Legend of Learning Submissions

You can help recognize LaFayette staff members who:

- Help to advance the mission and vision of the district
- Go above and beyond
- Demonstrate that they put our students first
- Support student learning
- Treat students and others with dignity, respect, and compassion
- Embrace creativity and innovation

Nominate a staff member today through an online survey which is available on our website.

Grand Re-Opening at LaFayette High School

On Monday February 10th, LaFayette High School celebrated the recent completion of major construction on the capital improvement project approved by the voters in May 2017. Improvements to the facility include the following:

- A new central kitchen and serving area
- A fully renovated cafeteria
- Student friendly seating areas in the Athletic Lobby and Hall of Fame
- Several items from the building condition survey including new water pumps
- A newly renovated fitness center and new team rooms in the basement

LaFayette trustees welcomed community members with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a tour of the facilities. Superintendent Jeremy Belfield thanked members of our construction team: Jim Kesler, Clerk of the Works, Chris Gray and Tom Carter from Turner Construction, and Nicole Shuster, Scott Perry, and Lauren Sloan from Ashley McGraw Architects.

The highlight of the tour was the new fitness center which just opened this week. In addition to the changes to the layout of the fitness center, the district also used funds from reserve accounts to purchase new fitness equipment. The district would like to welcome the community to use the space. Here are the details:

- The fitness center is open for students in grades 9-12 and adult community members to use Mondays through Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 PM.
- A group of community volunteers also welcomes LaFayette CSD community members to use the facility on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 PM.

This summer the district will be making several security improvements from the voter approved capital project voted on in January 2019. This next phase of construction will include new classroom doors at Grimshaw Elementary, upgrades to the security camera system, a new campus notification system, improving access to back-up emergency power, and several other items from our building condition survey. Thank you to our voters for approving these enhancements to our school facilities.

Join STEP After School on Thursdays!

Painting with Christine (Every Thursday)

March Special Projects

March 5: Toothpick engineering
March 12: Atomic Models/Periodic Table Scavenger Hunt
March 19: Chemical reactions
March 26: Weaving/loom knitting

Legend of Learning

Mr. Robert (Rob) Kennedy is our Legend of Learning for February 2020! Rob is the Food Service Director of LaFayette Central Schools and Tully Central School District. Rob had the daunting task of assisting with two kitchen renovations this past summer. As part of the capital project approved by the voters in May 2017, Rob assisted with the design of the new central kitchen at LaFayette High School and improvements to the Grimshaw Elementary kitchen. During Rob’s tenure at LaFayette, he has worked diligently to gain student input on the creation of our school lunch menu and he has improved the efficiency and overall experience for our students.

Rob is described by our food service department employees as a “great boss” and easy to work with.

Thank you, Rob, for your continued commitment to excellence!
Our teachers and staff are hard at work with improving the student academic experience. During the month of March, our District Comprehensive and Improvement Plan Team meets monthly to review district goals and student data. We have several teachers participating in coaching sessions and professional learning communities to improve class.

Our continued efforts will help us achieve excellence in academics and propel our students towards a bright future. advanced designations on their diplomas. We are very proud of the efforts of our students and staff and we are confident that an overall increase in the number of students earning mastery levels on Regents exams and an increase in students earning the June 2019 cohort graduated within four years) demonstrate the long term success of our students. We continue to see an overall increase in the number of students earning mastery levels on Regents exams and an increase in students earning advanced designations on their diplomas. We are very proud of the efforts of our students and staff and we are confident that our continued efforts will help us achieve excellence in academics and propel our students towards a bright future.

Here are some of the ways that we are focusing on improving student academic outcomes:

- Our District Comprehensive and Improvement Plan Team meets monthly to review district goals and student data. Both the Jr/Sr High and the Onondaga Nation School have School Comprehensive Education Plan teams that meet monthly to review progress on school goals.
- The district recently conducted an audit of our English Language Arts program and we are using this data to inform a review of our curriculum.
- We have several teachers participating in coaching sessions and professional learning communities to improve classroom instruction. All of our school leaders, including myself, are paired with a leadership coach to help maintain our focus on improvement measures. Our administrators are out visiting classrooms on a regular basis and providing feedback to teachers to help improve student learning.
- Our teachers and staff are hard at work with improving the student academic experience. During the month of March, we will ask parents for feedback on our efforts to improve positive communication with families. Hopefully you have received a good news postcard or a positive phone call home from your child’s teacher(s).

