

THE *Gator* COMMUNICATOR

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2023 ALCS Talent Show



The 2023 ALCS Talent Show was a hit! Congratulations Gators on your amazing talent!

Students Explore Area Libraries



Our sixth-grade classes toured the Olean, Allegany, and St. Bonaventure University libraries to learn more about what they offer. During the field trip they made bookmarks, listened to a rare-book presentation, and enjoyed tours of each facility. Some students even applied for their first library cards.



ALES Veterans Recognized

Some of our fifth graders honored our very own veterans - art teacher Mrs. Reisman and bus driver Mr. Haskins - with flags and patriotic cards for Veterans Day. We are grateful for their service to our country.

Marching Down Santa Claus Lane



ALCS was represented at Santa Claus Lane Parade by Mrs. Schuman's students in their own handmade costumes. They are seen here working hard to preparing and also dressed and ready at the parade.

A Message from the Superintendent



SEASON'S GREETINGS AND SCHOOL UPDATES – EMBRACING HOLIDAY CHEER!

Dear Allegany-Limestone Community,

As we find ourselves immersed in the enchanting glow of holiday lights and the warmth of festive celebrations, I extend heartfelt greetings to each member of our remarkable school family. This season is not only a time for merriment but also an opportunity to reflect on our collective achievements and aspirations.

Holiday Break:

As we approach the winter break, I encourage everyone to embrace the spirit of relaxation and joy. From Dec. 23 to Jan. 1, our school will be in recess, allowing students, parents, and staff to unwind, reconnect with loved ones, and rejuvenate for the upcoming challenges.

Celebrating Achievements:

Let's take a moment to applaud the accomplishments of our students and staff over the past semester. Whether it's academic excellence, creative pursuits, or athletic triumphs, each achievement contributes to the rich atmosphere of our school's success.

Mark Your Calendars:

Looking ahead to the next semester, it's crucial to be aware of important dates. Plan accordingly for Jan. 29 as we embark on another chapter of academic growth and personal development.

Thank You and Appreciation:

A special thank you to our devoted teachers, supportive parents, and resilient students. Your unwavering commitment to excellence creates a nurturing environment where each individual can flourish.

Stay Connected:

Stay abreast of the latest developments by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Snap Chat. Our digital platforms are your gateway to timely updates, inspiring stories, and community engagement. We eagerly anticipate reconnecting with you in the coming year.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season filled with laughter, love, and cherished moments. May the new year bring prosperity, growth, and continued success to the Allegany-Limestone family.

Warmest regards,

Tony Giannicchi
Superintendent of Schools
Allegany-Limestone CSD

Social-Emotional Health Is Key to Student Success

We want your child to be successful in school, and that means supporting and encouraging their whole development. While excelling in academic classes is important, students also need skills for learning challenges, making good decisions, handling strong emotions, and getting along with others.

We are excited to begin Second Step® Middle School, a research-based social-emotional learning program designed to improve students' social-emotional skills, such as emotion management, impulse control, problem solving, and empathy. Second Step skills and concepts are designed to help students both in and out of school. These include:

- **Mindsets and Goals:** Students learn how to develop a growth mindset and apply research-based goal-setting strategies to their social and academic lives.
- **Recognizing Bullying and Harassment:** Students learn how to recognize bullying and harassment, stand up safely to bullying, and respond appropriately to harassment.
- **Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions:** Students learn how to recognize strong emotions and unhelpful thoughts and apply strategies to manage their emotions and reduce stress.
- **Managing Relationships and Social Conflict:** Students learn strategies for developing and maintaining healthy relationships, perspective-taking, and dealing with conflict.

Please contact Kelsie Simon in Student Services with any questions you may have about the program. Thank you for your support as we work to build a safe and supportive school community.



Operation Warm Hearts Helps Kids In Need

Operation Warm Hearts is an organization that works hard to help ease the challenges children in our community face. Their goal is to make children's lives better, easier, and richer. Working with other community members and groups, Operation Warm Hearts can provide children with new clothing, dental care products, and winter essentials such as boots, coats, scarves, gloves, and more.

In November, six of our elementary students were helped by Operation Warm Hearts who gave each student brand-new jackets, boots, gloves, hats, and snow pants.

