaprete

Spencerport alumni, Andrew Colaprete, returned to his alma mater, Munn Elementary School, in April, to visit his teachers and talk to current students about his career success so far as a senior designer/illustrator.



Colaprete, a 2010 Spencerport graduate, shared his professional path, which has included interning for Sesame Street and working for Sprayground, an accessories and backpack company.

“I found a passion for art in 5th grade,” Colaprete said. “It’s funny to think about where the love for creativity comes from, but I think I was lucky enough to have teachers, family and friends to praise me for my work and tell me I was good at it. Once you get that feedback, it ignites the excitement and spiraled into what I’m doing now.”

Colaprete mentioned art teachers, Mrs. Debbie Ingerick and Mrs. Stephanie Prevosti for encouraging him to pursue his artistic talents in college studies and as a career.

“Mrs. Prevosti probably was one of the main people who pushed me to consider going into art,” he said. “Prior to her, I pursued art as a hobby, then in 11th grade I decided to study it in college. Mrs. Prevosti helped me so much in figuring out where I should apply and what would be a good fit. All my teachers were incredible, and such a great support.”

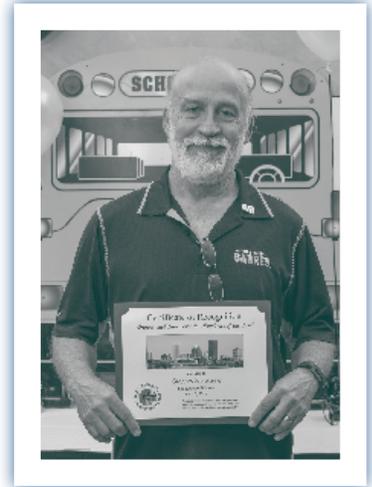
Colaprete went to Syracuse University, where he connected with Sesame Street for an internship. He went on to work at Sprayground in New York City, where he also resides. He added that he still considers Spencerport home and regularly visits his parents, Theresa and Domenico. His mom works in food services at Cosgrove Middle School, and his brothers also graduated from Spencerport: Anthony (2001), Dominic (2005) and Robert (2007).



Greg Schweers receives RATSA honors

The Rochester Area Transportation Supervisors Association (RATSA) celebrated its 18th annual “Employee of the Year” brunch on May 6, and recognized area school bus drivers for their dedication and commitment to their work.

Spencerport Transportation honored substitute bus driver, Greg Schweers, with the award. Colleagues and fellow drivers in the department selected Schweers for the honor, specifically for his friendliness, dependability, respect and good customer service.



Congratulations!

Student built gaga pit for Canal View

Spencerport High School ninth grader, Liam Kwoka, planned and built a gaga pit for Canal View school, as part of his Eagle Scout project for Troop 92. Liam enlisted his troop members to help with labor, and the CV Parents Association contributed funding for the project.

Liam had the plans drawn up and costs researched, and he even made a slight adjustment to his plans to include a handicap accessible door for the pit.

Thank you, Liam!



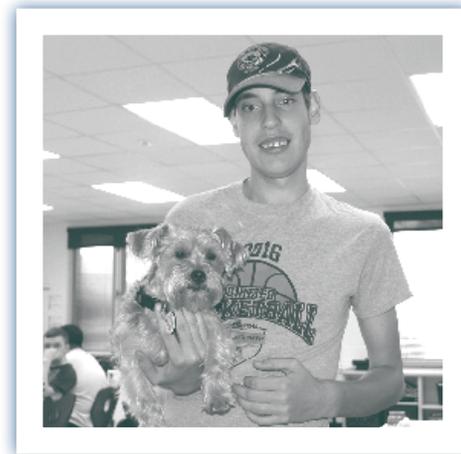
You're hired! 2nd therapy dog joins staff

Spencerport High School welcomed a second certified therapy dog this spring, as a continuation of a district pilot program to support the social and emotional well-being of students.

Micky, a YorkiPoo, has been providing support to students in the 12:1:1 transition room, where students learn real-life skills and increase their independence. Micky's owner, Kelly Daly, a Social Studies teacher, has completed all training and licensing for him to provide this service.

Animal-assisted therapy has been identified as a way to support students in reducing stress, improving physical and emotional well-being, lowering blood pressure, decreasing anxiety, improving self-esteem, and increasing academic performance.

The first certified dog approved to provide this support is Ruby, whose owner is high school counselor, JoAnn Krywy.



Spencerport Senior Tyler Daniels pictured with Micky.

Teacher honored for her non-fiction book at the 2019 Independent Publisher Book Awards

Congratulations to Cosgrove Middle School teacher, Andrea Page, who won gold medal honors at the Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY) in May.

Page, who wrote *Sioux Code Talkers of World War II* (Pelican Publishing), was recognized with a gold medal in the Multicultural Non-Fiction Young Adult category.

Launched in 1996, the IPPY Awards recognized the year's best independently

published books, representing excellence in a broad range of styles and subjects.

The medal-winning books and authors were celebrated on May 28 during the annual BookExpo publishing convention in New York.

Congratulations to Page on her award and her official retirement as of June 30. We will publish a list of our retirees in the summer edition of *Cornerstone*.



Jammin for Jazzy supports fourth grader

Munn Elementary School hosted a community fundraiser for Jazel Antinetto, a fourth grader diagnosed with brain cancer last fall. Jazel has been undergoing treatment at St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis, TN, and the school held the fundraiser to directly support her family's expenses for travel, lodging and any of her other medical needs.

Jammin for Jazzy raised more than \$8,300. Pictured is first grader, Dylan, who won the honors to shave teacher Scott Schwind's head. Schwind is Jazel's teacher and the event's organizer.

Thank you to all who donated!



Spencerport High School marks 23rd School to Career program

Board of Education:

Mr. Gary Bracken, *President*
Mr. Greg Kincaid, *Vice President*
Ms. Kate Czarnecki
Mr. David Gibbardo
Ms. Jody Gillette
Mr. Kevin Hutton
Mr. Michael Miceli

School Board members are elected to three-year terms and serve without pay.

Superintendent of Schools
Dan Milgate

Editor:
Lanette Cypher 349-5104

Design:
Lisa Constantine

www.SpencerportSchools.org

©2019 SCSD Public Information Office

Designed and printed at
Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES

*Cornerstone, NYSRA award winner
for 2015 and 2018 budget newsletters*



The 23rd annual School-to-Career Partnership Appreciation Breakfast was held at Spencerport High School on May 17, when the district and school recognized our students and area businesses who participated in the program for the 2018-19 year.

Two scholarships were presented by the School-to-Career advisory council members, with funding for these raised by generous contributions from the following individuals and organizations including: Spencerport Federal Credit

Union, Spencerport Chamber of Commerce, Red Fedele's Brook House and Jeff Bocach.

Christopher Ferrari received \$500 and plans to attend RIT to major in Marketing and Political Science. Stephanie Giuseppetti also received \$500 and plans to attend Monroe Community College to major in Liberal Arts.

The Supervisor/Mentor of the year was Nick Bellone, Owner of Nick's Pizza, Pasta, Subs and Catering.



Special Olympics

More than 250 Spencerport students from across the district competed in the 2019 Monroe County Special Olympics on May 30. Hosted once again by the Greece Central School District, our students participated in numerous track and field events and represented well the blue and gold team. Go Rangers!