We are calling on our students to improve on-time, regular attendance at school and reduce the number chronically absent from school. A student is considered chronically absent if they miss 17 or more days from school, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. During the 2019-2020 school year, LaFayette CSD has been part of a study on chronic absenteeism through the Center for Education Policy and Research at Harvard University. As part of our partnership with Harvard, LaFayette and other rural schools are studying the issue of chronic absenteeism and selecting interventions to address this concern. At one of our recent training events, researchers shared some shocking information regarding the compounding impact absences can have on student academic performance on state assessments. For a student who misses 15 days of school, the resulting impact on student test scores is -.12 standard deviations, which equates with losing 30% of a school year’s worth of learning. The impact of missing school is even more detrimental for performance on reading and writing measures. For students who miss 15 days of school, the resulting impact on ELA exams is -.18 standard deviations, which is equivalent to losing 45% of a year of learning. Given this compounding negative impact of absenteeism as it relates to academic performance, we will be reaching out to students and families who are experiencing difficulty with school attendance.

We look forward to partnering with our school community to formulate solutions that will result in improved student attendance.

New York State also highlighted some positive data for our district. Grimshaw Elementary was noted as a school in “Good Standing” under the state accountability system. Our high school Regents exams and high graduation rate data (e.g. 95% of the June 2019 cohort graduated within four years) demonstrate the long term success of our students. We continue to see an overall increase in the number of students earning mastery levels on Regents exams and an increase in students earning advanced designations on their diplomas. We are very proud of the efforts of our students and staff and we are confident that our continued efforts will help us achieve excellence in academics and propel our students towards a bright future.

Thank you for your continued support!
Transportation News: Private Transportation Request Due by April 1st

New York State Education Law Section 3635(2) requires that a written request be made to the Board of Education of a School District when transportation of a student to a non-public, private or parochial school is required. This written request must be made annually and received by the school district no later than April 1st for transportation for the next school year.

Most non-public schools have a form available to make this request and can be contacted for assistance. Please have these written requests sent to Attn: Paula Hibbert, LaFayette Central School District Office, 5955 US Route 20, LaFayette, New York 13084 no later than April 1, 2020.

School Buses

When a stopped school bus flashes its red light(s), traffic that approaches from either direction, even in front of the school and in school parking lots, must stop before it reaches the bus. You should stop at least 20 feet (6 m) away from the bus. You can identify this bus by a "SCHOOL BUS" sign, the red lights on the top, and its unique yellow orange color.

Before a school bus stops to load or discharge passengers, the driver will usually flash yellow warning lights. When you see them, decrease speed and be prepared to stop.

When you stop for a school bus, you cannot drive again until the red lights stop flashing or when the bus driver or a traffic officer signals that you can proceed. This law applies on all roadways in New York State. You must stop for a school bus even if it is on the opposite side of a divided highway.

After you stop for a school bus, look for children along the side of the road. Drive slowly until you have passed them.

The fine when you pass a stopped school bus ranges from a minimum of $250 for a first violation to a maximum of $1,000 for three violations in three years. If you are convicted of three of these violations in three years, your driver’s license will be revoked for a minimum of six months.

Lead in Water Testing

The district is planning to test potable water outlets for the presence of lead starting in the month of April. Previously, the district tested all water outlets including bathroom sinks, mop sinks, hose bibs, and science lab sinks. Unfortunately some of these water faucets, which are not used for drinking water, present challenges for testing lead levels due to the presence of brass or other components which provide a positive reading for lead. The New York State Health Department has released updated guidance allowing districts to only test water outlets used for drinking purposes so long as the district marks water sources that are not tested to inform building occupants that the water source should not be used for drinking water. Since these water sources are not used for drinking, the district plans to mark bathroom sinks, science room sinks, hose bibs, and mop room sinks as not safe for drinking. All other water sources that are used for drinking purposes will be tested. Once completed, the test results will be reported to the New York State Health Department and a copy of the test results will be posted on our website. The district will also post any remedial action taken to correct any issues along with any updated testing results.