Families interested in using these services must make an appointment by contacting them at:

- Phone: (585) 375-1804 or (716) 560-8811
- Email: opwarmheartsolean@gmail.com
- Facebook Messenger: Operation Warm Hearts on Facebook

If new clothing, shoes, winter wear, etc. aren't something your family may need, consider donating if you are able. To donate go to www.operationwarmhearts.com and select donate on the menu tab. Or you can mail a check to: Operation Warm Hearts, PO Box 933, Olean, NY 14760

Elementary Artwork Chosen for Quick Arts Show



Several kindergarten through 5th-grade students had artwork chosen for the Quick Arts Center Juried Art Exhibition at St. Bonaventure University.

Congratulations to the following elementary artists: Kindergarten: Kyrie Bess, Ashton Milliman, Giri Metta, Vincent Zimbardi and Ruby Stayer; Grade 1: Liam Brushingham; Grade 2: Audrey Zimbardi; Grade 3: Everleigh Kinney and Elijah Oduro; Grade 4: Artia Pettengill and Grace Forrest; Grade 5: Marissa Blocho and Mercey Stout Peters.

The elementary exhibition opened Dec. 6 and will run through Jan. 21. Each year, students from around the region have their artwork reviewed by a panel of judges, and then the best moves on to be featured in the annual show. For this exhibition alone, 335 works were submitted from 15 area school districts and 112 winners were selected – 13 of those winners were our elementary students.

Future shows will include work from middle and high school students so keep your eyes open for more creations from our talented Gator artists!

Register now for 2024 Europe Trip

Students in grades 8-11 may now sign up for the Europe Trip to Madrid and Barcelona, Spain; Nice, France; and Pisa, Florence, Assisi, and Rome, Italy scheduled for Thanksgiving break and the first week of December of 2024. Details on the 12-day trip through Passports Travel Company can be found on Mrs. Finn's webpage or by emailing her at efinn@alcsny.org.

Local Firefighters Teach Elementary Gators About Fire Safety



The Allegany Fire Department visited the Elementary School to speak with our Pre-K and Kindergarten Gators about fire safety. Thank you, AFD, for spending the morning with us!

Dear Allegany-Limestone Middle-High School Families,

I hope this letter finds you well and thriving in the midst of another academic year filled with opportunities for growth and learning. As we navigate the challenges and triumphs that come with middle and high school life, I would like to take a moment to address a fundamental aspect of our students' success: consistent attendance at school.

Attending school regularly is an investment in one's future, a commitment to personal and academic growth, and an essential building block for success. As the proud principal of Allegany-Limestone Middle-High School, I want to emphasize the crucial role that attendance plays in shaping the educational journey of our students.

Here are a few key reasons why attendance matters:

1. **Academic Achievement:** Regular attendance directly correlates with academic success. Students who attend classes consistently are more likely to stay on track with the curriculum, understand key concepts, and perform well on assessments. Each day at school contributes to the cumulative knowledge and skills that pave the way for future achievements.
2. **Social and Emotional Development:** School is a hub for social and emotional development. Regular attendance allows students to engage in meaningful interactions with their peers, teachers, and the broader school community. These social connections contribute significantly to their overall well-being and help build essential life skills.
3. **Preparation for the Future:** A strong work ethic, discipline, and time management are attributes that students carry with them into adulthood. By attending school consistently, students develop these vital skills, preparing them for the challenges they will face in college, the workforce, and beyond.
4. **Community Engagement:** Our school is a vibrant community where every student's presence contributes to the collective learning experience. By attending school regularly, students actively participate in and contribute to the dynamic environment that makes Gator Nation a special place of growth and discovery.

We are here to support you in overcoming any challenges that may hinder regular attendance. Our dedicated staff are ready to collaborate with families to ensure that each student and family has the resources and assistance needed to maintain a consistent presence at school. Let us work together to foster a culture of attendance that reflects our shared commitment to academic excellence, personal development, and community engagement.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in the education of our students.
Sincerely,

Joe Steger, Principal
Allegany-Limestone Middle-High School



We MUSTACHE You To Be Kind!



Our Gators are really embraced the spirit of Kindness Week and had a bunch of fun with our first Mustache Day.

Senior Recognized At State Music Conference



Louie Rickert, class of 2024, was selected to attend the New York State School Music Association Winter Conference in Rochester on Dec. 1 as an accomplished student composer. His piece, "History Repeats," was selected out of many submissions from student composers across the state to be workshopped and performed at a Composer's Concert during the conference. Louie met with Dr. Stephen Shewan from Roberts Wesleyan College and Michael Vertoske from Williamsville North High School, both accomplished composers and educators, to discuss composition technique and how he can continue to grow as a composer.

