



SCHOOL

A Special Supplement to the Sullivan County Democrat

A look inside the
Sullivan West
Central School District

SCENE



Leading through communication, community

STORY AND PHOTO
BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

When you think of a School Superintendent you might think of a person you don't see much, someone in the office answering emails, talking on the phone and attending meetings.

While some of that is true, for Sullivan West Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Bressler, it's so much more. Dr. Bressler believes in communication and face-to-face communication as much as possible, getting out into the school and talking with staff and students, and classroom observations with the Principals, Director of Student Services, and the Director of Technology and Human Resources.

"That's the only way that you can really know what's going on and what's happening is by being out there. And honestly that's the best part too," she expressed, "especially when you see great things happening. I could certainly sit in here all day and answer emails -that work is always here- but that doesn't compare with being out in the schools."

Dr. Bressler always had an idea in her head that she wanted to be a Superintendent, and with female Superintendents being at a percentage of 20-25, it became a long-term goal. Although the timing was a bit sooner than she had anticipated, she also knew she couldn't say no.



Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Bressler

"Every experience I had led to another experience and to another opportunity," Dr. Bressler stated, "and I've been excited to take on each one and learn to make it work. So when this presented itself I just said okay, let's roll the dice and if it works for my family, let's do it."

Dr. Bressler officially started as Superintendent in July and put herself to work right away. She said a previous superintendent started a Strategic Planning Process, holding an event during the summer where people came

together, filled out surveys, and discussed goals. When she became Superintendent she knew she wanted to do it too, so she reached out to the Board about starting that process.

The Strategic Planning Process is where you get input from teachers, students, parents, and community members in the district, and put that together to make priorities and goals, missions and visions.

"If you're a superintendent you really want to make sure you're honoring your district and your

community," Dr. Bressler expressed. "That's the whole purpose of school, is education but also the school's community, and what people want."

So what Dr. Bressler and the Board did first was send out a Thought Exchange.

"You send out broad questions like what would make Sullivan West the best place for education, or what is important to you that the school district is providing," she explained, "and people not only fill in that blank but then it asks you to rate other people's thoughts, which I think is really great."

The results show what the community as a whole thinks is most important, and the themes that come out of that. The results also show where two or more groups of people disagree in one area, those same groups all agreed in another area.

One of those areas was a safe environment for the students.

Once the survey was done, they then worked with a company that helped them lead missions and visions, and eventually Dr. Bressler was able to have that evening meeting in the cafeteria, like her predecessor with community members, parents, and staff.

"How can I be a good superintendent if I don't know the direction that the community wants to go in?" Dr. Bressler asked. "It was a really good timed thing, we were all coming out of Covid and ev-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4W

School Scene

'A Look at Activities in the Sullivan West School District'

Published by
Catskill-Delaware Publications, Inc.

Publishers of the
SULLIVAN COUNTY
Democrat

(845) 887-5200

Callicoon, NY 12723

December 2, 2022 • Vol. CXXXIII, No. 51

Proud Member of
NYPA
NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
Serving the weekly
community newspapers of
New York State since 1853

MEMBER
NNA
Since 1175
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

Publisher: Fred W. Stabbert III
Managing Editor: Joseph Abraham
Editor: Matt Shortall
Editorial Design: Rosalie Mycka
Sports Editor: Anthony Morgano
Editorial Assistants: Derek Kirk, Kathy Daley, Richard Ross, Jeanne Sager
Advertising Director: Liz Tucker
Assistant Advertising Director: Barbara Matos
Advertising Representative: Susan Panella
Production Manager: Petra Duffy
Business Manager: Sara Wendell
Assistant Business Manager: Patricia Biedinger
Telemarketing Coordinator: Michelle Reynolds
Monticello Office Manager: Alexis Rothfeder
Classified Manager: Janet Will
Production Associates: Elizabeth Finnegan, Nyssa Calkin, Ruth Huggler, David Dann, Connor Watson
Circulation Manager: Lillian Ferber
Circulation and Distribution: John Fischer, Phil Grisafe, Allan Davis



Thompson Sanitation

Waste Management and Recycling Services Since 1986

845-796-1032

KEEP IT LOCAL!

- Sullivan County's #1 Garbage & Recycle for Over 30 Years, Same Owner/Operator
- Competitive Pricing & Superior Service
- Servicing Local Communities throughout ALL of Sullivan County
- Keeping Jobs and Money in Sullivan County
- Residential Program... Roll-Offs... Commercial... Special Clean-Ups



www.thompsonsantiation.net

Don't Get Left On the Curb! Call Thompson Sanitation TODAY!

