Security Review

The Spencerport Central School District reviews its comprehensive safety plans and protocols regularly, and through the years, we have continued to augment our security efforts through consultation with police experts, professional trainings, practice drills, and surveillance equipment.

Since the tragedy in Florida, we revisited our safety programs and initiatives to reinforce with staff that we follow and practice all protocols as it relates to our emergency response plans, mandatory drills, building hours and access. We also know that parents have reached out to us, and this dialogue serves to help our protocols and we appreciate this partnership.

On a daily basis, district security practices include:

• proper staff and visitor identification badges,
• locked perimeter doors,
• staff training,
• confidential tip line,
• surveillance equipment, and
• daily and evening campus patrols.

All of these measures work in concert with our long-range efforts to focus on our infrastructure and equipment. In the existing capital project, we have continued to:

• add surveillance cameras
• replace exterior doors and locking hardware
• add secure card access to doors

• replace classroom door locks with the ability to lock inside the room, and
• Install new window shades

In emergency situations, specific building and district responses also remain in place. All of our security initiatives fall under the guidance of local law enforcement and leadership of our director of security, Toby Toscano.

Toscano also helped to create and is still a member of the Security Directors Group comprised of area Security Professionals for area school districts. This group met as recently as March 15 to discuss and learn from the Florida tragedy, and identify action steps in moving forward. Please find Toscano’s professional credentials and background on page 3.

Parents, students and community members are also an integral part of safety.

• Report issues of concern to our schools or through our confidential tip line: 1-877-474-9403. There is no need to leave your name or number. For emergencies, please always call 911.
• Do not hold the door open for the person behind you. It may feel rude, but it is the right thing to do for the safety of our students and staff.

Help reassure your child of their safety in our schools. School is still statistically the safest place for children to be. Remind them that we care about them and we are committed to keeping them safe.

More on security inside.

Munn Kindergartners become main characters of books

Students in Spencerport celebrated the Love of Reading this year through a special, book-making project.

Spencerport High school seniors met with Munn Elementary School kindergartners last fall, then wrote and illustrated books with those kindergartners as the main characters.

The official reveal and celebration took place on Feb. 27, when the high school students from Sandi Bendov's English class and Lydia Prusik's drawing and painting class read their final works to Dawn Hoadley’s kindergartners. In addition, Anne Strang, the children’s services librarian at the Ogden Farmer's Library, attended the celebration and presented “For the Love of Reading” Ogdecott Awards to the student-writers/illustrators in recognition for their outstanding books.

Those winners are: Gold: A Day at the Beach by Abby Spielman, illustrated by Lexi Jackson and Joey Gary; Ava the Heroic Princess by Madi Hoadley, by Natalie Dennison. Silver: Lost Lucy written and illustrated by Oksana Sushko; The Story of Liam by Andrew Cole, illustrated by Ariana Bracco. Honorable mention: Life of Cody by JJ Jenkins, illustrated by Milo Rodgers; Ryan by Josh Scholze, illustrated by Lauren D'Allesandro.

Lexi Jackson, Sofia Goodwin, and Abby Spielman for A Day at the Beach

Natalie Dennison, Ava Coleman, Madi Hoadley for Ava the Heroic Princess.
Dear Community,

The Spencerport Central School District joins communities and school districts across the nation in the conversations about school safety. I am proud of our staff, schools and parents, who have worked diligently to ensure consistency in our security practices and continued to reinforce safety training and drills. In a number of conversations with parents, it has been important to inform and share key protocols we have in place, and parents have expressed a sense of reassurance in knowing these protocols so we thought it may be helpful to provide an overview in this edition of Cornerstone as well.

We have also had some great conversations over the last month with staff, faculty, law enforcement officials and our administrative team with respect to school security and a safe school environment. Many of these discussions have confirmed our effectiveness in processes, systems, and equipment; however, there is always room to improve and refine our efforts.

To that end, this edition of the Cornerstone contains:

- a summary for our parents and community on our established security practices and initiatives;
- the annual safety reminders we provide to staff;
- ways we have invested in safety and security through our budget and capital improvement projects;
- helpful resources for parents and/or reporting concerns and;
- ways our parents and community can help.

Previously we have mentioned - and it’s worth noting again - our invaluable partnerships with the Ogden Police Department and the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) to continuously examine ways to build upon our efforts to make our schools as safe as possible. One recent outcome of these reviews will be a routine presence of sheriff deputies and OPD officers. We hope that this presence will continue to:

- reassure students and staff,
- serve as an opportunity for the authorities to familiarize themselves with the buildings beyond the blueprints, and
- build rapport with our students, families and staff to focus on prevention and support.