Board of Education Election

On May 19th, LaFayette Central School District voters will choose three district residents to serve on the Board of Education. Candidates may be nominated only by petition and must collect at least 25 signatures from qualified school district voters to be placed on the ballot.

Petitions, which are available now, must be filed by 5 p.m. April 20 with the District Clerk, LaFayette Central School District Office, 5955 US Route 20, LaFayette, NY 13084. Contact District Clerk Paula Hibbert at 315-677-9728 or by email phibbert@lafayetteschools.org for a nominating petition.

Comprised of seven school district residents elected by voters, the LaFayette Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the school district and is responsible for carrying out the laws and regulations pertaining to the education of children living within the district. The board adopts district policy, curriculum, programs of study, and approves the hiring of all personnel, as well as establishing the conditions of employment. The board is also responsible for maintaining district facilities, establishing an annual budget and setting a tax levy.

Three terms of office will expire on June 30, 2020. In May, three candidates will be elected for three-year terms (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023). Board members are not financially compensated.

Individuals who are interested in learning more about serving on the board are invited to schedule an appointment with LaFayette CSD Superintendent Jeremy Belfield at jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org or 315-677-9728.
We recently had our New York State mid-year accountability status review. I am happy to announce that we received positive feedback from the state auditors in regards to the recent progress we have made toward achieving our goals. During the review, it was determined that we are on track to achieve our year-end goals in the areas of math performance, chronic absenteeism, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and family communication. We did fall just short of our mid-year benchmark in the area of ELA. Currently, the district has begun to perform an ELA curriculum audit to address any gaps in instruction. We had our first meeting this past Wednesday and I was extremely pleased with the turnout. Moving forward, I am confident that this process will help us to achieve the benchmarks we have set in the area of ELA.

During the mid-year review, it became clear that we needed to clarify the reason for shifting to a six-marking period structure. Last year, we had a traditional four-marking period structure with four progress reports. We were finding that students dismissed the progress reports because they did not "count" toward their final average in the class. By going to six marking periods it allows us to increase the frequency in which we are providing meaningful feedback on overall student performance. Additionally, with six marking period grades being factored into a student's culminating average, this allows our students a better opportunity to recover in the event that they receive an unsuccessful marking period grade. As always, I encourage our families to monitor student performance using SchoolTool. If you have any questions about SchoolTool or need an updated login/password, please contact Ms. Poplawski in the counseling office by phone at 315-677-3131 or by email at tpoplawski@lafayetteschools.org.

Onondaga Nation School News

Reaching Out to Community Agencies - ONS administration has shared the ONS SCEP with members from the Onondaga Nation community representing important services provided on the Nation. The conversations with the Clinic, Tsha’ Tho’n’hnes (Pavilion), Tsha’ Ho’n’ioy’en’dakwa’ (Arena), Smoke Shop, ONE Scholarship, Onondaga Language Program and the Language Nest, Family Services and Firekeepers created an open dialogue.

Level Up Program - Staff and students are preparing for the NYS ELA and Math Tests. As part of our roll out, three teachers presented their classroom processes for supporting students. Mr. McCoy shared an inspiring list of overall mind set and classroom environment ideas: 1. Always set high expectations for students and communicate with them authentically. 2. Be transparent, let students know what they are getting into. 3. Motivate kids both intrinsically and extrinsically. Remember students are willing to work for people who they know care about them. 4. Celebrate Success! (Build in the time for this to happen) 5. Provide immediate feedback to students.

Gahwéñhda’ (Snow snake) - The annual Gahwéñhda’ (Snow Snake) Tournament was held on February 17th, 18th and 19th. Students and men from the community, led by Shannon Booth, Shawn Waterman, Percy Booth, Kevin Powless, and Leland Powless built the track and then helped the boys as they practiced and competed. This year’s winners are Theodore Bivens-Burk (PK), Tahnekaes Bennett (K), Talan Skye (1), Ivan Abrams (2), Tanner Boyd (3), Curtis Booth (4), Gahowa:ne’šis Shenandoah (5), Rylan Redeye (6), Parker Booth Jr. (7), and Bruce Benedict (8). Nya’wéñha to the men for coming in and sharing their time and knowl-edge. Nya’wéñha to all the girls, especially Mrs.Hopper and Ms.Cook for preparing meals for the men.

