



***Jan. 13, 2023***

Dear Spencerport Families,

As a reminder, there will be no school this Monday, January 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We honor Dr. King each year on the third Monday in January to preserve his dream of bringing peace and equality to everyone.

I hope you will take time this weekend to reflect on Dr. King's legacy and teachings and discuss with your children why it is so important to honor Dr. King. There are a great deal of valuable resources maintained by the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University that may be of interest to people in our community. Many of these resources are available to everyone free of charge on their website at [kinginstitute.stanford.edu](http://kinginstitute.stanford.edu).



*"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character ~ that is the goal of true education."*

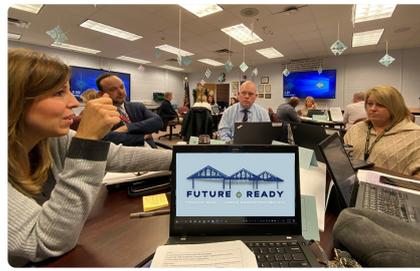
*~ Martin Luther King Jr.*

## Updates

### Future Ready

This week administrators across our district came together to continue our strategic planning work. We have spent considerable time thinking about how we will continue to educate, engage, and empower our students. Just like Dr. King committed to the dream of freedom, equality, love, peace and dignity for all people, we too are committed to the principles of excellence, equality and dignity for all students. You will notice these tenants prioritized in our strategic planning.

In addition, we greatly appreciate your participation in our Budget Development ThoughtExchange. The exchange is now closed and our next steps are to analyze the top thoughts and themes from the exchange and share those ideas with the Budget Focus Group. We will communicate throughout the budget development process on our website, Cornerstone newsletter and superintendent updates. Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts and priorities with us. Your participation in the process is invaluable.



## Field trip: an opportunity for SHS and East High School students to connect

For the past five years, representatives from Spencerport have been working with middle and high school students to provide them with a voice when it comes to the district's work with culturally responsive education. The CRE Student Summits occur each month and part of the group's focus this year is to explore the concept of a welcoming and affirming environment.

On January 5, 30 students, teachers, and administrators took a field trip to East High School. The purpose of this visit was to witness firsthand the learning environment of another school and to engage in dialogue with other students. This day involved team building activities, connecting with a student ambassador from East High School, and shadowing a portion of the student's academic day.

Spencerport's students appreciated this opportunity and reflected on the similarities between the two schools and recognized the opportunities available to strengthen their experience. Members of the CRE Student Summit are interested in hosting their peers from East in the near future, and a plan has been initiated to continue this partnership between the two schools.



## Safety measures for student athletes

Like all of you, we have spent the past two weeks with Damar Hamlin in our thoughts and prayers. What happened was difficult to watch, and I know that for many, it has raised questions about what safety measures exist for student-athletes here in Spencerport.



At a basic level, we have multiple Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) which are located in each of our buildings. The devices are tested regularly by our buildings and grounds department and our protocols for use are outlined in our written emergency plans located at all practice and contest locations. Additionally, our school nurses, coaches, and athletic trainer all have active AED, CPR, and First Aid certifications—credentials that are also maintained by many members of our faculty and staff. Coaches and athletic trainers also have AEDs assigned to them.

## Bright Spots

### National Honor Society induction

Congratulations to our Spencerport High School students, who were inducted into the National Honor Society last night. The NHS selects students based on scholarship, service, leadership and character. Students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average, participate in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, devote time to community service, demonstrate leadership in their activities, and obtain three recommendations. The applicants are then selected by the National Honor Society Faculty Council for membership.



A photo gallery of the event will be posted on our website once available, and in the meantime, congratulations to our 105 inductees!

### Recent graduate makes national news

If you haven't heard the name, Pearl Neumann yet, we hope you will soon. The 100-year-old fulfilled her lifelong dream to receive a Spencerport High School diploma on Dec. 22 during a ceremony in front of family, staff and student performers. We posted this [brief video of the ceremony](#) on our social media accounts, and media outlets from Atlanta to Milwaukee have picked it up. Pearl is truly an inspiration.



Prior to the ceremony, Pearl serenaded us with the high school song from when she attended Spencerport, and that clip may be found below.

Her full story will appear in the next edition of Cornerstone.





## Upcoming Events

- Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school
- Cosgrove National Junior Honor Society induction, 7 p.m.
- Bernabi Winter Concert, 7 p.m., Cosgrove
- Taylor Winter Concert, 7 p.m.

Sincerely,

Kristin Swann  
Superintendent of Schools



**Spencerport Central School District**