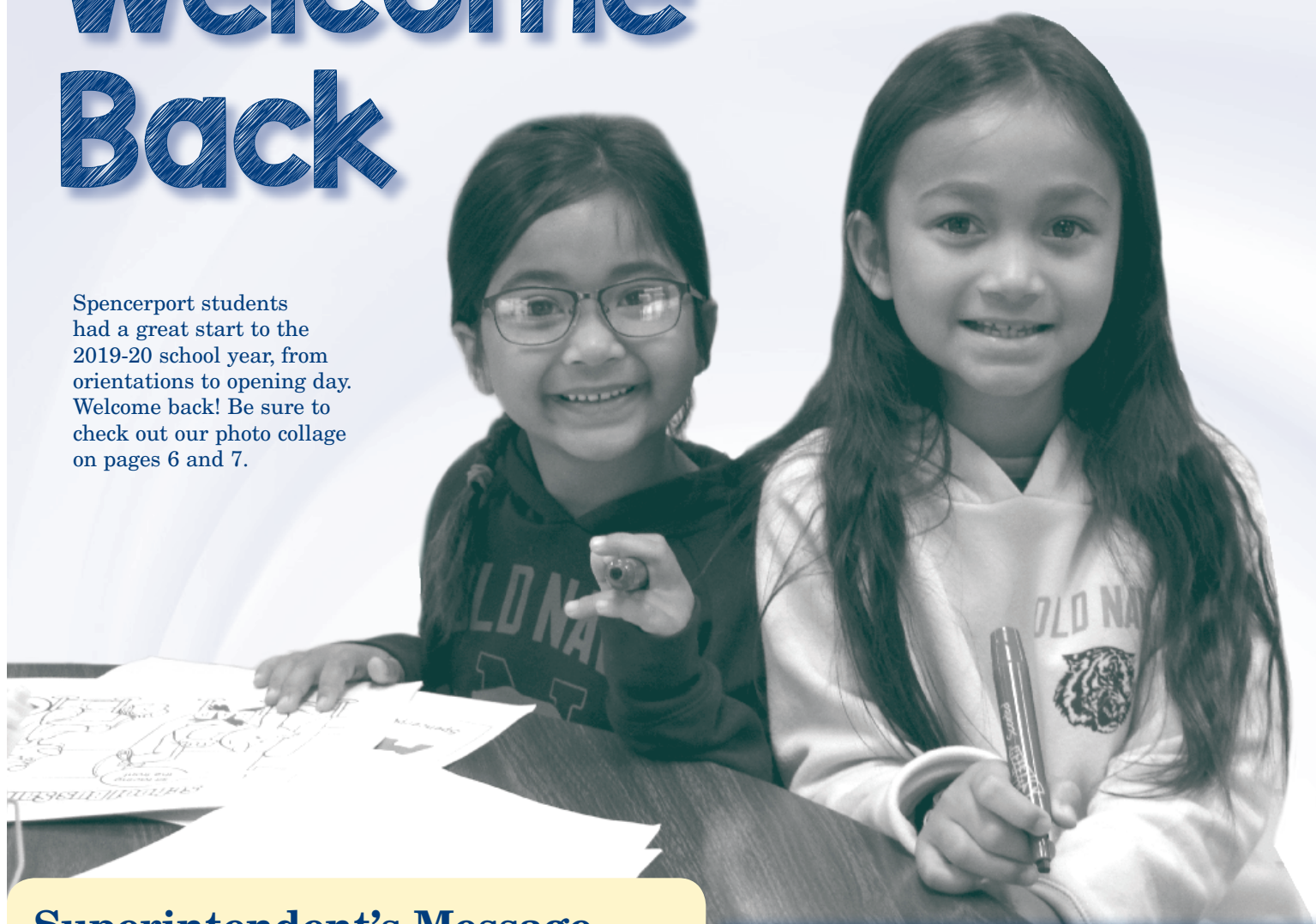


Welcome Back

Spencerport students had a great start to the 2019-20 school year, from orientations to opening day. Welcome back! Be sure to check out our photo collage on pages 6 and 7.