Math Family Fun Night - We hosted our first Math and Movement Family Fun Night on Wednesday, February 19th. It was a huge success! We had a great turnout of students, families, staff and community for a night of interactive math games. ONS sent home a code to redeem a free math e-book for all students following the event.

ONS T-Shirts for Sale - At both our PTS skating and Math event, PTS sold t-shirts designed by 8th grader, Madison Redeye. The shirts are available for purchase - $10 for youth, $15 for adults. Please contact Chris Capella or Ashley Bennett if interested in purchasing a t-shirt (315) 469-6991.

Social - Nya’wéñha to Regis Cook, Kenneth Cook, Shannon Booth, Spencer Lyons and many other members from council and community for organizing our social on Thursday, February 20th. All students and staff at ONS went to the Ganoñhsésgeh.

7th & 8th Grade Beading - Our 7th and 8th graders are working with a world recognized beader, Karenlyn. After sharing examples and samples of a woman’s beaded collar, cuffs, crown and mens collar the students had an opportunity to trace patterns for their anticipated projects.

8th Grade Tessellation Projects - Friday, February 21st, our students presented their projects to peers, staff, and family members. Mrs. Seitz provided delightful morning tea and cookies as they presented their projects.

Important Dates
- Tuesday, March 24th-25th Grades 3-8 ELA State Tests
- Saturday, March 28th- NYSSMA competition - Instrument competition at Cortland Jr./Sr. HS
Big Picture Make Tintypes

On a field trip last summer to The Eastman Museum, Carol DiSalvo, Big Picture’s photography mentor, was able to connect with Mark Osterman, The Photographic Process Historian. When Carol discovered that he is an expert in and teaches old style photographic processes, she requested a workshop for her students. On January 23rd, eight students were lucky enough to spend time with Mark at Light Work to learn the process. By the end, each student was able to have their own finished self-portrait tintype.

Tintypes were most widely used during the 1860s and 1870s. They were produced in places from formal photographic studios to covered wagons in the Wild West. In modern day, they have been developed in the back of Mark’s car. Mark said tintypes have the highest resolution of any photographic process ever. Digital photography just can’t compare, and once you see a tintype, you know that this is definitely true.

The process starts in the studio by focusing the camera on the subject. Then the group went into the darkroom to make the “film”. Mark said that a tintype is not actually made with tin, and it never was. It used to be made with iron, which was cheap and “tinny”. Now tintypes are made with aluminum.

The students started by coating the aluminum plate with collodium, which then becomes light sensitized when dipped in the bath of silver nitrate. Then, the light sensitive plate is put into the plate holder. Now, going back into the studio, Mark attaches the plate holder onto the camera. The exposure time is 20 seconds long, so they had to hold very still (with the help of a 19th century neck clamp). Then they went immediately back into the darkroom to develop it. In the developing bath appears a negative. Next the plate goes into the fixer bath, which is cyanide. Yup, actual cyanide. Just like magic, a face materializes on the plate. It was absolutely astounding!

Finally, the plate is dried with an alcohol lamp and varnished with a mix of sandarac and lavender oil. Melissa Courts, Nikki Monaghan, Darryl Gibson, Stuart Carmona, Garrett Bucktooth, Josh Auniger, Caitlyn Oristian, and Julien Lamson all took part in making their own tintypes.

Mark Osterman is truly an old style photographer, meaning he is a mad scientist! He is self taught, and one of, if not the first, person to bring back these old styles of photography. He learned how to make tintypes from reading and deciphering old 19th century writings.

This was truly a unique and awe-inspiring learning experience. Thank you to everyone at Light Work, and to Victor, Julie, and Julien for photographing the workshop. Thanks also goes to Carol DiSalvo for making this incredible experience possible for these students.