76427

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2W

a single bite

One in three Americans say they were never taught about healthy food options.*

We're on a mission to educate students about real food and healthy eating habits. Our middle school Real Food Education Program is an interactive, four-part series that highlights our local food system. This school year, 750 Sullivan County students will benefit from these free presentations.

Educating young people about real food and where it comes from.

- Distinguish between whole and processed foods
- Explore new foods
- Understand the role of nutrition in good health
- Experience the connection between food & farm
- Build healthy eating habits for a lifetime

Through the Family Meal Program we're feeding our neighbors who are struggling to access nutritious food.



105143

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

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THESE PROGRAMS:

Visit asinglebite.org, call (845) 482-1030 or email info@asinglebite.org

A Single Bite is a nonprofit organization founded by FOSTER SUPPLY HOSPITALITY

everyone was feeling mixed up and out of touch, so it was wonderful to hear so many voices and to see how many people were really willing to put in the work.”

The Strategic Plan is a 3-5 year plan that they will revisit each summer to see where they are - if goals were met, what improvements were made - and then another thought exchange will be sent out, because some topics may no longer be relevant or there may be a new emerging topic they should be paying attention to as a district. It's an ever evolving system.

One thing Dr. Bressler really loved that came out of it all was the mission for students to be engaged, passionate, and contributing members of the community.

Dr. Bressler believes in being inclusive and honoring each student's pathway, recognizing that not every student is going to go to a four-year college. Some kids might go to SUNY Sullivan while figuring out what they want to do, some may go to trade school

or tech school, and some may go straight into the workforce and pick up classes here and there as it fits their schedule.

“There used to be a big push, especially when I was growing up, that no matter what you had to go to college. That's not every student,” Dr. Bressler said, “and not going to a four-year college doesn't define if you're going to 'be something.' There is a lot of opportunity right here in our communities for those who want to be here, and there is a lot of opportunity for those who choose to go to a four-year college too.”

Having four kids of her own, Dr. Bressler, like most in the community, wants and needs Sullivan West to be everything to them. To help them find their way, in whatever direction they choose.

“We need our kids to be able to handle stress, to have common sense, to be able to survive, and to find happiness. And I think the community is looking for that too,” she concluded.

Learn

Connect

Volunteer

Grow

Learn More SullivanRenaissance.org

Follow us on Call 845-295-2445

106467

Buddenhagen oversees athletics, P.E. & health

Back in July, Dave Eggleton returned to the Livingston Manor and Roscoe Central School District as Director of Athletics and Assistant Principal, leaving the Athletic Director position at Sullivan West Central School needing to be filled. Luckily, Kurt Buddenhagen, a Delaware Valley Central School graduate, jumped right in.

A Physical Education teacher for nearly two decades, Buddenhagen was most recently a Phys Ed teacher in Liberty Central School for six years, and the Athletic Director of the Monticello Central School District for four years.

"I'm a DV kid, so when this position opened up it was probably one of the few places I could see myself leaving Monticello for, that would be the right fit for me. It's close to home. I get to see my son and his friends, my family," Mr. Budden-

hagen said. "To me it's like coming full circle."

Buddenhagen was a sophomore in college when the merger between the Narrowsburg, Delaware Valley, and Jeffersonville schools was being discussed, and he stated that he would often sit in on some of the merger meetings when he was home from college to see what was being discussed and to give a bit of input on why the merger might be beneficial.

"So now being here, in Sullivan West, it brings all of that together," Buddenhagen said.

As the new Athletic Director, Buddenhagen also acts as the Director of Physical Education and the Health & Wellness Team.

"I started here in mid-September," he stated. "Amanda and Mr. Haberli already had things running well so it was easy for me to come in and keep that going."



STORY AND PHOTO
BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

Kurt Buddenhagen joined the Sullivan West School District in mid-September, but is no stranger to the area.

to get kids involved in the traditional sports, but not every student is interested in that. So we work on bringing other

Buddenhagen oversees all the sports teams and programs, as well as the Elementary's Physical Education Department, ensuring that all of the Phys Ed and Health programs are running according to the New York State Department of Education curriculum. He and his team also work on implementing things into the School District that promote health and wellness, such as yoga classes and a walking club.

