

Back to School

TAKE ONE
FREE

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE NEW YEAR



Sullivan County Democrat • August 13, 2021 • Callicoon, N.Y. Section S

Being prepared will have them ready to learn

BY ROBERT M. DUFOUR, ED.D.
SULLIVAN BOCES DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT & CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Going back to school is an exciting time for students, teachers, and school staff. Opening day for students in Sullivan County will be on Sept. 7 or on Sept. 8 depending on the school district. Unfortunately, as the new school year begins, uncertainty continues to be a factor as we continue to fight the COVID-19 virus.

As parents plan for the new school year, we ask everyone to be flexible and remain in contact with their school district to ensure they are aware of each district's protocols as students return. Check your mail periodically, as districts typically mail back-to-school informational packets prior to the start of the school year.

Please make sure your school

district has your current phone, cellphone, and email address. Having correct contact information allows the district to communicate information, changes, and events with parents and guardians. It is also important to bookmark the school's website and follow them on social media.

Being prepared for school helps eliminate unnecessary stress for parents and students. The following tips will help prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

1. Start bedtime routines early to help your child return to their school sleeping patterns.

2. Remove mobile devices from bedrooms so your child falls asleep at a reasonable time.

3. Review pertinent back-to-school informational items with your child.

4. Use a calendar – your child will be better prepared if they can visually see when school starts, extracurricular activities are



FILE PHOTO

Robert M. Dufour, Ed.D.
Sullivan BOCES District
Superintendent & Chief Executive
Officer

scheduled and view important dates throughout the school year.

5. Back-to-school shopping - Pick a date to shop with your child. When children pick their school supplies, clothes, a backpack, or lunchboxes, it may increase their excitement about going back to

school and using the new items.

6. Talk about homework and your expectations – set your guidelines early, so your child understands when and where you want them to do their homework and what you expect from them during school.

7. Refresh your rules for screen time – what is allowed and when.

8. Establish a backup transportation plan in case your child misses the bus.

9. Encourage your child to prepare for school the night before – lay out clothes, pack backpack and gym bag.

10. Plan for after-school childcare or supervision.

Being prepared will help your child head off to school feeling excited and ready to learn.

The school districts in Sullivan County and Sullivan BOCES are prepared to embrace, engage and empower our students throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

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Back to School

'What to expect in the new school year'

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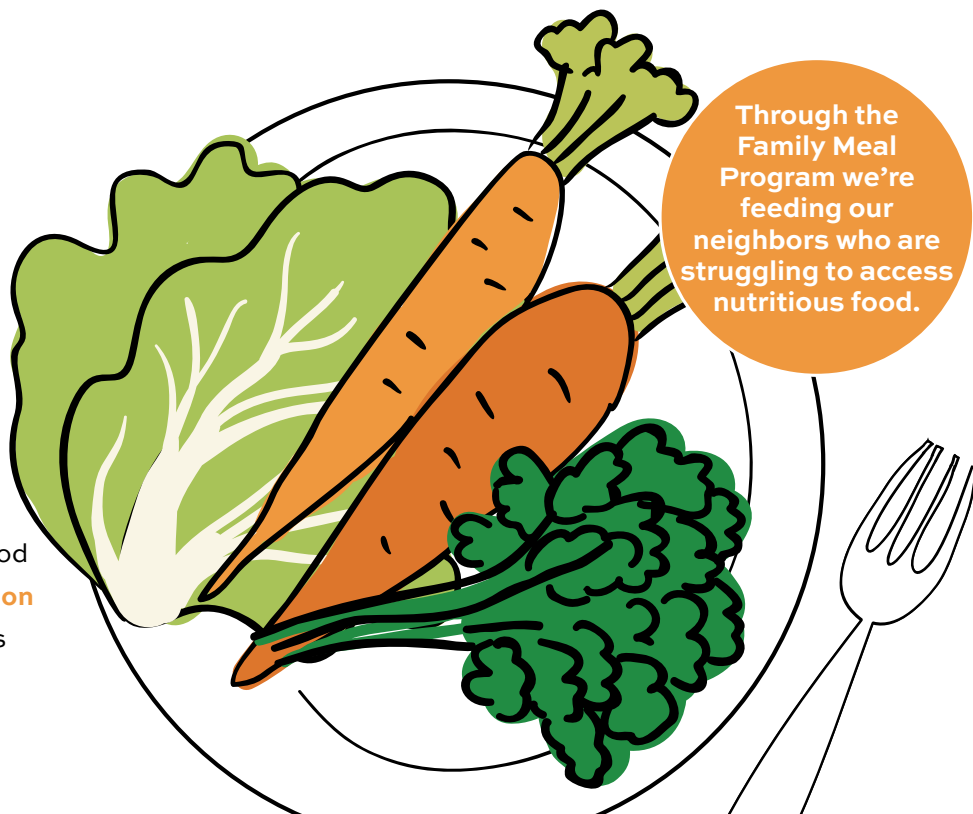
a
single
bite

**One in three Americans
say they were never
taught about nutrition.***

We're on a mission to educate students about real food
and healthy eating habits. Our middle school **Education
Program** is an interactive, volunteer-presented series
that supplements the State education curriculum.