Please understand that just as airports, government agencies, or other public venues do not communicate their entire security plans, there will be emergency processes and components for our district and police use-only. This protects the integrity of our system and ensures that our plans cannot be used against us.

Future updates will be communicated as available and appropriate. In the meantime, please continue to share your questions and feedback with us at info@spencerportschools.org.

Sincerely,

Dan Milgate
Superintendent of Schools

Staff safety

Our security and facilities teams regularly review safety protocols with staff every year, with frequent reminders printed in our staff newsletter. Those reminders are provided below, with the added hope that parents and families understand and adhere to the protocols themselves, and/or immediately report any concerns or areas for improvement.

All staff must:

- Wear an ID badge; Persons without ID badges should be directed to the appropriate greeter to be signed in as a “visitor” or report to security or the building administrator.
- Report a lost ID badge immediately. The access function can be turned off immediately.
- Never lend an ID badge or allow others to use it to open doors.
- Check doors to ensure they latch and are secure.
- Never allow someone to enter through a locked door with you. Direct all others to the main entrance where the greeter will clear them to be in the building.
- Report doors that do not latch and lock. Facilities will respond quickly to ensure they function properly.
- Do not prop doors open.
- Lock your door and close your windows when leaving your room or office for the evening.
- Report anyone sitting in their vehicles for extended periods in our parking lots.

Staff safety REMINDERS

Ogden Police DARE and School Resource Officer Debbie Rath regularly visits our schools for educational programs such as DARE or the DWI assembly. She also serves as an SRO.
Security resources:

Confidential Tip Line (CTL)
The Spencerport Central School District maintains a Confidential Tip Line for our students and community. The TIP line, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, provides callers an opportunity to report activities such as: bullying, drug abuse, physical or sexual abuse, weapons, or threats in our schools.

Ensure Safety for All...Make the Call at 1-877-474-9403. There is no need to leave your name or number. For emergencies, please always call 911.

After-hours answering service
Callers may also contact our after-hours answering service at (585) 453-2360 to report any facilities-related issues, including security concerns, power outages, custodial needs, etc. This service will route calls to an appropriate manager for a timely follow up.

The Family Support Center
The Family Support Center is a no fee short-term counseling service that is available to all students and their families who reside in the Spencerport Central School District.

If you would like to make an appointment for counseling, call 349-5155. For information about the Center, call 349-5158.

Meet our Director of Security,
Toby Toscano

Toby Toscano began his career in law enforcement as a sworn, full-time deputy with the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office. Through the years, he served as an investigator in the Major Crimes Unit involving cases of robberies, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, and murder. He also served as a hostage negotiator and spent five years on assignment with the Rochester FBI.

Over the years, Toscano’s police training focused on many areas of security, including active shooter response, crime prevention strategies, recognizing child abuse, criminal investigations, defensive tactics, and family and crisis intervention training.

Upon retirement 15 years ago, he began working with the Spencerport School District as the security director. During this time, he has also continued to work the summer months for the Sheriff’s Office on the Marine Patrol Unit as a sworn, seasonal deputy, which means he retains his status as a police officer.

Spencerport contracts with the SWOOP security company, which provides an on-site presence of personnel, patrol services, consultations and event security. SWOOP officers have experience as either New York State Licensed Security Officers, current or retired Monroe County Police Officers, Investigators or Supervisors. Pictured here are SWOOP’s Ken Olson and James Ribis

Spencerport High School and Cosgrove Middle School students participated in the National Walkout Day on March 14, when students remembered the 17 students and staff killed during a school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Spencerport students also signed a legislative call to action for change, wrote letters to Florida and demonstrated with civility, respect, strength.

Elementary students spontaneously serenaded Ogden Police Chief Chris Mears on Feb. 28, when the students rehearsed for the districtwide choral concert, and Mears was touring the building.
On the Cornerstone

April 25
$150,000
2:25 p.m.

April 23
$3,613.50
$24.09/$1,000

April 26
$150,000

April 24
$24.33/$1,000

April 25

Towns conduct reassessments this year, will impact tax bills

Property owners often ask for clarification when school districts report on the estimated tax rate as it relates to their tax bills. Often, a school district may adopt a tax rate with little or no increase, yet a resident says, “yes, but my tax bill still went up.” All four towns conducted some form of property reassessments this year, so it is very likely for homeowners to expect an increase.

Most taxpayers in New York State receive two tax bills each year:

1. School tax bills are generally the first to arrive after assessments are finalized. In most communities, school tax bills arrive in early September.

2. In most communities, the second bill arrives in early January and is for county and town taxes, as well as other special district charges if applicable.