"A big part of being a good educator is to find out what other people are interested in and provide them the opportunity to take part in something that they enjoy and hopefully excel in," Buddenhagen said. "As an Athletic Director I try

things to the table too."

And although Buddenhagen doesn't get to physically teach Phys Ed anymore, he still pops his head in every now and then to see how everything is going, and to see how the kids are doing.

"I've always been involved in athletics," he added. "Even when I look back at my family, there's quite a few of us who went into Phys Ed as a career, and most of our family functions there is a competitive sport involved at some point," Buddenhagen laughed, "so although I sometimes miss teaching or coaching, being an overseer of the programs is really rewarding because you're a little part of everything."

Thriving Families Grief Support Group

Children grieve differently than adults. Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, Inc. offers the Thriving Families Grief Support Group to promote healing by providing an opportunity for youth ages 6 through 17 to express their thoughts, verbalize their feelings, and share their experiences of grief.

Our bereavement services are available to all members of the Orange and Sullivan communities, regardless of whether a loved one received hospice care.



HOSPICE
of ORANGE & SULLIVAN

(845) 561-6111 | hospiceoforange.com

Asst. Principal talks cyber safety, literacy

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

Assistant Principal of the Elementary School, Kevin Carbone, sat down with us to briefly discuss cyber safety and awareness, as well as their new spin on literacy.

Carbone will be heading a couple of workshops aimed at spreading awareness to parents concerning the online world, technology, and new platforms while keeping the communication open between school and home so that both parents and students are better prepared.

"These aren't going to be workshops to say hey, we know all of these things," said Carbone. "It's a workshop to open up the communication between the school and the parents, and hopefully the parents will have things to share with us as well about things they know or have noticed."

Carbone continued to say that online platforms and technology such as phones and tablets are just a new part of life. It's different than what most adults have grown up with, but it's here to stay at the moment, and kids are becoming more savvy on the internet and on devices because they're growing up with it.

"The reason we want to hold a workshop is because technology at home bleeds into school, and that's normal," Carbone said. "So we just want to stay connected."

Literacy

The pandemic and Covid had a large effect on what was happening in classrooms and schools across the country, especially in reading.

Carbone and the staff at Sullivan West Elementary noticed the effect it had on their own students,

and so they decided to take a deep look at how their kids were learning to read.

"New research came out about the science of reading. How we were teaching was working, but definitely could have been improved upon," said Carbone, "so



Students concentrate on writing as Teacher Danielle Meyer works with them on the phonics of a different word.

we looked into phonics based work rather than whole reading strategies and picture cues."

They then partnered with a literacy coach at a BOCES in Putnam, Westchester. She came in and trained the staff at the Elementary school, and worked with them to come up with a plan that focused solely on phonics and literacy work in the mornings.

The school is currently in year two of this new plan, which is very similar to how it was taught in the 80s with Hooked on Phonics, and are beginning to go over data from last year to help drive their instruction and push students from where they are, to where they think they can get to.

"We're breaking it down to the basics," said Teacher Danielle Meyer, "that letters make sounds and when you put those together, they make words, and our words



Teacher Danielle Meyer helps one of her students sound out a new word they were learning

Meyer continued to say that that light bulb moment that people always talk about, she's seeing it more and more in her classes, and noticing that kids are reading more now than years past. She said you can see the concentration and connection happening on their faces, and then the excitement when they figure out a word by sounding it out.

Both Carbone and Meyer ended by saying that reading has really come full circle, and that the kids have more confidence in what they know.

will eventually make our sentences."

Meyer said that before, it was very much 'look at the word, look at the picture, say it, and memorize it' where now it's being broken down again to why letters do what they do together. Students are being given the explanations so that they can make the connections in their own minds.

"It really is working. You can see when they see new words they're making the connections themselves without me even having to tell them, and they're blending the sounds together," Meyer said. "Now it's more about actually knowing and understanding the word, rather than using a picture to remember it. Which is also a good way to learn, but when the pictures get taken away, they didn't have strategies to break apart the word. Now they do."



Danielle Meyers and her students line up in the hallway to walk to their next class.



SUNY SULLIVAN

Discover why we are the #1 Ranked Community College in New York*

Tour our eco-friendly campus • Learn about our championship athletics program



+400 acre scenic campus & trail network • organic farm • diverse & inclusive student body



Over 40+ academic programs including Media Arts, Graphic Design, Theater & Nursing

Get the full college experience!