Coming to schools across Sullivan County this fall.

*The Del Monte Foods' 2020 State of Healthy Eating in America Study



94523

**TO LEARN MORE: Call (845) 482-1030
or email info@asinglebite.org**



A Single Bite is a non-profit
organization founded by
Foster Supply Hospitality

SUNY Sullivan fall semester begins Aug. 30

This fall SUNY Sullivan is offering both face-to-face instruction and distance learning courses, on the main campus in Loch Sheldrake and at the Narrowsburg Union. The college has programs for students finishing high school, starting college, transitioning their career, or looking for professional development. SUNY Sullivan was ranked No. 1 community college in New York State and No. 14 of all New York State institutions of higher education by Intelligent.com, based on flexibility, faculty, course strength, cost, and reputation.

Students can engage in campus life with small classes and individual attention, and access free tutoring, and academic and personal counseling, both virtually and in person. The Generals' nationally-ranked athletics teams will be back in action this fall, and this year the college will be launching an E-Sports program.

"SUNY Sullivan is very excited to welcome students back to campus this fall," said President Jay Quaintance. "After nearly 18 months away, we are ready to be able to offer the full in-person college experience to students who prefer that. Of course, we continue to realize that there are students who for a variety of reasons prefer on line instruction, and we have a wide range of options for those students. We have been fortunate that we have kept our students, staff and faculty safe since the beginning of the pandemic by following public health guidance and adapting when needed. This has led to zero transmission of the virus on our campus. We continue to monitor the situation as the cases increase and are ready to take whatever steps are needed to continue our outstanding record."

SUNY Sullivan's Laptop Loaner Program can assist students who need better access to technology for their studies. And the college offers



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

SUNY Sullivan is quickly becoming a leader in sustainability education. Here are some students receiving a hands-on learning experience in the field.

free parking lot wifi for students and community members.

Discover SUNY Sullivan Day 2021

Come down to campus on Saturday, August 21, from noon– 4 pm.

Bring a valid high school transcript along and enjoy Instant Acceptance at one of the best community colleges in New York State. Meet President Quaintance and enjoy a complimentary lunch. Parents are welcome. The event is at the Loch Sheldrake campus on 112 College Road.

Tour Times are 12:45 p.m.- 1:45 p.m. | 1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

An estimated 90 percent of SUNY Sullivan students receive some form of financial aid to help cover tuition costs; students and parents will have the opportunity to speak with financial aid counselors who can walk them through the process.

SUNY Sullivan's Presidential Scholars program makes a college education more accessible and more affordable for high-achieving students graduating from Sullivan County high schools. Students with a minimum overall grade average of 90 are eligible to receive the scholarship. The Presidential Scholars program funds up to full tuition and fees for two years at SUNY Sullivan.

Don't have a high school diploma? SUNY Sullivan's 24-Credit Hour High School Equivalency Program could be the fit for you. Enroll in a degree pro-

gram and earn a high school equivalency diploma after completing 24 college credits.

For more information or to register for Discover SUNY Sullivan Day, please go to sunysullivan.com/discover-suny-sullivan-day/, or contact an Enrollment Specialist at admissions@sunysullivan.edu, or call 800-577-5243.

Child Care at SUNY Sullivan

SUNY Sullivan now offers a preschool program to children of both students and staff on its Loch Sheldrake campus, in partnership with the Healthy Kids Programs. Children can be enrolled full or part time, assuming space is available. Child care is open during all on-campus class times.

To learn more, go to: sunysullivan.edu/child-care/.

Classes at the Narrowsburg Union

SUNY Sullivan is offering face-to-face general education courses at the Narrowsburg Union this fall. Course offerings* this fall include: Composition I (3 credits), Thursday: 4 p.m.-6:50 p.m.; Guitar Class I (2 credits), Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-1:35 p.m.; Creative Writing I (3 credits), Monday: 4 p.m.-6:50 p.m.; Fundamentals of Speech (3 credits), Tuesday: 5 p.m.-7:50 p.m.; General Psychology (3 credits), Wednesday: 9:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.; and Intermediate Algebra (3 credits), Monday: 5 p.m.-7:50 p.m.

To learn more, visit sunysullivan.com/narrowsburg-course-offerings

For more information contact an Enrollment Specialist at admissions@sunysullivan.edu, or call 800-577-5243.



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Foster Supply Hospitality Co-Founder Sims Foster speaks to local youth as part of A Single Bite, which provides education on nutrition.