Louie's piece, "History Repeats," was a commission done for the Portville High School Concert Band under the direction of Jesse Archer. Mr. Archer and Louie's mother attended school together, hence the connection to Portville. The piece is for full band instrumentation, ranging from flute to tuba and percussion.

Area All State



Congratulations to Olivia Graham, Anna Widger, and Louie Rickert for being selected to participate in the 2023 NYSSMA Senior High Area All-State Festival on November 17th and 18th at SUNY Fredonia. Olivia and Anna participated in the Treble Chorus and Louie participated on Trombone in the Band.

Congratulations to Ethan Stein on French Horn for being selected to participate in the 2023 NYSSMA Junior High Area All-State Festival on November 3rd and 4th at Akron CSD.



"History Repeats is inspired by the idea that although the specific circumstances of historical events may differ, their underlying causes often echo similar patterns from the past," Louie said about his piece. "The concept of history repeating itself highlights the importance of studying and understanding past events to better inform our actions in the present in order to shape our future."

Although "History Repeats" is his most recent piece to receive statewide recognition, Louie has also been recognized in the past for his electronic music compositions. His music can be found in Spotify under 'Louie xx' and incorporates musical elements demonstrated at the collegiate level of performance. He has also recently completed a commission for trumpet and piano entitled "Negative Space," which will be debuted in Spring 2024 and is currently working on a piece for the Allegany-Limestone High School Band for performance at the end of the school year.

While Louie is active in our high school band as a trombonist, he also has experience with the euphonium, trumpet, clarinet, alto saxophone, and keyboard. After graduation, he plans to study acoustical engineering and music with the goal of eventually working in noise control engineering for places like classrooms, construction sites, and concert halls.

MHS Therapy Dog



Dear Gator Families,

Moose is a Goldendoodle and this will be his fifth year at ALCS. He has brought much happiness and support to those around him. He is certified and belongs to Ms. Schuman.

Therapy dogs have been researched and have had great success in many settings including schools, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, hospice and outpatient care programs. Research has shown students can benefit both socially, emotionally, and academically by interacting with therapy dogs.

Moose will be wearing identification that displays therapy dog and will be supervised around students. Students have the choice to interact with him.

If you have allergies or concerns about this program, please feel free to contact the high school office at 375-6600 ext. 2100 or contact Ms. Schuman ext. 2140.

Elementary Class Creates Thanksgiving Spread



In November, Mrs. Nitsche's students prepared a Thanksgiving feast for the staff at the elementary school.

Over three days, Jade Gruppuso, Morgan Covert, Raider Baire and Liam Kemp made turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, salad, corn, and pumpkin chocolate chip cookies. They also created beautiful centerpieces and fun hats. They each had a job either serving or greeting staff as they came in. Once they were done, they also enjoyed the fruits of their labor and even had enough leftovers to pack to-go boxes for their families. They worked so hard and did a phenomenal job!

MHS Art Teachers Present At State Conference

Middle-High School art teachers RaeLynn Jones and Nicole Missel attended and presented at the 75th New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) conference in November.

The conference theme was INSPIRE and that's exactly what they did during their session where they shared ideas they use to inspire students in their classrooms. They shared some of the things that they do personally to inspire themselves to keep creating art outside the classroom.

Outstanding Cross Country Season



Congratulations go out to Elexa Duggan on an outstanding cross-country season. As an 8th grader, Elexa qualified to compete in the NYSPHSAA State Cross Country meet this year where she placed 4th in Class C. The culmination of her season was qualifying to participate in the NYS Federation Cross Country Meet. What an accomplishment! Thanks for being a great representative of Gator Nation.

Wedge Represents US In World Dart Competition



ALCS junior Caleb Wedge – one of the top youth dart players in the United States – was one of eight young people to represent North America in Gibraltar, Europe, at the Junior Dart Corporation Junior World Cup in late November.

According to his mother, Amber, Caleb's passion for dart throwing began at the side of his uncle and grandmother in clubs around the area. The more he practiced, the better he got. Eventually, he joined the Juniors Dart Corporation (JDC) and is now second place in Junior USA. His family cheered him on in Gibraltar and Gators did so from home. Congratulations, Caleb!

MHS recognizes monthly Gator award winners

Each month, students in 6-12th grades are nominated by faculty and staff for demonstrating specific character traits and a few are chosen to receive a Gator award. The recipients this fall were:

September (Friendship): 6th grade, Xavier Hughes; 7th grade, Dale Forrester, Ryan Johnson and Owen Buzzard; 8th grade, Jacob Thomas; 9th grade, Cait Conroy; 10th grade, Shaila Feneran; and 12th grade, Pierre Byrd and Aaron Wolfe.

October (Responsibility): 6th grade, Avery LaRose; 7th grade, Caleb Rhodes; 8th grade, - Melody Hayes; 9th grade, Morgan Metcalf; 10th grade, Gian Parry; 11th grade, Gavin Straub (not pictured); and 12th grade, Ciara Ledford.

November (Gratitude): 6th grade, Emma Feaster; 7th grade, Carleigh Ackley (not pictured); 8th grade, Juniper Wedlock (not pictured) and Kai Warner; 9th grade, Aden Hillman; 10th grade, Sierra Bish; 11th grade, Jhonas Price; and 12th grade, Tullah Hasselberg and Cameron Roulo.



Gators Give Back

Varsity Football



The Varsity Football led a fundraiser that brought in over \$4,000 to support a 2022 ALCS alum who is battling stage 4 cancer. Students in grades 6-12 competed to bring in the most coins and dollars to support the cause. Other fundraising efforts included donation jars, 50/50 raffles, basket raffles and bake sales at home games, student hat day, and faculty and staff denim day.

#120 Proud Food and Mitten drives

Students, families, faculty and staff at the elementary school collected food to be donated to a local food pantry. As in years past, their collection area overflowed with hundreds of non-perishable food and at press time they were on their way toward meeting their goals. Also, the elementary school revived their partnership with the Salvation Army to collect new gloves and mittens to be donated to families in need.

Friends of Rachel Club



With help from the ALCS family, Friends of Rachel led by Mrs. LaCroix collected hundreds of items to pack and ship 30 care packages to 2015 ALCS alum Zach

Colburn and his Air Force squadron to Abu Dhabi-Al Dhafra Air Base before Thanksgiving. Also helping with the effort were the 5th Grade InvestiGators group, Mrs. Dibble's students at the middle-high school, Mrs. Winship's ELA class, 6th grade reading class, the Craft Club and technology teacher Miss Clark.

JCC Leadership Class

Mrs. Callen's JCC Leadership Class of juniors and seniors focused their service project on raising breast cancer awareness



and supporting the Pink Pumpkin Project. They organized a pink Gator Gear sale and donated \$1,000 to the local charity.

Varsity Swim Team



In September, our Girls Swim Team and their friends joined the Alzheimers' Association Western New York Chapter with their annual walk at JCC. For several years this effort has been organized by the community-minded Pecorella sisters (ALCS senior Paige and 2022 alum Brooke).

Gator Volleyball Teams



All our volleyball teams and their families organized a bake sale, 50-50 and basket raffles to raise breast cancer awareness and support The Pink Pumpkin Project. They donated over \$1,000 to the cause.

Transitions Class



Mrs. Schuman's students adopted a Times Herald Gift Tree family this year and together they shopped, wrapped, and delivered a Merry Christmas to a family in need.

Connect Life & National Honor Society

Both clubs are always very active with our local blood donation organizations and each has hosted blood drives at the Middle-High School this fall.

ALTA (Allegany-Limestone Teachers Association)

The Allegany-Limestone Teacher's Association hosts denim days during the school year on Fridays. Staff can wear jeans in return for a donation to a chosen cause. Proceeds from denim days may benefit an ALCS family for a variety of reasons (cancer diagnosis, death, hardships, etc.), Holiday Student Gift Card Giveaway, Scholarship Funds, etc. Over the years, ALTA's denim days have raised thousands of dollars that have benefited the ALCS Community.

GIVE Back

High School Art Students Had A Busy Fall



Mrs. Rinamon's high school art students spent this fall exploring the inspiration that our area offers.

In late September, students visited the Tri County Arts Council in Olean to see the Southern Tier Biennial show on display. The exhibition featured juried pieces from area artists working in various media. Students were also given a tour of the Council's studio spaces and introduced to how classes work at the TCAC and how

artists sell their work in the gallery store. They spent time talking about the pieces they loved, why they loved them, and how they inspired them as artists.