Rather than receiving tax bills, those who have their property taxes held in escrow receive receipts.

School districts have control over one line item in your bill related to school taxes, not the total tax bill. Again, if a school district forecasts and communicates a “no increase to the tax rate,” and a homeowner says “Yes, but my taxes are higher,” both are correct.

The school line item may indeed reflect no increase, but there are local and state taxes that also impact a tax bill. To further complicate matters, the anticipated school bill for a homeowner varies from property to property, depending on your town, home value and any changes in assessment.

What does this mean?

Your tax bill is calculated based on your home’s assessment, and more specifically, for each $1,000 of your assessed value of your property.

Here is an example of school taxes:

John Doe lives in a Spencerport home assessed at $150,000, and this year, his local village or town conducted a reassessment of his property, with a resulting $8,000 increase. His property is now assessed at $158,000, so even if Spencerport adopted a flat tax rate, his tax bill would increase overall:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>School Tax Rate</th>
<th>School tax portion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$24.09/$1,000</td>
<td>$3,613.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$24.09/$1,000</td>
<td>$3,613.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$24.33/$1,000</td>
<td>$3,649.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018-19</strong></td>
<td>$158,000</td>
<td>$24.33/$1,000**</td>
<td>$3,844.14 ($194.64/ year or $16/month)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**This is a hypothetical only for the purpose of providing an example.
** The Board of Education sets the projected tax rate in August.

Once approved, the 2018-19 budget proposal will be communicated along with the estimated tax rate to Spencerport residents through the web site, legal notices, public presentations, and the May edition of Cornerstone. Please note the information accompanying this review was provided by the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance on understanding the data on your tax bill.

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The Spencerport Alumni Association banquet

Alumni are invited to the 2018 Spencerport Alumni Banquet on Friday, June 8, at Whittier Party House, 88 Whittier Road, Rochester, NY 14624. (585) 594-4500

Social Hour will start at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m., and the program at 8 p.m.

Reservations must be made by May 25. Classes honored this year will be the Class of 1968 celebrating their 50th, and the Class of 1958 celebrating their 60th. The cost of the dinner is $20, so please send your name and check to Spencerport Alumni Association, P.O. Box 218, Spencerport, NY 14559

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Social

88 Whittier Road, Rochester, NY 14624. (585) 594-4500
New York State recently amended its regulations on student health examinations to better align with recommendations put forth by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and American Academy of Pediatrics.

The updated regulations become effective July 1, 2018 for the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter, and require that each child in a school district have a health examination, including body mass index. In addition, NYS also recommends a complete dental examination prior to entering school.

The law also changed the required grade levels for health examinations to: pre-K, kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grade students. These appraisals may be done up to one year to the month before your child begins these grades, as an exam is valid for a full year through the last day of the month in which the exam was conducted. Your family physician/nurse practitioner is most familiar with the medical history of your child and is able to start treatment when necessary; therefore, the district recommends that your family physician/nurse practitioner conduct all examinations.

Additionally, new entrants to the district, students wishing to play interscholastic sports, and students desiring work permits must have an annual health appraisal.

You or your provider may return the completed form to the health office. Completed health certificates can be directly mailed or faxed to the school nurse from the provider’s office.

### Budget Presentation Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>District Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotary Club</td>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Slayton Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Faculty</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosgrove Faculty</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Faculty</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>2:25 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickory Hollow</td>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Slayton Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Office</td>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Room 17 – D.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal View Faculty</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Presidents</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>3:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 17 – D.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Room 17 – D.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Hearing</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>District Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogden Seniors</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Ogden Senior Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Boosters</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 17 – D.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernabi Faculty</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal View Parent Group</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 17 – D.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernabi Parent Group</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 17 – D.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munn Parent Group</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 17 – D.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Parent Group</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 17 – D.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munn Faculty</td>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>8:15 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Dept.</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Boosters</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Cosgrove Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NYS Assessment information for parents of grades 3-8 students

The Spencerport School District recently mailed a letter home to our elementary families and a separate letter to our middle school families. These letters had relevant information on the upcoming NYSED assessments, anticipated changes, its use for the district, and options for parents’ consideration.

Please know we continue to advocate on behalf of our children and faculty as it relates to the NYSED assessments and their relevancy and usage. The results help us to identify strengths and weaknesses in our curriculum so we can make any necessary modifications. We recognize that parents have a choice to opt their children out of these assessments and we welcome you to contact us should you have any questions.

We also wanted to clarify information sent from the middle school (and since corrected on the website) as it relates to the timing of opting out students. If you decide to opt-out your child(ren), we respectfully ask that it be in its entirety and submit this intent in writing via e-mail or mail to your school’s principal. Please know this notice helps us for planning purposes only; however, you still have the option to opt-out at any time, even up to the day of the test for either the ELA or math exams.