A Single Bite returning to the classroom

“We returned to my hometown to run restaurants,” says Livingston Manor’s Sims Foster, “Kirsten and I found there were other mouths to feed.”

When Sims and Kirsten Harlow Foster, co-founders of Foster Supply Hospitality—a group of small hotels and restaurants in Sullivan County—learned that Sullivan ranks 61 out of 62 New York counties in health outcomes they knew they had to act. A large part of that problem is food insecurity, almost a quarter of children live in poverty, 800 kids are eligible for free or reduced school lunch, and 15.5 percent of households struggle to buy adequate food.

Responding to the need in their community, the Fosters founded “A Single Bite” to provide nutrition education in middle schools. Starting with the Livingston Manor Central School, they pro-



vided classroom programs, demonstrations, field trips, tastings, and healthy meals.

As Kirsten puts it, “We wanted kids to understand there are good tasting, healthier alternatives to chips and pizza, if they’ll just try a single bite.” Plans were underway to roll out the program in all Sullivan County Schools.

Then, COVID-19 hit. Kids weren’t in school, the economy took a downturn, and food insecurity grew. For far too many there simply weren’t resources for healthy food or even enough food to be healthy. A Single Bite pivoted to meet the need by launching the Family Meal Program.

Collaborating with local schools, food pantries, and community organizations A Single Bite helps ensure that children and their families have healthy food to eat. Foster Supply Hospitality kitchens develop and produce nutritious meals that

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A Single Bite shifted their focus to help the community during the pandemic.

cost only \$5 per meal for ingredients and packaging.

Contributions from A Single Bite supporters, including patrons at the Fosters' restaurants, provide funding with 100 percent going to the meals. School districts and Rolling V Bus Company provided buses, with the Liberty/Monticello Rotary Clubs, the Fallsburg Lions, and volunteers also doing deliveries to make the cost of delivering the meals minimally.

One family summed up the impact, "The meal from A Single Bite is good food we would otherwise not be able to afford. The portions are large enough to ensure everyone in the family is full."

A Single Bite plans to emphasize the educational mission in the fall with a return to the classrooms. Volunteers will present a four-part program that supple-

ments New York State's curriculum, designed to educate students about real food, where it comes from, and how to make healthy choices. Students will taste food they may never have tried before: trout, beets, halloumi, venison, quinoa, and kale. There's only one rule – students must try at least "A Single Bite."

They'll take field trips to learn where real food comes from, return to the classroom to discuss healthy choices, and visit a Foster Supply restaurant for a behind the scenes peek at kitchens and operations with general managers and executive chefs.

Sims Foster and Kirsten Harlow Foster continue their mission to feed both the mind and bodies of our neighbors.

There's information at: asin-blebite.org. If you'd like to help or need help, email info@asin-blebite.org or call 845-482-1030.



A member of the 'A Single Bite' team loads meals onto a school bus that were delivered to local families in need.

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An advertisement for Courtyard Bar and Pub. The top half features a photograph of the building, a two-story wooden structure with a green roof, set against a backdrop of trees. Below the photo, text reads "Food & Drinks Open 7 Days All Year" and "Outdoor Patio on Golf Course with beautiful view". A circular logo in the center says "COURTYARD PUB" with "SINCE 2011" and "GOOD FOOD", "GOOD TIMES", "GOOD FISH", "GOOD BEER" around it. The bottom half shows the interior of the bar, with a well-stocked bar, tables, and chairs.

COURTYARD BAR

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with beautiful view

COURTYARD PUB
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Three preschoolers practice their teamwork and collaboration skills as they work together to build a fort from fallen branches.



Preschoolers are allowed to express their own creativity through art, music, and storytelling.



Lessons are all child-led, as they interact and experience nature.

I want every Girl to know That her voice Can change the world #MalalaYousafzai



At the Forest Preschool, students are encouraged to explore the world around them and appreciate nature.

Teaching Children with Magic

STORY BY LILLY PARNELL

The Forest Preschool, a unique and formative preschool based on teachings of self and nature on Hospital Road in Callicoon, will open this fall in affiliation with The Wizard School (TWS). Caitlyn Pezza originally founded TWS in 2018 as an after school program in New Jersey. It was a dream of hers for over 11 years to open a school that reformed education and brought students to a deeper sense of connection to themselves, each other, and the natural world around them. “I envisioned to have a school that would change children’s lives by empowering their imaginations and

make learning experiences as pleasurable as playing and pretending in the woods,” said Pezza. “I always questioned why school had to be a painful or boring experience and why it couldn’t be a portal into the magic of our creativity, wonder and joy.” Pezza served both as a teacher and an administrator for over 15 years prior to opening TWS. During her time developing the concept of this new program, she toured over 100 private and public schools in New York and New Jersey studying a variety of curriculums to be able to better develop her own. “Our lessons are all child-led and our curriculum is emergent from