The BIG PICTURE LEARNING News

Big Picture Attends School Exchange

Twenty Big Picture students spent five days over the course of this fall and winter participating in a school exchange with PSLA at Fowler. We traveled to Fowler three times and they visited us twice. Throughout the days, students engaged in dialogue and activities designed to both provide new opportunities for growth and synthesize the learning that has already occurred. Much of the dialogue was lead by student facilitators. Our facilitators Bri, Alyssa, Lizzy, and Tete did a great job. It is such a valuable skill that they are building. The facilitators were recognized at a panel discussion where they reflected on the process and shared poems with the large group. We are sincerely grateful to Andrea and Reggie from Community Wide Dialogue through InterFaith Works. Your vision and hard work made this great exchange possible. We also want to thank our adult allies Lenny Oppedisano and David Stablein as well as the PSLA adult allies, Hugh and JR. And of course thank you to the students for your courage and voice.
Youth Sports

Basketball: For boys and girls in grades 2-4, Saturdays, February 29 – March 28, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., in the Grimshaw Elementary school’s gymnasium. Flyers with additional information and a registration form will be sent home from school; bring the registration form and fee to practice.

Volleyball: For girls in grades 3-6. Practices are Saturdays, February 29 – March 28, 1:30-3:00 p.m., in the Grimshaw Elementary school’s gymnasium. Flyers with additional information and a registration form will be sent home from school; bring the registration form and fee to practice.

If you are interested and able to help out with the basketball or volleyball programs – AND WE DO NEED YOUR HELP - please contact LCC at 677-7272. We cannot offer these programs without volunteers who are willing to share their expertise as coaches. Thank you.

Upcoming Youth Sports

Baseball and lacrosse registration: Baseball (includes tee-ball and softball) and lacrosse registration for children in Pre-K (currently enrolled) through grade 6, will be held Saturdays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 12-3 p.m., in the Grimshaw Elementary School’s gymnasium foyer. Flyers with additional information and a registration form will be sent home from school.

Pre-Season Baseball Work-outs: Indoor practices, if necessary, for players in grades 3-6, Saturdays in April (4, 11, 18, and 25) at Grimshaw School gymnasium; girls 12:00-1:30 p.m., boys 1:30-3:00 p.m.

As spring approaches, LCC is in the process of planning the baseball and lacrosse seasons. Coaches are needed at all levels for both of these sports. Please let us know if you are planning to coach this upcoming season; we need to know of your intention to coach so that we can plan accordingly.

Adult Exercise

Daytime/Senior Exercise: Classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Classes are held at the LaFayette VFW on Rte. 11. The current session runs to March 26, and will be followed by a session running March 31 to May 7. The cost per session is $36 and cannot be pro-rated. The walk-in fee is $5 per class.

Yoga: Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m. at the Grimshaw Elementary School. The next session runs January 22 through June 24, 2020. NOTE: There is no class Mondays, January 20 and May 25, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. and Memorial Day holidays. Participants in the Monday session will be allowed to make-up the two missing classes by attending two classes on Wednesdays of their choice. The cost for this session is $80 if attending class one night per week, either Monday or Wednesday, and $160 if attending class both Monday and Wednesday. Fees cannot be pro-rated. The walk-in fee is $5 per class.

Aerobics: At this time, LCC will not be offering an aerobics program as we do not have an instructor available. We are actively working on locating an instructor to run these classes. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact LCC and provide contact information in order for us to notify you once an instructor is found.

Tai Chi: Beginner and advance classes. Call instructor Lynn Perrine at 315-677-8114 for details.

Men’s Basketball: Mondays, 7-9 p.m., at the Grimshaw Elementary School gymnasium, through April 2020. Fee is $20. Participants must sign a waiver, which are available on line or at each session. The cost for this program is $20 for the entire session or $5 per week walk-in fee.

Other Programs

Walking: Don’t let the weather keep you from getting some exercise during the winter months; the hallways of Grimshaw Elementary School are available for walking weekday evenings from 6-8 p.m., until May 1, 2020. Please use the gymnasium entrance and bring dry footwear to wear while walking the halls. The recreation path at Stafford Park is also available, every day, dawn to dusk. During the winter, only the south section of the path will be maintained for walkers.

