

Mar. 31, 2023

Dear Spencerport Families,

National Assistant Principals Week is celebrated the week of April 3. Since this coincides with spring recess, I'd like to recognize our assistant principals today.

Our assistant principals play a crucial role in their buildings, and they work tirelessly to support teachers, motivate students, support the principal, and create a safe and positive learning environment. The efforts of our assistant principals behind the scenes often go unnoticed. They carry out countless everyday tasks which make sure the school is always operating smoothly. They handle difficult situations by demonstrating compassion and understanding. They interact daily with students and support them and their families through challenging situations. I hope you will join me in thanking our assistant principals for all that they do!



Updates

Budget: responsive yet responsible

As we finalize the 2023-24 budget proposal to recommend to the Board of Education on April 11, I wanted to provide an update on our progress to this point.

Every year, budget development has its ebbs and flows, and 2023 has been no different. Nevertheless, Spencerport's approach remains the same - consistently prioritizing the instructional, social emotional, and safety needs of our students, while stabilizing the financial impact on our taxpayers. Responsive, yet responsible.

Once it is officially adopted by the board, we will thoroughly communicate financial details of the expenditure plan, totaling \$92.7 million. This will coincide (hopefully) with the adoption of a state budget and solidifying our anticipated state aid, overall revenues, and projected tax levy/tax rate. My hope is that our community will quickly see that the initiatives in this proposal reflect the priorities shared with us time and again through our Budget Focus Group, public ThoughtExchange, voter exit poll, and numerous meetings with students, faculty, staff, administrators, parents, and residents:

- Academic learning with a strategic focus in many areas, including class sizes and maintaining teachers to keep overall section numbers lower than our threshold, special education needs, academic interventions, and continuation of our efforts to support student learning post pandemic.
- Mental health and student support services, increasing our counseling, social worker, and health office staff
- Safety and security with an increase in personnel, camera replacement plan and enhanced visitor management system

• **Operational needs** to address the ongoing building repairs, equipment needs, and personnel support required for normal functions

Full budget details will be mailed to residents in late April/early May in the budget edition of Cornerstone, and **posted on our website**





Mental health supports



Safety and security

Academic learning

School happenings: MTSS coaches support elementary students

We are pleased with the impact of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support coaches in our elementary schools. It is important to share how their collaborations support students and staff across the district and the positive impact their work has had on student learning.

The MTSS framework, which is funded through a combination of federal stimulus and our general budget, is grounded in being responsive to the academic and behavioral needs of all students. Coaches work closely with teachers to identify students' needs, plan and implement support, and monitor those interventions so that we can document how students are progressing toward their individualized learning goals. This year their work has expanded to include behavioral interventions.

Our instruction office team has created this video, which explains more about MTSS, their use of data, and work to support students:



Success for All Students: The Impact of K-5 MTSS Coaches

monroe2boces.hosted.panopto.com

National Paraprofessional Appreciation Day

Did you know that National School Paraprofessional Appreciation Day takes place the first Wednesday in April each year? I'd like to personally thank the paraprofessionals in our district who work to support students on a regular basis: teacher aides, bus attendants, lunch monitors, greeters, and licensed practical nurses. These professionals play a vital role in our schools, and I hope our pictures help to recognize the many ways in which they motivate students to learn. I'd like to recognize their outstanding work and dedication to our schools.



Student Leaders at ROC2Change

A number of student leaders and educators across our region came together today to celebrate diversity and promote equity in our schools. ROC2Change empowers high school students to become change agents by elevating their voices through student organized region-wide student summits. Today, our students engaged in discussions to better understand tolerance and heard keynote remarks from Isaiah Santiago, Monroe County's Young Citizen of the Year awardee. Recipients of this award must exhibit outstanding leadership and perform extraordinary acts on behalf of others or whose achievements have greatly enhanced the quality of life for Monroe County.



Bright Spots

Outstanding season for our winter athletes

The SCSD Board of Education officially recognized our winter athletes on March 28, including our Ranger wrestling, bowling, track, and swim teams.

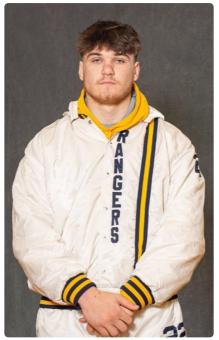
- Both girls and boys bowling teams won their respective Monroe County Divisions this year, and the boys broke the school record for high series. Junior Josh Winter bowled the high series at Sectionals, and he and sophomore, Jesse Taccone were also named to the All-Tournament team.
- Wrestling seniors Cal Russo and Jackson Burns and sophomore, Ryan Cieslinski competed in the New York State Wrestling Championships in Albany, where all 3 earned spots on the podium: Cal placed 7th at 138, Jackson placed 4th at 215, and Ryan Cieslinski placed 8th at 110.
- Junior Toby Dickerson and senior Kene Ukpabi had outstanding seasons in track and field, with both earning spots to compete at the State Qualifiers, Kene in shot-put and Toby in the 1600.
- Senior Kamden Keyes finished a record-setting season in swimming. He is the Section V champion in the 100 butterfly; placed 3rd in the state championships (6th in Federation); and broke four area high school records this year, some of which were 30-plus years old!

Congratulations to the above students, and to the following teams for earning scholastic athlete recognition: girls and boys basketball, hockey, girls and boys bowling, swim and diving, cheer and track.

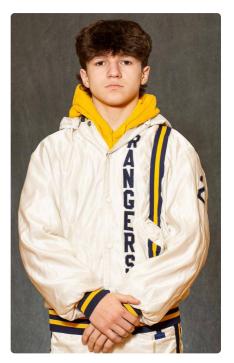




Senior Cal Russo



Senior Jackson Burns



Sophomore Ryan Cieslinski



Junior Toby Dickerson



Senior Kene Ukpabi



Senior Kamden Keyes

Music In Our Schools Month

Today marks the end of Music in Our Schools Month. The concerts, music festivals, and show productions lifted us all, and we could not do it without our music educators. They inspire students to learn new instruments, find their voice, and connect with classmates through music. I hope you enjoy the video below which highlights our program and demonstrates the importance of music education in our district. Thank you to our teachers, support staff and families for the work you do to provide our students with the ability to learn and grow through music.



Upcoming events

- Apr. 3-7: Spring Recess: no school
- Apr. 11: Board of Education meeting

It feels as if this recess is coming at a much-needed time. Like you, I grieve for the families of those who were directly impacted by the school shooting in Nashville. I'm also frustrated and upset by the disruption of swatting calls locally and nationally. It is important for me to acknowledge that the stress and anxiety our families, students and staff feel is real. As I have shared in my messages before, I am not only a superintendent but I'm also a mother of a school age child. The ripple effects of violence impacts all of us and I hope you know that safety and security is always on our minds. I'm thankful for those community members who have



reached out to me to offer support as well as suggestions on the ways we can improve our safety practices. We know that the number one-way school leaders learn about weapons, plots, intent to cause self-harm, etc.. is when kids and families come forward and share their concerns. We encourage reporting of safety concerns by all members of our community and ask that your use our <u>Safe Schools Helpline</u> to report any concerning behavior or issues. I will remain optimistic that this new reality will change and as a society we all will do better. This is my hope, and I will continue to work for our children.

I know that many of our families observe different religious holidays including Ramadan, Passover, Easter, and Vaisakhi. Please know that I am sending you well wishes and hopes for peaceful and meaningful time with your families.

Sincerely,

Kristin Swann Superintendent of Schools



Spencerport Central School District