children’s natural interactions and experiences in nature,” said Pezza. “Our children learn science, math, English, ecology, motor skills as well as social and emotional skills. We guide children in working collaboratively with each other, safe risk taking, problem solving and exploring.” Much of the curriculum at TWS is based on practical application. A child may collect pinecones and use them to learn addition or use problem solving while building a fort in the forest. Children attending these programs are encouraged to explore nature, run with butterfly nets, invent new games, smell wildflowers, and climb on trees. Along with stu-

dents learning about their role in the environment, there is also much emphasis on myth and indigenous cultures, viewing storytelling as a portal into the world of magic and imagination. “We believe that myth is one of the oldest ways we as humans have learned to understand our world and access our inner wisdom,” said Pezza. “We will learn about and read different myths from different cultures to spark curiosity and question the world like the myth maker.” Each weekday, the Forest Preschool begins with a half hour of free play before an activity or project is given to provoke thinking or investigation. A daily myth will be

told along with songs, and then children will be encouraged to explore the forest, identifying animals, building forts, telling stories, solving problems and engaging with nature in a child-led curriculum. After, lunch and tea will provide a time to reflect and share their experiences before children are given the opportunity to meditate and sing farewell songs. “We have an indoor structure for bad weather, so classes take place inside then,” added Pezza. “Unless the weather is severe or under 20 degrees in the winter, we still explore the forest so we can experience it in all of its different forms and seasons.” TWS offers a weekend camp for ages two through nine. It is a full day

immersion camp with campfire songs and s’mores in the evening. There is also an after school program for ages five through nine that focuses more on enrichment classes such as creative writing, theater, art, and cooking. The Preschool will open this September and go for the duration of the average school year. The ratio of students to teachers is four to one, however, Pezza does desire to hire locally as TWS and the Forest Preschool continues to grow. Additional information about the preschool and after school programs as well as registration forums can be found at <https://www.thewizard-school.net/>.



Those at the Forest Preschool learn science and ecology through the animals and bugs they find around the forest.

2021 SCHOOL CONTACT LIST

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Sullivan County Treasurer

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ELDRED

Contact information: Eldred Junior-Senior High School, 600 Route 55, P.O. Box 249, Eldred, NY 12732; 456-1100; fax: 456-1112

George Ross Mackenzie Elementary School, 1045 Proctor Road, P.O. Box 249, Glen Spey, NY 12737; 456-1100; fax: 456-1115

Website: www.eldred.k12.ny.us

Superintendent: John C. Morgano, Ed. D., morganoj@eldred.k12.ny.us
School Counselor: Kim Gueren, JSHS

Grades: K - 6

Registration: By appointment; call 456-1100 ext. 5143

Grades: 7 - 12

Registration: By appointment; call 456-1100 ext. 5180

Starting date: Tuesday, September 7

Hours: High School: 7:30 a.m. - 2:05 p.m.; Elementary School: 8:25 a.m. - 3 p.m.

FALLSBURG

Contact information: Fallsburg Junior Senior High School, 115 Brickman Road, P.O. Box 124, Fallsburg, NY 12733; 434-6800; fax: 434-0168

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School, 15 Old Falls Road, P.O. Box 123, Fallsburg, NY 12733; 434-6800; fax: 434-0871

Website: www.fallsburgcsd.net

Superintendent: Dr. Ivan Katz, ikatz@fallsburgcsd.net; Superintendent's Secretary's email: ssatz@fallsburgcsd.net
School Counselor:

Junior/Senior HS: Joe Levner, 434-6800 ext 2249, Sonja Ferreira 434-6800 ext 2209, Meryl Giarrizzo, 434-6800 ext 2210. Elementary: Michelle Gallo, 434-4110 ext 3211

Director of PPS: Leighanne Russell 434-6800 ext 1273

Asst Dir of PPS: Michele McCoy 434-6800 ext 1276

Grades: Pre-K-12

Registration: By appointment, call 434-6800, ext.1222

Starting date: Wednesday, September 8

Hours: High School: 7:56 a.m. to 2:38 p.m., Elementary School: 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

HANCOCK

Contact information: High School, 67 Education Lane, Hancock, NY 13783; Elementary School, 206 Wildcat Drive, Hancock, NY 13783; (607) 637-2511, Fax: (607) 637-1380

Website: www.hancock.stier.org

Superintendent:

Terrance Dougherty, TDougherty@hancock.stier.org

School Counselor: Joan Rice

Grades: Pre-K-12

Starting date: Thursday, September 9

Hours: 8 a.m. - 2:32 p.m.