- ☑ Live on campus in residence halls & townhouses
- ☑ We will walk you through application, financial aid, and registration
- ☑ Instant Acceptance with Valid High School Transcript!
- ☑ Receive a two-year Presidential Scholars award with a 90+ high school average
- ☑ Didn't finish High School? We can help with that too!



Sullivan County high school grads may be eligible to **Attend SUNY Sullivan with Free Tuition****

Reach out to our admissions team for details: admissions@sunysullivan.edu or 845-434-5750 x4287

Contact an Enrollment Specialist today: admissions@sunysullivan.edu • toll-free: 800-577-5243
 Sullivan County Community College • 112 College Road, Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759 • sunysullivan.edu

*Ranked #1 Community College in New York State by Intelligent.com, based on flexibility, faculty, course strength, cost, and reputation. **Some restrictions apply.

'Meet them where they're at'

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

Elementary Art Teacher Natalie Sauer also runs her classroom as a TAB studio. An Alumni of Sullivan West herself, Sauer received her degree in Fine Arts and a short time later her Masters in Education. She worked with Jena Love at the High School before transitioning last year to the Elementary School.

"We transitioned me here to the Elementary because we wanted to have a foundation of how we want the art department to be run," explained Sauer. "We want the kids here in Elementary to grow up in this studio then move to the High School with this huge wealth of knowledge of all

the things that they can do and accomplish. Obviously that will change as their interests change, and their artwork will change along with that."

Like Love, Sauer focuses on the TAB philosophy of student voice rather than teacher taught. Sauer sees nearly 500 kids every week from PreK to 6th grade, teaching them techniques and mediums, how to think like an artist, how to problem solve, and how to come up with their own ideas. She teaches them a variety of mediums from drawing, painting, and sculpture to print making, screen printing, collage, and fiber arts.

"Before they get to Jena, I really focus on making them independent, being able to gather supplies on their own, come up with their own ideas, put their supplies



Elementary Art Teacher Natalie Sauer holds projects that some of her students have independently worked on.

away, etc.," Sauer stated, "and all my kids do that. Four year olds in PreK gather their painting supplies, paint themselves, and clean up themselves, and they want to do it."

Sauer stated that being a Mom herself and fostering the imagination of her kids at home has really helped her in fostering the imagination of her students too. She feels that so much of the education system is to say 'no, that's not the right answer, this is how you're supposed to do it,' but in her classroom studio, that's not how she teaches. She allows each child to drive their own creativity.

Sauer demonstrates or teaches something new at the beginning of class - like Love does in the High School - a new medium or a new material, and then the kids have the option to either stay with her and work on what she showed them, or they can go to established core centers Sauer created in the classroom, which are painting, drawing, and sculpture. Those core centers are

where the kids know what to do, they know how to get their supplies, and they know what they want to work on.

"Every class is different. I meet them where they're at," explained Sauer. "Some classes have full range of the studio space and then there are other classes where they can only use the painting materials. A few of the kids will ask why can't we move onto sculpture, and that's because they're 3D artists. Not everyone is a 2D artist. So the excitement of being able to learn the things they're interested in, pushes them through what they have to get through in order to get there."

According to Mrs. Sauer, last year was the first time any of the kids had experienced a TAB studio, and the difference between last year and this year are like night and day. Students come in excited and ready to work.

She wants students to realize that they're all artists, and that all adults are too. They just have to find the medium that they love.

Students created a color wheel using primary colors as the foundation.



Joseph Herbert Proprietor

5065 State Rte 52, PO Box 441, Jeffersonville, NY 12748 • 845-482-4460 • fax 845-482-5516

CLEAN USED CARS & TRUCKS
FULL REPAIR & SERVICE
NYS INSPECTION STATION

97739

CALLICOON SUPPLY INC.



For all your Hardware
and Building
Supplies . . .

Open 7 Days
a Week
M-F 7-4:30
Sat 7-12
Sun 8-12



online@callicoonsupply.com

Rte 17B • Callicoon, NY
845-887-4804



83357

Teaching for artistic expression



Anna Bernas glues one side of a project she's working on.

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

Art is essential to the human experience, from the way we express ourselves to the way we perceive the world around us, art is a unique and personal interaction. So it only seems fitting that many schools, including Sullivan West, are moving away from the factory-style art classroom where all 30 kids are creating the same project to a model that allows each student to be unique in their expression.

"It's called Teaching for Artistic Behavior (TAB)," stated Art Teacher Jena Love. "It's a grass roots program, a philosophy of teaching art, that a lot of teachers have adopted."