Superintendent's Message

Dear Community,

Welcome back everyone. It was great to see all the faculty, staff and students back again for the new year, and I wish you all the best for 2019-20.

Please take a moment to review this edition of Cornerstone, where we highlight all of our back-to-school reminders, updates and of course, photos. I would also like to take this moment to share our theme for the upcoming year, and invite you to join with us around "The Power of Gratitude".

(continued on page 2)



Board adopts tax rate

The Board of Education approved a 2019-20 tax rate in August that ensures compliance for the property tax credit for the Spencerport community.

The tax rate totals \$24.05/\$1,000 of assessed value for Ogden, Greece, and Parma. The town of Gates totals \$25.05/\$1,000 of assessed value. The latter tax rate resulted after Gates reported a decrease in its assessed property value due to a:

- 96% equalization rate; and
- an article 7 settlement in which a business challenged its taxable value of \$44.9 million (in 2018-19), and won a decision that its value is now \$20.2 million. This represents a loss of school taxable value of \$24.7 million.

Given these factors, the tax rate for the town of Gates will be \$25.05/\$1,000 of assessed value, which is a 5.79% change.

The tax rate for the four towns will be as follows:

Town	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Change
Gates	\$24.33/\$1,000	\$23.68/\$1,000	\$25.05/\$1,000	5.79%
Greece	\$24.33/\$1,000	\$23.68/\$1,000	\$24.05/\$1,000	1.56%
Ogden	\$24.33/\$1,000	\$23.68/\$1,000	\$24.05/\$1,000	1.56%
Parma	\$24.33/\$1,000	\$23.68/\$1,000	\$24.05/\$1,000	1.56%

The adopted tax levy and tax rate for the 2019-20 school year remained under the maximum allowable levy limit, and within the eligibility requirements for community members to receive tax rebates.

If you have any questions regarding your property assessment, please contact your town assessor's office.

**There have been some updates this year to the New York State STAR program as it relates to school tax bills and exemptions. Please visit, <https://www.tax.ny.gov/star/> to review these changes and qualifications.*

Dates to remember

Oct. 11: Supt. Conference Day, no school

Oct. 14: Columbus Day, no school

**Nov. 8: K-8 Half day release
(grades 9-12 in full day session)**

Nov. 11: Veterans Day, no school

Nov. 27-29: Thanksgiving recess

(continued from cover)

Superintendent's Message

Gratitude comes in many forms – a verbal expression, acts of kindness, note cards, or even a text emoji. Gratitude affords us with an opportunity to connect with someone, say thank you, and let him or her know of the impact they have made. We all have times when a few words of appreciation make a difference in our day, and for me, it was one note in particular from last winter that lifted my spirits more than words can ever express. That letter is pictured here.

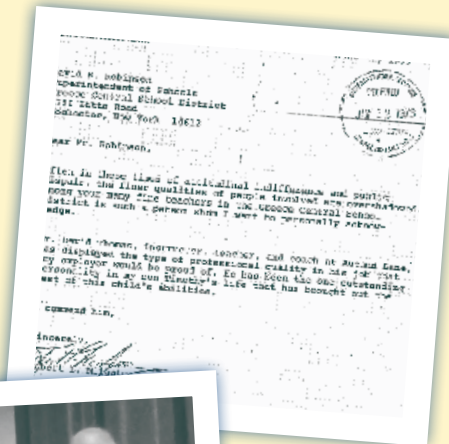
My father, Robert Milgate, wrote the letter, expressing his gratitude to Greece Central School District physical education teacher, Dave Thomas, and the impact he had on his son (my brother), Tim. Fast-forward 46 years, Thomas reached out to me as a new Superintendent and shared what this act of kindness meant to him and how he always kept the letter nearby to read on good days or bad days. Now retired, Thomas visited our district on the staff's opening day to personally share his story and reinforce the power of gratitude. Watch the video on our district Facebook page, @SpencerportCSD

Throughout 2019-20, we will be sharing examples of "the power of gratitude" on social media, in Cornerstone and on our website. Please feel free to send us your examples as well, so we can celebrate together all we have to be thankful for in our staff, teachers and administrators.