LIBERTY

Contact information: Liberty Central School District Office, 115 Buckley St., Liberty, NY 12754; 292-6171; fax: 292-1164
Liberty High School, 125 Buckley St., Liberty, NY 12754; 292-5400, Main office ext 2000; fax: 292-7262

Liberty Middle School, 145 Buckley St., Liberty, NY 12754; 292-5400, Main Office ext 2300; fax: 292-5691

Liberty Elementary School, 201 N. Main Street, Liberty, NY 12754; 292-5400, Main Office ext 2030; fax: 295-9201

Superintendent: Dr. Patrick Sullivan, psullivan@libertyk12.org; Secretary to Superintendent & District Clerk, Tania DeFrank, tdefrank@libertyk12.org, 292-6990

School Counselor: Sheila

Wormuth, Guidance Director, swormuth@libertyk12.org, 845-292-5400 ext. 2008

Website: www.libertyk12.org

Grades: Pre-K-12

Registration: Contact the school or visit the district website for detailed instructions.

Starting date: Tuesday, September 7

Hours: District Office: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; High School: 7:55 a.m. - 2:57 p.m.; Middle School: 7:55 a.m. - 2:54 p.m.; Elementary School: 7:45 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

LIVINGSTON MANOR

Contact information: Central School, 19 School St., P.O. Box 947, Livingston Manor, NY 12758; 439-4400; fax: 439-4717

Superintendent: John P. Evans, john.evans@lmcs.us

School Counselor: Chris Towsley (HS)

christian.towsley@lmcs.us

Danielle DalCero (ES/MS)

danielle.dalcero@lmcs.us

Meagan Edwards (PK - 12) meagan.edwards@lmcs.us

Website: www.lmcs.k12.ny.us

Grades: Pre-K-12

Registration: Registration packets for new students are available. Parents must call the Registrar at 439-4400, ext. 1207 to arrange a time to pick them up. All forms must be completely filled out before scheduling an appointment in the Guidance Office.

Starting date: Tuesday, September 7


Hours: 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

MONTICELLO

Contact information:

Administrative Office, 60 Jefferson Street, Suite 3, Monticello, NY 12701; 794-7700 fax: 794-7710

Monticello High School, 39 Breakey Ave., Monticello, NY



12701; (845) 794-8840; fax: 794-8133
 Robert J. Kaiser Middle School, 45 Breakey Ave., Monticello, NY 12701; 796-3058 ; fax: 796-3099
 Kenneth L. Rutherford Elementary School, 26 Patricia Place, Monticello, NY 12701; 794-4240; fax: 794-5137
 George L. Cooke Elementary School, 69 Richardson Ave., Monticello, NY 12701; 794-8830; fax: 794-8854
 Emma C. Chase Elementary School, 28 Pennsylvania Ave., Wurtsboro, NY 12790; 888-2471; fax: 888-2029
Superintendent: Matthew T. Evans, Ed.D., 794-7700 ext. 70910, mevans@k12mcsd.net
School Counselor: Pupil Personnel Department, 39 Breakey Ave., Monticello, NY 12701; (845) 794-8840; fax: 794-0250
 Lead Guidance Counselor: 39 Breakey Ave., Monticello, NY 12701; (845) 794-8840; fax: 794-8133
Website: www.monticelloschools.net
Grades: K-12
Registration: Registration is done by appointment only at 37 Breakey Avenue, Monticello, NY 12701. Call district registrar and schedule appointment, 845-794-7700, ext. 78905 or visit: www.monticelloschools.net/registrar/index.cfm
Starting date: Wednesday, September 8
Hours: High School: 7:13 a.m.-2:15 p.m.; Middle School: 7:13 a.m.-2:15 p.m.; Rutherford School: 9:00 a.m.-3:32 p.m.; Cooke School: 9:00 a.m.-3:32 p.m.; Chase School: 9:00 a.m.-3:32 p.m.

ROSCOE

Contact information: 6 Academy St., P.O. Box 429, Roscoe, NY

12776; (607)-498-4126; fax: (607)-498-6015
Superintendent: John Evans, jevans@roscoe.k12.ny.us
School Counselor: Guidance Counselor: Kelly Hendrickson
 School Social Worker: Gabrielle Westfall
Website: www.roscoe.k12.ny.us
Grades: Pre-K-12
Registration: Registration packets can be picked up at the school from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday during the summer.
Starting date: Tuesday, September 7
Hours: 7:35 a.m. -2:35 p.m.