Step Up To Stop Falls: This is a falls prevention program designed to raise awareness about falls and how to prevent fall-related injuries among older adults and includes an exercise class designed to improve strength and balance. LCC, in conjunction with the LaFayette Public Library, has arranged for yoga instructor, Kate Farrar, to provide this program. Call 315-677-7272 for additional information.

Community Council Board Meetings: Are held monthly. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as we need your help and input. Please consider becoming a member of LCC as a participant on its board or as a coach – we can’t provide our programs without your help.
We received a grant to **digitize the high school yearbooks**. We did a range from 1920-2001. Thank you to those of you who helped fill in the gaps of the years we didn't have at the library. Once the process is complete, the digital yearbooks will be available online and we will post the link once that information is ready. Stay tuned!

**Upcoming events:**
- **Tuesday Tea** – March 17, 2:00 p.m.
- **March Imagination Lab:**
  4th – Edible slime made from pudding mix
  11th – Wii gaming or board games
  (will take a vote on the day of)
  18th – Cardboard letter yarn art
  25th – No sew T-shirt tote bags (please bring a tee shirt to cut up)

**The 2020 Census** is almost here! You will (or already may have) receive a card in the mail telling you where to go online to fill out the Census. If you do not have internet access, the libraries will have dedicated access to the Census website. Please make sure that whatever way you do it, that you be counted. An accurate count determines where billions in funds are directed; it means Congressional seats (e.g. New York State has lost seats due to inaccurate or under counts). We are here to help!

Don't have access to the internet at home? Reminding you that we now circulate **7 Chrome Books** with a Verizon hotspot. They go out for 3 weeks. You can place holds, but no renewals. They must be returned to the lending library and need to be checked in at the circulation desk. It must be verified that all parts are returned before the kit can be returned. Come take advantage of this. This is the courtesy of our county legislators (County Legislature Chair Dave Knapp and County Executive Ryan McMahon in particular). Please thank them if you get a chance!

Reminder: the library has three **Empire passes** that allow access to any of the New York State parks, and two passes to the Onondaga county parks. The Empire passes and the Onondaga County park passes can be checked out for a three day loan period, only one per family at a time and no holds or renewals. These passes are good throughout the year. Enjoy!

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support when using **Amazon Smile** [https://smile.amazon.com/], login as you normally would, and choose LaFayette Public Library for your charity of choice, and for every $1000 spent Amazon donates $5.00 back to the library – with no extra charge to you! Thanks!

Along with many other libraries in Onondaga County, LaFayette Public Library is working with an organization called "**Field Goods**". They deliver fresh foods from small farms. The library serves as a drop off/pick up place to deliver the food. This is a “local supports local” effort. Just to remind you, the patron is responsible for picking the goods in a timely manner. There is an option to add $1.00 to your order that will go to the library so it serves as a fundraiser besides helping to support the local economy. It is custom ordering so you can pick what you want delivered. The food is delivered on a weekly basis on Wednesday. For more information or to sign up, go to [https://www.field-goods.com](https://www.field-goods.com).

We have an **ongoing jigsaw puzzle exchange** in the entryway to the library. Pick up a puzzle or two – leave a puzzle or two. It's very popular and we have some really cool puzzles come through here! Also we have a puzzle set up in the library so come in and fit a piece or two (or three).

A reminder that we have a **children's computer** that has over 60 educational programs on it. It is very popular and we encourage everyone to come and use it. We also have two ipads in the children’s area with lots of fun and education apps on them.

We continue to offer **computer training for our patrons**. This is a one on one session by appointment only. Please call 677-3782 and ask for Scott to make arrangements.

**Story times:**
- **Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**
- **Imagination Lab** – Wednesdays 3:30
- **Tuesday Tea** – every third Tuesday – 2 p.m.
The LaFayette Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, national origin, race, sex, or handicapping conditions in its employment practices or educational programs.

**March Important Dates to Remember**

- **6-7** JSHS Musical
- **11** No School - Superintendent’s Conference Day
- **12** BOE Meeting
- **16** JSHS Blood Drive
- **18** ONS Family Night
- **26** BOE Meeting
- **27** Rockfest

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook.