

SPENCERPORTCSD REPEATS AS A 2020 ROCHESTER TOP WORKPLACE

Spencerport Central School has been awarded a Top Workplace 2020 honor by the Democrat and Chronicle. The honor, which is the second year in a row for Spencerport, is based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey administered by employee engagement company, [Energage](#), LLC. The anonymous survey uniquely measures several aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution, and connection, just to name a few.

“The timing of this honor means a lot to us as a district,” Superintendent Dan Milgate said. “Despite the challenges and unprecedented times we have faced together in the last several weeks, we also have many reasons to be grateful – mainly our health, resiliency, and sense of community. I am so appreciative for being named a Top Workplace in Rochester, because it is solely based on the feedback from employees. Now more than ever, I am grateful to work with such dedicated professionals every day.”

Only 66 companies made this year’s list. A 2020 celebration, hosted by Energage and the D&C has been postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However we hope to celebrate our employees as soon as the opportunity arises upon a return to work. Congratulations to our Ranger employees!



How our employees describe our culture



Reasons employees love working at SpencerportCSD

I love my children and community. I love my coworkers and the ability to learn and grow.

I have an opportunity every day to make a difference to my students and to adapt to each environment I am faced with. I feel like I have a strong support network and never feel uncomfortable asking for help.

I am challenged yet supported, I am encouraged to try new teaching methods, and I am part of an amazing team at my level and district wide.

Certified by energage

What’s inside:

- An update on our 2020-21 budget
- Congratulations to staff
- Let’s celebrate our Class of 2020!

2 NYSED re-designates Cosgrove MS as a 2020 Schools To Watch

Spencerport Central School District is proud to announce that Cosgrove Middle School has been re-designated as a 2020 School to Watch by the New York State Education Department.



Cosgrove received its original designation in 2017, and schools must apply for redesignation every three years to maintain its "In Good Standing" as an Essential Elements School-to-Watch. The redesignation process, like the original, requires a lengthy application and site visit.



Principal Jim Centola and students on the principal's advisory council pose in front of the 2017 STW banner on March 9.

Principal Jim Centola said of the honor, "I am happy that Cosgrove Middle School has been re-designated as a School to Watch by the EE:STW program. This recognition is bestowed on a small number of middle schools statewide, and it re-

flects the work of our school community with our students each and every day. I feel fortunate to work with our staff, teachers, administrators, and parents to create the best school we can for our students."



Pictured left to right, teachers Christine Kincaid, Kim McLean, and Elizabeth Roth.

SCSD teachers earn ISTE certification

Three Spencerport teachers earned certification in the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

Christine Kincaid, Kim McLean and Elizabeth Roth each earned the designation of ISTE Certified Educators, after participating in a rigorous and comprehensive process. Participants are required to complete training on the ISTE standards, then have six months to apply their learning and compile documentation and reflections into a competency-based portfolio.

ISTE Certification recognizes educators, not for the type of technology they use, but rather how they use technology to transform learning and improve student outcomes.

This time of year is typically buzzing with school budget communications, and at this point in the process, the district would be:

- Certain of the state aid and its impact on our revenues;
- communicating the 2020-21 budget proposal (normally adopted by the Board of Education in early to mid-April);
- holding twice-a-month meetings with our volunteer Budget Focus Group;
- presenting the budget to the community, including Ogden Seniors, Hickory Hollow, and Chamber of Commerce;
- publishing profiles of the candidates running for the school board;

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, there is nothing normal about this year's budget development, and understandably so. The focus is, as it should be, on the health and well-being of the public, and following all state and medical directives for school closures, quarantine and social distancing.



In the meantime, school budgets still need to be finalized, and deadlines met in preparation for a yet-to-be determined community budget vote. As of April 20, we know the following:

- The pandemic promises to have a huge fiscal impact on school budgets in both the short- and long-term.
- New York State has adopted its budget, and along with it, a zero increase in Foundation aid to schools. The silver lining is that districts would have seen a \$1.1 billion state aid cut if not for federal stimulus dollars authorized by Congress in March.
- Nonetheless, Foundation aid is flat at the 2019-20 amounts, without any increase to align with growing costs.
 - The state frequently warns that, if projected revenues don't materialize, further reductions in state aid may occur throughout the next school year.

Public school business officials are closely following the daily updates from Governor Andrew Cuomo, and more specifically, his forecasts related to state aid and its impact on

school districts. According to Cuomo, without federal funding, school districts may experience anywhere from a 20-to-50% cut in state aid at any point in the year.

At this point, districts are encouraged to wait to finalize their budgets until after April 30, when the state has an opportunity to conduct its first budget review of forecasted -versus-actual revenues.

Expenditures

Mindful of the factors noted above, Spencerport's cabinet team continues to work on a 2020-21 budget, and plan as much as possible for the various unknowns. Part of this effort has been to implement action steps now to secure savings for later. Specifically, the district has:

- initiated a limit or freeze in spending in the current year's budget. Expenditures for the remainder of this year must meet the criteria as health-and-safety related, student mission critical, and preservation of physical plant and instructional programs.
- scrutinized any current purchases of general supplies, materials, and equipment.
- realized cost savings from no travel or conference attendance.
- no overtime for staff.

These are small savings now, but every amount helps to mitigate expenses tomorrow. We wanted to provide the status on our budget development efforts, and will post updates on our website and the budget edition of *Cornerstone*.

Spencerport Central School District

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

Board of Education
Superintendent of Schools
Dan Milgate

Communication Specialist:
Lanette Cypher
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Congratulations to Kristen Paolini, SAANYS Administrator of the Year

Congratulations to Kristen Paolini, our director of curriculum, who has been selected as the 2020 School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS) Region 11 District Level Administrator of the Year. This award recognizes educators who demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and have made exceptional contributions to the educational process.



Mrs. Kristen Paolini

High School principal Sean McCabe said, “(Paolini) is always very organized, focused, and willing to “roll up her sleeves” to work side by side with teachers on any task. She brings this same attitude to working with building administrators. Her focus is always on what she can do to support students and building staff. She is simply wonderful to work with. Her work ethic, high moral character, strong instructional background, and belief in each child she works with allow her to contribute so much to our learning community.”

Congratulations to Ty Zinkiewich, GVCASCD Supervisor of the Year

Congratulations to Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Ty Zinkiewich for being selected as the Supervisor of the Year by the Genesee Valley Chapter of the NYS Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).



Mr. Ty Zinkiewich

The GVASCD annual awards recognizes emerging and established educational leaders and highlights their exemplary practices with the education community. Every year, the Genesee Valley ASCD selects three winners from nominations’ process in the areas of Supervision, Curriculum and Service.

According to his nomination, Zinkiewich is “fully committed to any task that is before him and is brilliant at getting his team aligned to tackle the tasks at hand whether it is instructional, professional development, operational or budgetary. He is guided by his commitment to students and their well-being, and sees every challenge before him as a completed task waiting to happen.”

The Board of Education grants tenure to following staff members:

Administrator:

- David Caiazza, Bernabi Principal

Faculty:

- Chelsea Antosh, high school math teacher
- Kristin Bruer, Taylor teacher
- Hannah Cohen, Bernabi special education teacher
- Jason Frantz, Munn school psychologist
- Elisabeth Gurz, Bernabi teacher
- Erin Hanna, Bernabi special education teacher
- Micah Joseph, Taylor physical education teacher
- Laurel Kane, Munn music teacher
- Natalie Kirisits, high school reading specialist
- Jennifer Latshaw, Cosgrove special education teacher
- Sara Pease, Cosgrove ESOL teacher
- Brandon Rothdiener, Canal View special education teacher
- Sara Sage, Bernabi teacher

In early March, Spencerport hosted teachers and administrators from the Brockport and Gates-Chili Central School Districts to discuss our efforts with Digital Conversion. This was the final session in a three-part series, with each district hosting a visit.



Our Spencerport team highlighted our approach to professional development, blended learning, staffing, instructional programs, and

support from the technology department. Breakout groups also traveled to Bernabi and Canal View to visit classrooms and observe quality instruction.



These types of partnerships are critical because our teachers visit other school systems and, either learn something new, or validate the amazing things that exist here in Spencerport.

Best wishes to our staff retirees

Thank you to the following staff members for their years of dedication and service to the Spencerport Central School District. We will miss you. Congratulations to:

Bernabi Elementary School:

Nancy Schulze, teacher aide
Donna Winterberger, teacher aide
Laurie Wood, teaching assistant

Canal View Elementary School

Thomas Accorso, cleaner
Daniel Brust, physical education teacher
Dale Maier, custodian
Carol Robinson, principal

Cosgrove Middle School:

Patricia Brown, LPN
James Cook, science teacher
Pamela Copeland, teacher aide
John Kozlowski, teacher
Deborah Yeara, special education teacher

District Office:

Robin Hagberg, data management specialist
Jan McCullough, computer application specialist
Anna Sapienza, coordinator of special education

Facilities:

John Strong, courier
Deborah Tabbitas, office clerk

Munn Elementary School:

Joanne Powers, office clerk III

Spencerport High School:

Julie Bishop, math teacher
Marlene Empey, assistant cook
Thomas Etsler, physical education teacher
Gerard Koch, custodian
Marlene Lemke, teacher aide
Deborah Loughlin, business education teacher
Kanjana Phromsiri, food service helper
Linda Vazzana, physical education teacher
John Viavattine, music teacher

Taylor Elementary School:

Joanne Coon, teaching assistant

Transportation:

George Gould IV, bus driver
Helen Koroniwsky, bus driver
Donald Tyson, bus driver
Tim Yockel, head driver

#SpencerportTogether unites community through

The #SpencerportTogether dinner subsidy program officially launched on March 23 – just one week after schools closed across Monroe County due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The subsidy began as a concept by Superintendent Dan Milgate, who wanted to:

- provide free or reduced dinners to families financially impacted by COVID-19, beyond the district's student breakfast-and-lunch distribution plan; and
- generate some revenue, albeit limited, to our local restaurants.