SULLIVAN WEST

Contact info: District Office, 33 Schoolhouse Road, Jeffersonville, NY 12748; 845-482-4610 Ext. 3000; Fax 845-482-3022
 Sullivan West Middle/High School, 6604 State Route 52, Lake Huntington, NY 12752; 845-932-8401, Main Office Ext. 1100; Fax: 845-932-8425
 Sullivan West Elementary School, 33 Schoolhouse Road, Jeffersonville, NY 12748; 845-482-4610, Ext. 2158; Fax: 845-482-9883
Superintendent: Stephen A. Walker, 845-482-4610 Ext. 3000, walkerste@swcsd.org
School Psychologist: Sheri Parucki, School Psychologist & Student Support Specialist; Elementary School: Virginia Kassay, Social Worker, Kayla O'Dell, Social Worker, Maureen Casey-Bryant, School Counselor
 Middle/High School Counselors: Daniel Welton; Kristine Carroll; Amanda Mall
 Social Workers: Rachel VanTuyl
Website: www.swcsd.org
Grades: Sullivan West Elementary, Pre-K-6; Middle School 7-8; High School 9-12
Registration: All registration is

conducted in the Registrar's Office (845-482-4610 ext. 3006) and online registration is also available to parents/guardians. Please visit www.swcsd.org and click on the registration tab.
Starting Date: Wednesday, September 8
Hours: Sullivan West Middle/High School: 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Sullivan West Elementary School: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
 Please visit www.swcsd.org for more information and communications from the Superintendent.

TRI-VALLEY

Contact information: Tri-Valley Elementary School, 34 Moore Hill Road, Grahamsville, NY 12740; 985-2296; fax: 985-0046
 Tri-Valley Secondary School, 34 Moore Hill Road, Grahamsville, NY 12740; 985-2296; fax: 985-7903
Superintendent: Interim Superintendent, Dr. William Silver, 985-2296, ext 5101, williamsilver@trivalleycsd.org
School Counselor: Danielle Cornish, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, 845-985-2296, ext. 5516, daniellecornish@trivalleycsd.org
Website: www.trivalleycsd.org
Grades: Pre-K-12
Registration: Call for appointment, 985-2296, ext 5405
Starting date: Wednesday, September 8
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WAYNE HIGHLANDS

Contact information: Central Office, 474 Grove Street, Honesdale, PA 18431; (570) 253-4661; Fax: (570) 253-9409
 Honesdale High School, 459 Terrace Street, Honesdale, PA 18431; (570) 253-2046; Fax: (570) 253-1502

Wayne Highlands Middle School, 482 Grove Street, Honesdale, PA 18431; (570) 253-5900; Fax: (570) 253-5359
 Lakeside Elementary School, 129 Lakeside Drive, Honesdale, PA 18431; (570) 253-6820; Fax: (570) 253-6826
 Damascus Area Elementary School, 174 High School Road, Damascus, PA 18415; (570) 224-4114; Fax: (570) 224-4997
 Preston Area Elementary School, 1493 Crosstown Highway, Lakewood, PA 18439; (570) 798-2516; Fax: (570) 798-2677
 Stourbridge Primary Center, 123 ABC Drive, Honesdale, PA 18431; (570) 253-3010; Fax: (570) 253-3236
Website: www.whsdk12.com
Email: Visit website for directory
Administration: District Superintendent Gregory Frigoletto, gfrigoletto@whsdk12.com; Assistant Superintendent Timothy Morgan, tmorgan@whsdk12.com
School Counselor: Damascus Counselor: Amy Gries
 Preston Counselor: Brandon Diefenbach
 Stourbridge Counselor: Renee Platt
 Lakeside Counselor: Lisa Corcoran
 WHMS Counselor: Andrea Murray
 HHS Counselors: Amy Neugebauer, Paige Pinto, Paul Reiprich
Grades: High School (Grades 9-12), the Wayne Highlands Middle School (Grades 6-8), the Preston School (Grades K-8), the Damascus School (Grades K-8), the Stourbridge Primary Center (Grades K-2), and the Lakeside School (Grades 3-5).
Start date: Monday, August 30
Hours: Approximately 8 a.m.-3 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Homestead School students find connection, meaning and joy in their learning through a hands-on, experiential approach.

Homestead School: Educating for 40 years

The Homestead School is a private school focused on humanitarian and environmental education. Its primary school program is offered on an 85-acre working farm in Glen Spey, New York while its new secondary school program is located in the hamlet of Hurleyville.

Homestead currently offers children PreK through grade 9 a unique, life-enriching, Montessori-based educational experience. The exciting news is that it is adding a grade annually until it serves students through grade 12 at the Collaborative College High School (CCHS) in Hurleyville where students will have the unique opportunity to graduate high school with an Associates Degree.

Homestead's Mission and Vision:

Homestead brings imagination, creativity, and innovation to support the self-development of each student. Its mission is to nurture self-motivated students whose love of learning will carry through into a lifetime of responsible and constructive contributions to the well-being of their fellow humans and the Earth.

A Learning Environment that Supports Each Child: Essential to authentic education is the student's ability to choose and focus intently on a subject of interest.

Homestead students benefit from a personalized program, dedicated teachers, and a carefully considered curriculum that nurtures creativity and fosters independent thinking. By working through the sequenced curriculum at their own pace, students become independent and self-motivated learners. Individual and group interests are followed by the teacher, and curriculum is delivered using a hands-on, experiential approach. As a result, students find connection, meaning, and joy in their learning.

Educating for a Better Tomorrow:

From their earliest years, Homestead students participate in creating and experiencing peace through quiet hikes in nature and time spent with the school animals. They learn to build healthy, empathetic relationships and communicate effectively through the peace curriculum that is integral to the Montessori classroom culture. Just as the young elementary child learns about his or her place in the world, the older child learns one's place in the concentric circles of community. Mixed-age classes in broad-aged school populations afford many opportunities for children to collaborate. Throughout their time at Homestead, students are introduced to, participate in, and

lead initiatives that promote inclusion and respect. This approach enhances each student's sense of belonging and facilitates optimal learning. Peace education becomes a process of inner development and outward service.

Learning and Growing Through Service:

Learning through service allows students the opportunity and validation of meaningful contribution, acquisition, development, and refinement of practical knowledge and skills. Service in its true sense is a surrender to a calling that catalyzes one into actively employing one's gifts to

contribute to a better world. Students at Homestead School have a strong understanding of who they are and believe in their ability to contribute to the world in positive ways. Our graduates see life as filled with possibility, and their grounded perspective leads them to find meaningful ways to learn, grow, and contribute throughout their lifetimes. Humanitarian and environmental service are integrated into all program levels.

For over 40 years, Homestead School has educated the body, mind, and spirit of children while holding high standards in academics and character development, grounded in the Montessori approach and the belief that all children have the innate desire and ability to learn.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Homestead School students enjoy a quiet hike in nature.

Frost Valley YMCA offers school-age child care

While Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville is most commonly known for its popular Day Camp, it also offers several programs for local children during the school year. Frost Valley is preparing for another exciting year of school-age child care at Tri-Valley Elementary School and Winter and Spring Break Day Camps serving multiple school districts in and around Sullivan County.

Frost Valley's School-age Child Care, for students in kindergarten through sixth grade, provides children with values-driven programming in a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment. Children enrolled in the program will enjoy a healthy snack, time for homework or reading, age-specific activities, and structured programs such as sports, crafts, games, and more. The program, which runs after school until 5:45 p.m., costs \$75 for five days a week

and \$48 for three days a week. Limited bussing is available for a small additional fee.

"Quality school-age child care is essential for a healthy community," says Marina Esteve Wagstaff, Director of Community Programs for Frost Valley. "It does more than simply give children a positive and safe place to go after school, it also gives parents much-needed peace of mind that allows them to complete their work day without the stress of worrying about their children's care."

Research shows that attending an afterschool program can improve a student's academic performance, particularly in reading and math. It can also improve classroom behavior, school attendance, academic aspirations, and reduce the likelihood a student will drop out. After-school programs save working families and businesses billions of dollars



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Children in Frost Valley YMCA's School-age Child Care program at Tri-Valley Elementary School enjoy time reading as a part of a well-rounded after school program, which includes help with homework, sports, crafts, games, and more.

annually in lost productivity due to worker absenteeism created by a lack of quality child care.

Since spots fill quickly, families who are interested in registering their child for the Frost Valley School-age Child Care Program at Tri-Valley Elementary School should call 845-985-2291 ext. 410 right away to ensure their child's spot.

Frost Valley will also once again offer day camps for local children in kindergarten through sixth grade during their winter and

spring breaks from school. Winter Break Day Camp will take place from December 27 - 31, 2021 and Spring Break Day Camp will run from April 18-22, 2022. For more information on any of Frost Valley's school-age child care programs, visit www.frostvalley.org or call 845-985-2291 ext. 410.

Frost Valley YMCA is a values-driven organization that fosters youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility through outdoor educational and recreational programs for all.



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Bringing Faith-Based Homeschooling to Sullivan County

BY LILLY PARNELL

Cochecton Christian Homeschooling Cooperative is a new K-12 educational program debuting this fall semester, catering to busy parents who want to homeschool their children.