Sincerely,

Don

Dan Milgate
Superintendent



From left, Dan Milgate, Dave Thomas, Robert Milgate, and retired SCSD teacher, Roger Schurkamp.



Spencerport Education Foundation up and running

On August 31, the Spencerport Educational Foundation (SEF) geared up for the 2019-20 school year with a fundraising event featuring educator and comedian Gerry Brooks. Brooks delivered his patented brand of elementary school comedy to a sold out crowd. The SEF will use ticket proceeds to fund their mission of providing supplemental resources that will enrich and enhance teaching and learning in the Spencerport Central School District.

“Our goal is to support the district’s academic programs in ways that complement the district school budget,” said SEF board member Sara Snarr. “The education foundation has the flexibility to reduce financial stress in specific ways. We want our students and teachers to be able to focus on classes, trips, or events without being constrained by cost.”

The SEF Board has many ideas on how to disperse funds. Established in spring of 2019, the SEF Board is a team of community members with a broad range of professional expertise.



Pictured front row left to right: Tom Cannan (board president), Jonathan Salzburg (executive director for operations and special projects for Spencerport and ex officio board member), Mike Crumb (former Spencerport superintendent and foundation board member). Middle row: Lisa Clarke, Sara Snarr (board secretary), Nancy Bodhorn, Lorenzo Rotoli. Back row: Bridget Martin (board treasurer), Sue Brumm, and Todd Dunn. Not pictured: Mike Ferron, and ex officio board members Dan Milgate (Spencerport superintendent) and Rick Wood (assistant superintendent for business for Spencerport).

“There is a national trend toward education foundations,” said SEF board president Tom Cannan.

“This is the right time for Spencerport. It’s the right group of people and the community is united in support of our district.” Snarr added, “we are setting up a grant application where teachers can apply for funds for expanding programs, planning in-depth field trips, or purchasing supplies for unique projects. I am interested to see what the staff requests. We really want teachers to be involved.”



Canal View Elementary School teachers and staff took a selfie with educator/comedian Gerry Brooks prior to his fundraising show on Aug. 31.

Another academic area where the SEF could provide financial relief is college-level courses. The high school offers 18 advanced placement classes and four concurrent study programs. Both courses of study provide students the opportunity to earn college credit, but at an additional cost not covered in the school budget.

“The SEF could help defray examination and tuition fees for families who need assistance,” said SEF board member Nancy Bodhorn.

Academic programs are not relegated to the classroom. “Many of our academic teams have advanced to higher levels of competition,” said Snarr. “If we can relieve the pressure of last-minute fundraising so they can attend these competitions, our teams can put their energy toward competing.”

One of the great things about the foundation is that we are adaptable,” said board member Lorenzo Rotoli. “As we learn where the need is, we can switch gears to provide the best support for our students and teachers.”

In addition to their fundraising events, the foundation accepts donations in the form of payroll deductions, estate bequests, and one-time gifts by mail or online. Donation information is available at spencerporteducationfoundation.org.

The SEF is looking for volunteers to serve on committees and at events. Anyone who is interested should contact the foundation at <mailto:info@spencerporteducationfoundation.org>

Local business donates backpacks

Thank you to the Feltner Group for their annual donation of backpacks filled with school supplies. This year the insurance agency collected client donations, shopped for products, and filled 40 backpacks for distribution in our schools. The Feltner Group also chooses two district families around the holidays to donate gifts. Thank you!



Summer Work around our campus and schools

Our facilities, grounds and maintenance staff kept busy this summer with numerous projects to ensure our schools and campus remain in great shape. Highlights from the summer included:

- A cleanup of Cosgrove's entryway
- New sidewalks at Canal View;
- Repainting parking lots (Munn)
- Playground mulching, and
- HS grounds cleanup.