The response has been overwhelming. In just three

Please note some of these photos were taken before the mandate to wear face masks.



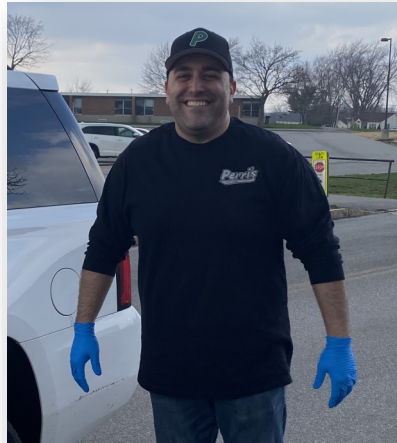
#SpencerportTogether



Dinner Subsidy Initiative

weeks, the program has raised close to \$40,000 and served 5,000 meals. The subsidy operates as follows:

- community members and businesses donate through a partnership with the Spencerport Education Foundation;
- local restaurant owners participate, and provide meals at a reduced cost;
- a menu is established each week, listing the restaurant, meals, and prices;
- meals are served using a drive-thru system between 4:30-5:30 p.m., weekdays outside the HS west cafeteria or the McDonalds in Spencerport; and



dinner subsidy program

- the Spencerport Education Foundation reimburses the restaurants for the subsidized amount.

#SpencerportTogether is based on an honors system, with the understanding that only families who need assistance with meals will participate. On average, 350-400 meals have been served per day.



Bridget Martin, president of the Spencerport Education Foundation, said “People are so appreciative of this program. I am grateful we

can do our part to help this community. One night when I volunteered, we had a lot of people getting pasta and we ran out towards the end. We were doing what we could, with just meatballs and rolls, and the very last car had four children. When we brought their food out, we thanked them for being so patient

and the kids sang us a “thank you” song. It touched my heart.”

“During a difficult time, we still have a lot to be thankful for - #SpencerportTogether – always!”

**Bridget Martin,
Spencerport Education Foundation**



Milgate agreed, then said, “We cannot thank enough all the donors, restaurants, and community partners who, without any hesitation, have stepped up to help. It has been so humbling for me to witness the strength and kindness shown through #SpencerportTogether, and I am just grateful to be part of it.”



#SpencerportTogether is a success due to the support of our community. We’d like to acknowledge the following partners as of April 13.

Partner:

Spencerport Education Foundation

Sponsors:

- Spencerport Federal Credit Union: \$5,000
- Alloya Cares Grant
- Campus
- J William Jewelers
- MIDA Heating & Air Conditioning
- Schultz Associates
- Generous donations from community members

Restaurants

- Bad Apples Bistro
- Barton’s Hots
- Chef’s Catering
- Grandpa Sam’s

- Martusciello's (rolls)
- McDonald’s
- Perri’s Pizzeria
- Plantation Party House
- Spencerport Hots
- Texas BBQ Joint

Item donations:

- Palmers, (containers)
- Maine’s Food and Party Supply (bags)
- Ricktacular Printing, (volunteer t-shirts)

Local Support/ Volunteers:

- Spencerport Volunteer Fire Department
- Ogden Police Department
- Spencerport Facilities Team

Spencerport learning community shows compassion, gratitude and strength during difficult times

Our schools, teachers, and departmental programs are actively engaged on social media, connecting with students instructionally and acknowledging all the great things going on as a community.

In case you missed it, we've provided some of those posts on this page. Thank you to our principals who submitted photos to be included here, and of course,

there are so many, we are unable to fit them all in one Cornerstone!

A special thank you to our faculty and staff for continuing to educate and inspire our students, and to parents for sticking with us on this challenging journey. #GratefulRangers



*Let's Celebrate our
Spencerport Seniors!*

Class of 2020 and their Parents: We want your input

Unfortunately the ceremony at the SUNY Brockport SERC has been canceled, so we are looking for input on an alternative celebration.

Please complete the following survey at the link below **by April 27**.

We appreciate your feedback and look forward to recognizing the incredible Class of 2020.

Senior Survey

Send us your photos!

Mr. Steve Lysenko, assistant principal assigned to the Class of 2020, has been coordinating efforts to celebrate our seniors. Please email him any photos of your graduate, either present day or through the years!

His email is:

slysenko@spencerportschools.org