In October, photography students joined Mrs. Tilaro's science class for this trip. My students were able to spend time working with each other and with me one-on-one to build their autumn-themed portfolios. They learned how to use some new settings on their cameras to capture movement and had almost too much fun experimenting with that.

Also in October, they traveled to Buffalo to explore the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens for Open Art Night. Students spent the evening drawing and painting from direct observation. Other professional artists and art lovers were also in attendance, so our students were able to watch the process of other artists and receive feedback on their own work. "It was a really special experience for our students," said Mrs. Rinamon. She appreciates the district's support in making all of these experiences possible.

ALCS Represented At School Board Conference



For more than 100 years the NYS School Boards Association (NYSSBA) has hosted an annual conference tailored to the roles and responsibilities of school board members and other district leaders.

This year, experts spoke on school safety, student mental health, culturally responsive schools, social-emotional learning, community engagement, student achievement, transparent fiscal oversight, good governance, and much more. The investment of school board members' time to attend this conference helps them stay informed and supportive of initiatives in the district.

This year's convention was held in Buffalo from Oct. 26-28. Three ALCS board members and district officials attended the conference. They are Susan Schifley, Maggie Nuss, Brandi Porcello, District Clerk Kristin Colburn, and Superintendent Tony Giannicchi.

ALlegany LimestONE

CENTRAL SCHOOL

Fall Sports Senior Nights

Swimming



Girls Volleyball



Cross Country



Girls Soccer



Boys Soccer



Football



Congratulations to our senior athletes on the Varsity Cross Country, Football, Boys and Girls Soccer, Swim and Girls Volleyball teams on their Gator athletic careers.

ALES PTO Hosts Annual Holiday Shoppe



Elementary Halloween Fun



Middle-High School Halloween Fun



ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE CENTRAL SCHOOL

3131 Five Mile Road, Allegany, NY 14706

www.ALCSny.org

ADMINISTRATION

Tony Giannicchi, Superintendent

Joe Steger, Middle-High School Principal

Kevin Straub, Assist. Middle-High School Principal/Director of Technology

Maren Bush, Elementary Principal

Alicia Bockmier, Director of Special Education

Paige Kinnaird, Director of Instruction

Daniele Vecchio, Business Administrator

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Lady Gators Swimming



Lady Gators Swimming and Diving Team finished the season off with three championship meets. First, the Gators finished 2nd at CCAA Division 2 Championships. The team of Lauryn Ball, Zoey Bush, Sammi Vecchio and Paige Pecorella finished 2nd in the 200 medley and the 200 free relay. While Sammi Vecchio and Paige Pecorella placed 1st and 2nd in the 200 IM. First-year divers Melody Hayes and Logan Potter finished 1 and 2 in the 1-meter diving. Sammi Vecchio placed 2nd in the 100 butterfly. Paige Pecorella placed 1st in the 500 freestyle. Lauryn Ball placed 1st in the 100 backstroke. Zoey Bush and Emma Jankowski took 2nd and 3rd in the 100 breaststroke.

The Gators continued to the Section 6 Class C Championships placing 7th out of 15 teams. The highlights of the meet were the 200-medley team of Lauryn Ball, Emma Jankowski, Sammi Vecchio and Paige Pecorella placed 5th. Sienna Nagel placed 13th in the 200 freestyle with a personal-best time. Sammi Vecchio and Paige Pecorella finished 9th and 13th in the 200 IM. Sammi Vecchio, Sienna Nagel and Mikaya Carney placed 6th, 9th and 11th with Sienna and Mikaya both having PRs. Earning a patch for herself, Lauryn Ball finished 4th in the 100 freestyle with a personal best. Paige Pecorella came in 5th in the 500 freestyle. Winning another patch, Lauryn Ball finished 3rd in the 100 Backstroke. Emma Jankowski finished the 100 Breaststroke 13th with a personal best. The 400 free relay team of Mikaya Carney, Zoey Bush, Sienna Nagel and Emma Jankowski placed 9th. While Logan Potter and Melody Hayes finished 6th and 12th in the 1-meter diving. On to Sectional Championships where both the 200 medley and the 200 free relay competed, and individuals were Lauryn Ball in the 100 freestyle and Melody Hayes in the 1-meter diving. Great job Gators!