STA basketball tourney raises money for Unified team

The Spencerport Teachers Association held a basketball tournament on March 1, to benefit the Spencerport Central School District’s Unified basketball program.

The event, which featured teachers against teachers and students 9/12 against students 10/11 raised $600 for our teams.

The Rangers have participated in the Monroe County Public School Athletic Conference’s Unified Sports® league, which is part of the Special Olympics. Teams of student athletes, with and without intellectual disability, compete on sports teams for training and competition.

Valentines for Veterans at Canal View

Canal View Elementary School honored our local military and veterans during its annual Valentines for Veterans on Feb. 14. Students made cards, read poems and sang songs in appreciation to those who have served our country.

The event is coordinated by the Canal View Service Learning Club.

Spotlight on Staff

Spencerport High School music teacher John Viavattine was recently recognized by the Conn-Selmer company for his professional career and skills as a musician. The Conn-Selmer company, one of the largest manufacturers of instruments in the world, has recognized Viavattine with a prestigious Artist Endorsement.

For more than 50 years, “Mr. V” has been performing on a Selmer saxophone, most notably with the Rochester-based Mambo Kings. Viavattine has transferred his skills as a musician to his students as evidenced by the High School’s Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble and their highly rated performances in competitive settings. Congratulations!
Spring 2018

Taylor fourth grader enlists help of facilities, school to improve recycling

A group of fourth graders at Taylor Elementary School advocated Principal Monica Macaluso with ways to improve the recycling program in the building.

Sheridan Yogis spearheaded the idea, conducted research on recycling, and then met with the principal and Facilities Director Nelson Drake on developing an action plan.

Sheridan also created a PowerPoint presentation, and with the help of her friends and fellow students, Micayla Peluso, Amelia Buono, and Riley Harradine, visited each classroom to reinforce how and why recycling the proper way is important.

“I saw a lot that should be in the recycling bin that was in the garbage instead,” Sheridan said of the idea. “It feels great to improve our recycling. It saves the earth. It helps our school learn.”

The students also made recycling flyers to post around the hallways.

Bernabi students make a fun case for, against school on Saturdays

Students at Bernabi Elementary School wrote persuasive arguments, both for and against, establishing school on Saturdays. Teacher Christine Kincaid assigned the unit on persuasive writing, after students read the book, A Fine, Fine School, by Sharon Creech.

Principal David Caiazza “encouraged” the idea of having school on Saturdays, but Superintendent Dan Milgate received the students’ cheers when he ultimately “overruled” the idea.

Pen pals bring new meaning to Cosgrove students through social media, writing

Cosgrove Middle School students Nyachap Tuach and Olivia Wolfanger received pen pal letters from two students in Toulouse, France.

For over 5 years, students in Mrs. Hall’s French classes have been able to connect with French students through writing letters and skyping. Once they have a pen pal, many students also chat through Instagram and Facebook.

Olivia, an 8th grader, said, “I like having a French pen pal because it offers a different way to learn French.” This is the second pen pal Olivia has been writing to since starting French.

Spencerport Rotary inducted Superintendent Dan Milgate as member

The Spencerport Rotary inducted Superintendent of Schools Dan Milgate into its club on March 12. The induction marks a formal continuation of the partnership that the district has had with the Rotary through the years.

The Spencerport Rotary works to foster the ideals of community service; the importance of all occupations to serve society; and the application of service in all aspects of members personal, business and community life.

For years, the Rotary has made a difference in the lives of Spencerport students by promoting a love of reading through its dictionary donation program.
Chairman’s Award for our First Robotics Team

The Finger Lakes Regional FIRST Robotics awarded the Spencerport Robotics Team 3015 with the prestigious FIRST Chairman’s Award at the regional competition on March 17.

According to the official FIRST web site, the Chairman’s Award is the most prestigious honor awarded, to recognize the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST.

This is the third time the team has won a Chairman’s award (2016, 2017), but the first time locally.

“Winning here at the local Finger Lakes Regional is an amazing honor and shows just how hard these kids work all year,” said Nancy Mancuso, a Spencerport High School teacher and lead mentor for the Chairman’s effort. “This is a big win for the entire team and we could not be prouder of what they continue to accomplish.”

The Finger Lakes competition, held at the RIT Gordon Field House March 15-17, drew 50 teams from around the world, including a team from China and one from Brazil. By winning the Chairman’s Award, Team 3015 has earned a spot in the Detroit championship, April 25-28.