Thank you to all our staff who maintained our campus for the opening of school. Photo credits by John Strong and Pat Williams.



Spencerport Schools will celebrate Spirit Week and Homecoming festivities the week of Sept. 23-28. Please join us as we cheer on our Rangers during these special events:

- Weds. Sept. 25: Boys VB game 6 p.m. in east gym
- Thurs. Sept. 26: Girls VB game, 6 p.m. in east gym
- Thurs. Sept. 26: Girls swim at 4:30 p.m.
- Thurs. Sept. 26: Girls tennis 4:30 p.m.
- Thurs. Sept. 26: Homecoming boys/girls varsity soccer games, 5 & 7 p.m., Ranger Stadium
- Fri. Sept. 27: HS/CMS pep assemblies
- Fri. Sept. 27: Powder Puff Game, 6:30 p.m.
- Fri. Sept. 27: Student-only bonfire, following powder puff
- Sat. Sept. 28: Homecoming parade, 12:30 p.m.
- Sat. Sept. 28: Homecoming FB/cheer game, varsity football field, 2 p.m.
- Sat. Sept. 28: Homecoming Dance, 7:30-10:30 p.m. in the west café/gym

Check your school's web section for any themed days for Spirit Week/Homecoming.

Homecoming Parade

*Lets fill the streets!!
Come out to support
September 28th*

Homecoming Parade
12:30 pm

Football Game
2:00 pm

**SPENCERPORT
GO RANGERS!**

Parade floats meet at the Department of Public Works, come through town and end at the high school

Want to participate in the parade??

Contact Katie Wyant to enter a float
kwyant@spencerportschools.org

Mindful mornings for Bernabi third graders

On Fri., Sept. 6, the third grade students at Bernabi Elementary School finished out their first week with a surprise visitor. Kathy Netti, a friend of teacher Liz Meyers, community member and yoga instructor, led more than 70 students in breathing and mindfulness exercises on the playground. The activity is part of the districtwide health and wellness initiative focusing on whole-child education.

Cindy Vissa, third-grade teacher, said, "Mindfulness is an initiative to help them self-regulate so that they can better control that feeling of anxiety and are better able to focus on their work and what they need to accomplish at school."

Netti began with breathing exercises. "You don't have to think about breathing but, if you do think about it, you can breathe better," Netti explained to the students. "Breathing is good for your brain. It helps you think." The students then followed Netti through a series of exercises including basic yoga poses.

"School can be kind of challenging with tests and stuff so this can calm us down," said third-grade student Emmie. Classmate Lila agreed. "I think this can calm me down because I was kind of scared on the first day of school."

"I'm very excited about this initiative," said Liz Meyers, third-grade teacher. "I hope it will help our students feel ready for the day."

The idea for the yoga workshop originated at the third grade teacher's team meeting. Ryan Ewanow presented the original idea and fellow teachers Vissa, Meyers, and Tom Burger all worked together to organize the activity.

"We plan to incorporate yoga and mindfulness activities throughout the year," said Ewanow.

The team hopes to engage the students in "mindful mornings" at least twice a month and work to increase. They will be looking for additional community volunteers to lead activities as well as setting up volunteer opportunities for high school students.



Students surprise facilities staff with Christmas in July

Spencerport grounds and facilities staff experienced Christmas on Aug. 27, thanks to a group of Cosgrove Middle School 7th graders.

Four students, Paytan Panzica, Natalie Laubacher, Mia Adams, and Hannah Prince, assembled goodie bags to handout to facilities staff as a thank you for all their efforts to maintain the district's buildings and grounds.

Paytan, Natalie, Mia and Hannah called it, Christmas in July, which is now in its second year.

"I like doing this project," Paytan said. "It's nice to say thank you to someone who may not always get recognition."