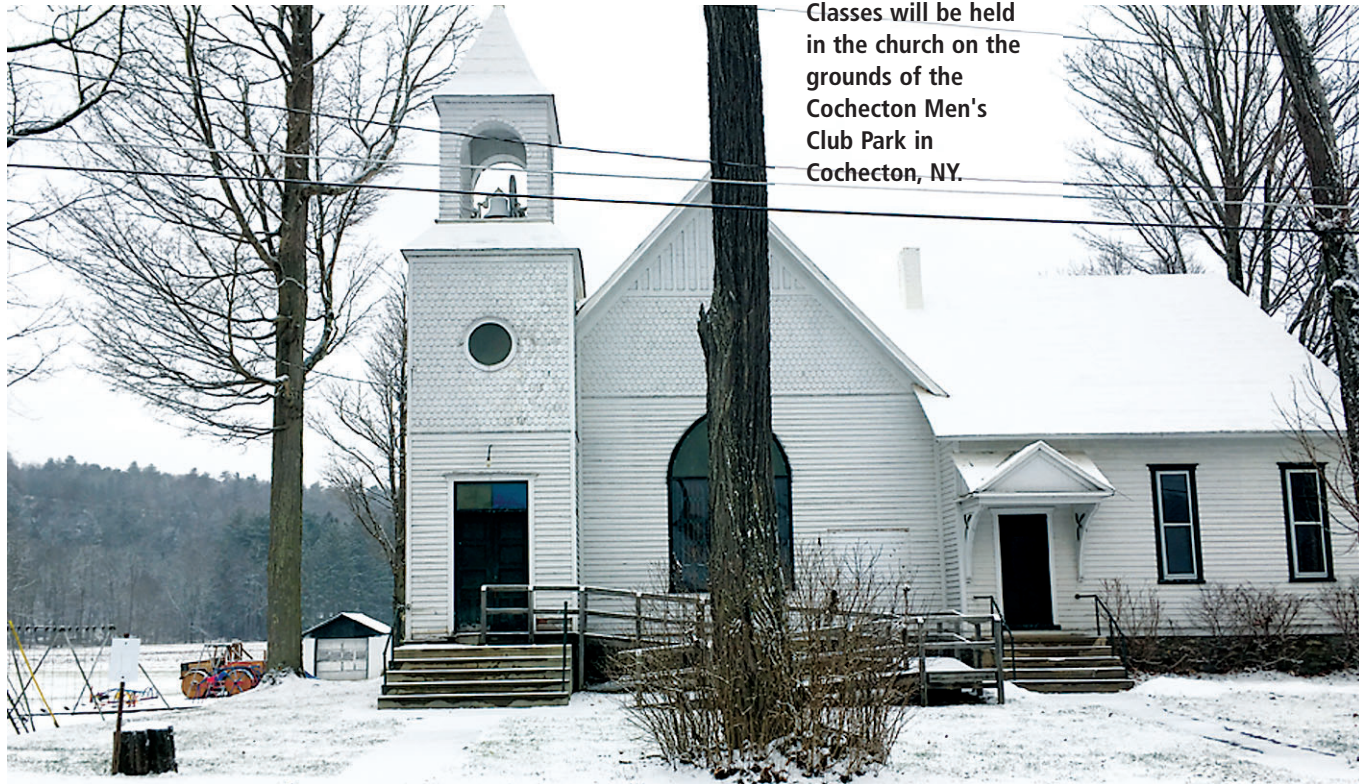
The founder of the cooperative and former Livingston Manor Spanish teacher, Elizabeth Cook, desires to provide well-rounded and holistic education grounded on biblical principles. This unique approach to homeschooling allows parents to become directly involved in their children's education while adhering to schedule flexibility.

"My idea is to develop a space where parents can participate in their child's learning like with homeschooling, but still have the flexibility that comes with working full time," said Cook. "I will collaborate with parents, and they can decide how much they would like to be involved."

Cook said mornings at her school would be comprised of her lessons. Classes begin with a mixture of prayer, worship songs, and bible study, for the first hour. Then between 9 a.m. and noon, there will be a mixture of independent, small group, and individual instructions separated by grade.

"Parents will be able to help me in the mornings if that's what they prefer," said Cook. "I also need parents to lead extracurricular activities following lunch, such as physical education, art, and music. I propose that parents help where their expertise lies."

During the past year and a half, Cook was directly impacted by homeschooling. She watched her nine-year-old son struggle with unstructured learning over the computer during the first few months of the pandemic. When



Classes will be held in the church on the grounds of the Cochecton Men's Club Park in Cochecton, NY.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS | DEMOCRAT

Elizabeth Cook's new homeschooling cooperative will include plenty of education along with other activities such as art, music, and bible study.



she asked if her son wanted to do homeschool, he decided that would be the best option.

"I realized a lot of students nowadays struggle to become

on approach and the structured curriculum, he was able to thrive in subjects he was already good in and was elevated in subjects he struggled in before."

Cook also wanted to provide an opportunity for private Christian education for the county. Over the past few decades, many church-affiliated schools closed down, leaving little option for faith-based education. With the introduction of this new school, Cook hopes to designate an alternative to the public schools around the county.

"My philosophy going into this is that if you're a parent, you're automatically a teacher," said Cook. "There are eighteen verses in the bible that touch on parents knowing their child best."

Cook is accepting applications for the homeschooling cooperative until August 25. Further information, admission information, and the school year's calendar can all be found on her website www.cochectonchristian.com.

independent workers with such a loose schedule," said Cook. "Once we made the decision to homeschool, his grades improved dramatically. Because of the hands

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