In the last decade or so, TAB has become a transformative model of teaching art that focuses on the creative process over product, where the student takes the lead in directing their own learning.

"We are a completely choice based classroom, so everything that I do in here, and in our middle school art teacher's classes, it's all the students choice," explained Love. "We introduce skill building and themes and guide them with the resources that they need but there's no 'we're all doing this project, or we're doing this one

specific thing today'. If someone wants to paint, they're painting, if someone wants to do clay, they're doing clay."

Love said that each class is individualized, playing to each student's strengths and interests, allowing them to have their own voice while setting goals and problem solving on how to achieve them.

Love is seen moving from table to table, student to student, explaining brush stroke to someone painting, showing hand placement to another on the pottery wheel, offering technique advice to someone with a hot glue gun, and asking others to push a little beyond their boundaries.

Studio Art is the first required class for high schoolers to take, and according to Love, many of those students come in feeling that the only reason they are in there is because they need to be.

"I've found that a lot of the kids who got put into Studio Art because they had to be, are surprised to find that they do actually like art," expressed Love, "because it's not necessarily what they thought art was. Art isn't just drawing. It's using creative skills and building things, planning, and figuring out a new way to do something. We have students doing things that you wouldn't normally see them doing in a traditional art room."

For Love, Studio Art is the introduction, basic technical skills that go into building upon a project.



Art Teacher Jena Love oversees Madison Eisma on the pottery wheel in the back of the classroom.

Then comes MultiMedia.

"They can take this class as many times as they want. They get to work on things that they've never done before or never had the opportunity to do," Love stated. "They get into a routine. They know what they're working on, and I'm here checking in on them."

Love has been teaching at Sullivan West for the last seven years, and has seen the students' interest in art grow substantially in that time, with many of them coming into class during their free periods so they can continue working on a project or sit in on a lesson.

"This is rewarding for me, seeing how they change and grow as artistic individuals," added Love, "and I'm learning and growing with them too."

Her hope is for the other art teacher position to become full time so that these multimedia classes can be offered more often, opening up more opportunities for the kids to work in a way that is parallel to how artists work in the larger world.



Artwork by students is displayed all around the school - on lockers and in hallways.



Italian Cuisine • Catering
Gift Certificates
Full Bar • Outdoor Seating

Open M-TH 11am-9:30pm
F-S 11am-10pm
Sun Noon-9pm

PEPPINO'S
Restaurant & Bar

www.PEPPINOSFAMILY.com
31 Main St., Callicoon | 845-887-6767 | Call for Take-out



Family Dentistry

Dr. Robert Haray, D.D.S.
Damascus Dental Center
1731 Cocheton Turnpike
Damascus, PA
570.224.6700



STORY AND PHOTOS
BY AUTUMN
SCHANIL

Middle School
Guidance Counselor
Amanda Mall talks
about the Middle
School shout out
board in the hallway.

In larger school districts, entering middle school means going to a new building after elementary, and then another new building for high school. For smaller school district Sullivan West, middle school simply meant moving from the elementary school to the big school in Lake Huntington.

Two years ago, the decision was made to try and develop a middle school model for the 7th and 8th graders, as it's an important transition and developmental period for students, and sometimes a scary and confusing one. Lining up single file with your friends in class is turned into lockers and needing to find your classrooms before the bell rings.

"Because it's a shared building with shared staff it took a bit of work to implement the model and make that separation of middle school and high school," said Middle School Guidance Counselor Amanda Mall, "but putting in a middle school guidance counselor and principal helped, and with that, we wanted to really try and focus on what being a middle schooler means - emotionally, socially, and academically."

Mall worked in the elementary school building for five years be-

Celebrating middle schoolers

fore moving to the high school, so for most of the 7th and 8th graders, she's a familiar face, making their transition a little more comfortable.

One thing they started last year was an advisory program, with their own spin on it. Advisory is a program in which students have a designated period everyday where they work with particular staff members and groups creating a strong support system and safety net that students need.

"Last year we did a lot of social and emotional topics, we worked on organization, personal boundaries, healthy relationships, and we also touched on coping skills," explained Mall. "We did it by grade level, so 7th all together and 8th all together, then we broke them into groups and did activities based on whatever topic we were focusing on."