Under the guidance and coordination of Paytan's mom, Terri Panzica, the longtime friends previously wrote cards to service men and women, gave thank you bags to members of the Ogden Police Department, and made children's blankets to donate to Linus' blankets.

THANK you!

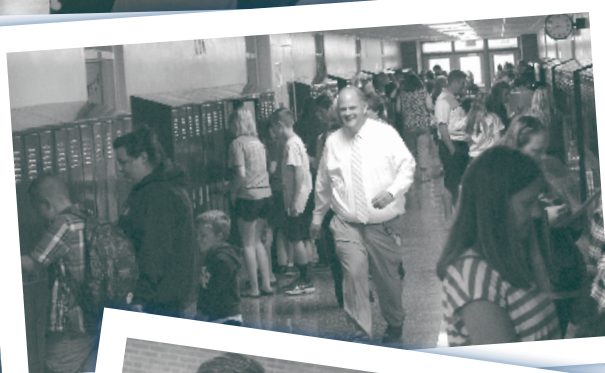
Natalie and Mia give Shawn Rogers, custodian, a thank-you goodie bag.



Pictured left to right, Natalie Laubacher, Hannah Prince, Paytan Panzica, and Mia Adams.



Welcome back



to 2019-20.

Enjoy our back to school photo collage from our orientations and laptop distribution during the week of Aug. 26 and the first day of school on Sept. 4.



Board of Education:

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

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Central School District
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Spencerport, NY 14559
585-349-5000

OCTOBER

1	Munn Picture Day	
1	HS Financial Aid Night, HS Library	6:30 p.m.
1	MSPA, Munn	7 p.m.
2-3	Bernabi Book Fair	
2	Canal View Open House	6 p.m.
2	Taylor PTO	6:30 p.m.
3	BSOC tourney	5 & 7 p.m.
3	Bernabi Open House/Curriculum Night	6 p.m.
5	BSOC tourney	3 & 5 p.m.
7	SSBC mtg, D.O.	6:30 p.m.
8	Board of Education, D.O.	7 p.m.
9	Canal View Picture Day	
10	Cosgrove/HS 5-week progress reports, via parent portal	
10	Taylor Grs. 3-5 Open House/Curr. Night	6 p.m.
11	Superintendent's Conference Day, no school	
11	Family ID Registration Opens for Winter V/JV sports	
12	Girls Swim "Pink the Pool"	3 p.m.
14	Columbus Day: no school	
15	BPA	6 p.m.
15	CVA	6:30 p.m.
16	HS winter sports signup, activity period	
17	Taylor Grs. K-2 Open House/Curr. Night	6 p.m.
18	Munn STAR assembly	2:45 p.m.
19	HS PSAT exam	7:30 a.m.
21	Cosgrove winter sports sign up, flex period	
22	Board of Education, D.O.	7 p.m.
24-25	Canal View Book Fair	
24	Bernabi Parent/Teacher Confs.	7:45 – 8:15 a.m.; 3:45-6:15 p.m.
24	Cosgrove Parent/Teacher Confs.	3:45-6:45 p.m.
25	Family ID Registration Opens for Winter Mod Sports	
25	BPA Halloween event	6 p.m.
25	CVA Fall Festival	6 p.m.
25	Munnster Mash	6:30 p.m.
28-1	Red Ribbon Week	
29	Bernabi Picture Makeup	
30	Bridging Concert, HS PAC	7 p.m.

Save the Date

SPENCERPORT HIGH SCHOOL
THE DRUM LINE
PRESENTS



November 14, 15, and 16
2019

Spencerport High School
Performing Arts Center

For more information visit SpencerportSchools.org

Spencerport Schools Open Interviews

Be part of our team! Stop by on Wed., Oct. 16, 2019, 4-6 p.m. at the Spencerport District Office building, 71 Lyell Ave., Spencerport, and learn about our available job opportunities.

Interview on the spot for: teachers, teacher aides, teacher assistants, RNs, LPNs, bus drivers, cleaners, and food service helpers. Complete the application process online with our available computers. EOE.