The juniors and seniors from the student ambassador program also came in to make connections with the middle schoolers so that in the hallways between classes they weren't just seeing teachers as familiar faces but fellow stu-

dents as well. The 11th and 12th graders talked to them about time management between sports and academics, homework, and things they find helpful to stay organized.

"This year we're working to fine tune it all now that we got our feet wet last year," Mall stated. "This year we'd like to push into study halls, so that we can keep them in the same groups, with the same facilitator, and really foster those relationships and allow them to always have someone they feel comfortable going to."

Middle school can be a tricky time for students as they begin to develop their identity separate from parents, siblings, and friends while pushing boundaries and encountering new challenges and struggles, so fostering relationships with adults and their peers can give students a sense of belonging and an offer of guidance.

"And with how classes were conducted during Covid and the rise of social media, it's harder for them to put a face to an emotion," Mall said, "so it's important to have these interactions and these relationships so they can talk and

have conversations, and handle their emotions well."

Along with the advisory program, they also created an awards program where teachers send in nominations each month for unique awards like being artistic, being a kind person, being helpful, putting a smile on people's faces, being a good friend, or turning their academics around after a bad marking period.

"So after we receive the nominations, we vote on them, and then they're announced during the morning announcements. Each student comes down, we take a photo and they get a prize. There is a bulletin board out in the hallway that displays their photo and award," added Mall. "It's not about just giving everyone an award. It's about giving them that intrinsic motivation to keep pushing forward."

Since implementing the middle school model, Mall said she has already seen a positive change in the students and hopes that in moving forward, each student feels prepared and thrives in their ever changing academic setting, and that they're able to manage their emotions, their relationships, and their workload in good and better ways.

Students helped create the backdrops that will be used for the Rock and Roll musical.

‘Full steam ahead’ with music performance



New music teacher Alison Kramer is bringing performance back to the Sullivan West Elementary school. Between teaching chorus, strings, ukulele, bell choir, and musicals, there is a lot going on.

“We’re full steam ahead,” Kramer laughed.

Kramer’s classes are all performance based, involving instruments, singing, and even set production.

After mentioning doing a musical during 4th and 5th grade classes, she said the kids were overwhelmingly excited and so she pushed ahead with it.

“The kids are involved in helping create the sets for the musical, so they drew and painted the backdrops and props. They’re really into it,” said Kramer holding up colored paper surfboards they recently created for their first upcoming musical Rock and Roll.

They’ll also be performing in another musical about keeping our planet green and honoring the Earth, called ‘My Planet, Your Planet.’ Kramer is even bringing sign language into the students’



Music Teacher Alison Kramer holds up surfboards drawn and painted by the kids.

performances, which she teaches them one word at a time.

“I’m really excited because these kids are really talented, and they are just absorbing everything that we’re doing. I’m hoping that everyone will watch these musicals, and be excited about what’s to come next,” she said, “and hopefully that will feed into the choral program.”

Another thing Kramer has brought in is learning to play the

Ukulele. She received a grant for Ukuleles and has created a sequential program from the 4th to 6th grades. Fourth grade learns melodies, fifth grade learns specific chords, and sixth grade will be creating their own music.

Kramer recently put in for a second grant to get the other half of the Ukuleles that they need.

“Right now we have just enough that every other student is sharing, which is okay, but I’d really like to get the 6th grade program under way because they’ll be learning chord progressions and songs. I’d love to put a performance together at the end of the year,” she said with a smile.

According to Kramer, Ukulele is a great teaching tool because children who struggle with fine motor skills can play simple one note melodies, while kids who have more experience can play the complicated four note chords.

“I struggle with the Ukulele sometimes just like the students do, and I think that makes it more attainable to them,” she laughed.

Kramer’s biggest goal for the kids is not just to bring performance

to what they do, but to build their confidence in it, and to be a part of the work that goes into what people come to see.



Law Offices of
William H. Chellis, PC
Attorney and
Counselor at Law

Real Estate
Workers Compensation
Social Security Disability
General Practice • DWI

27 Maple Avenue, Jeffersonville, NY
(845) 482-3405
william@chellislaw.com



We're Transporting the Most Precious Cargo

Our drivers go above and beyond when it comes to our passengers' safety.

Rolling V drivers are responsible for the safe and reliable transportation of more than 7,000 school children annually. School is back in session, so please remember to drive carefully – it could be your child, a loved one or a neighbor on a bus nearby!

To learn more about our commitment to providing safe transportation for the children in our community, visit rolling.com/parent-portal

To join our winning team, visit rolling.com/recruitment

105243