

Legend of Learning: David Amidon

Congratulations to Mr. David Amidon, who was selected as the September 2023 Legend of Learning! Dave is a Science Teacher who has served LaFayette students for the past two decades. Dave recently transferred from the LaFayette Jr/Sr High School to the Onondaga Nation School where he will teach Jr. High Science and Biology starting the fall of 2023.

Individuals who nominated Dave shared the following: "This staff member treats people the way they ought to be, like they have a brain. He is a dedicated teacher and mentor, he never gives up and is an enthusiastic person, and even though he has a tough personality he really wants what is best for students. Overall he is a caring person that will not give up on someone even when other people think they are too far gone."

As well as: "The Legend of Learning Award should have David Amidon's name on it. He has been a science teacher at LaFayette since 1999, teaching Science 8, Earth Science, Biology, and non-Regents Chemistry during his career. He has been on 8th grade teams for years, showing how valuable a team concept is at the junior high school level. During that time, the team took field trips to the Herkimer Diamond Mines, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia. Also, the 8th graders enjoyed a cross-curricular full day of activities for "War and Remembrance Day." Dave has also served as the 8th grade class advisor, helping to provide our junior high students with many opportunities outside of the classroom. (...continued on page 2...)



Yearbook News

Jr / Sr High School Yearbooks are \$40 (plus tax) but only until October 13! Order now for the best deal! With \$8 personalization, you can get up to 4 icons for free! Scan the QR code to order yours.



Transportation News

Thank you for a great start to the new school year! We did the first of 3 school bus drills on Tuesday, September 12th. For this drill, all students exited out the back door of the bus. Children were taught the importance of school bus safety, loading/unloading, crossing, and emergency exits. We encourage all parents and guardians to speak to your children about the importance of school bus safety regularly. If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to reach out to us.

As a reminder to families, please have your students outside ready and waiting for the bus a few minutes early. This keeps the buses running on time.



◆ LaFayette District News ◆



Jeremy Belfield
Superintendent of Schools
jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org
315-529-9550 (cell)

Dear Families and Staff Members:

The 2023-2024 school year is in full swing! It is great to have students and staff members back in our school buildings. On September 5th, staff members participated in a Superintendent's Conference Day and our guest speaker, Brian Mendler, provided strategies for staff members to use when building connections and relationships with students. I have been impressed listening to staff members' conversations around putting these strategies to work as they get to know their students. I foresee many lasting relationships that will help foster a positive learning environment for all students.

Staff members have also been working with students to come up with creative co-curricular club opportunities for students to extend learning beyond the school day. Staff members are in the process of organizing a guitar club at the Onondaga Nation School, an American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Club for ONS and Jr./Sr High students, Robotics Clubs at Big Picture and the Jr/Sr High School, Art Clubs and Enrichment Clubs at the Jr/Sr High School, Little Librarians at Grimshaw Elementary, and Game Clubs at Grimshaw Elementary. Those are just a few of the great opportunities that will be available throughout this school year for our students after school. Thank you to our staff members and students for coming up with great ideas to extend learning and provide opportunities to forge strong connections beyond the traditional school day.

During the school day, we remain focused on improving student learning outcomes and maximizing student learning. Students have been taking diagnostic assessments so we can identify any who may need additional academic support during the school day and beyond. Our school dismissal is altered on Monday to allow time for staff to collaborate in professional learning communities so we can focus on the following questions: 1) What do we want students to know and be able to do? 2) How do we know that students have learned these skills? 3) What are we doing to support students that have not yet demonstrated proficiency with learning? 4) How do we extend or enrich the learning for students that have mastered intended learning outcomes? We are grateful to our students and families for providing this time for our staff to focus on ways to improve and enhance student learning.

Thank you to our staff members and families that are using Parent Square to stay connected and informed! If you have not had the opportunity to download the Parent Square application yet, please consider doing so. We are using this new tool to communicate with parents and staff members.

Thank you for a great start to the school year! I am looking forward to a great year of learning together!

Legend of Learning: David Amidon (...continued from cover...)

These included, but were not limited to movies, professional theater, sledding at 4-Seasons, bowling, Fun Nites at school, Halloween Dances/ Haunted House, the Adirondack Museum and class trips to various amusement parks. He completed his CAS degree in 2009 and served as an intern. He has been on innumerable school and district committees. His involvement in numerous co-curricular activities include Varsity Golf, Modified Boys Basketball, the Science Olympiad, ECOS, and National Junior Honor Society. He was a teacher for the 21st Century Grant Program, "Project Challenge," which really allowed him to showcase his talents in unique ways. LaFayette, Tully and SUNY Cortland partnered in this venture and it was science at its most engaging for grades 3-8. Mr. Amidon even ventured to the roof of Tully High School to demonstrate the efficacy in an egg drop design. He became a New York State Master Teacher in 2014. His summers have included time spent becoming an NCSE Ambassador, NOAA Teacher at Sea, EPA Presidential Award, and the NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. Our students have all seen him in his blue NASA jumpsuit! The love of science he has fostered in our students during his tenure at LaFayette is unparalleled. I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award than Dave Amidon. His enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, his subject matter is second to none. He is a problem-solver, a team player, and an asset to LaFayette that needs to be recognized. Thank you for your consideration of this nomination."

Dave, thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

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.

◆ Grimshaw School News ◆



Grimshaw News

This year at Grimshaw, we are excited to be implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, or PBIS.

We spent the first week of school explicitly teaching the behaviors we want to see in the classroom, lunchroom, restrooms, playground, buses, and hallways. Students rotated through stations and were taught what it looks and sounds like to be respectful, responsible, and safe in each space.

Here at Grimshaw, we are committed to teach, reinforce, and acknowledge appropriate student behaviors. At all times, staff and students are expected to: "BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE, and BE SAFE."

We had a great first week back and are looking forward to some of the fun activities planned this year to support PBIS!



◆ The BIG PICTURE LEARNING News ◆

BIG PICTURE LEARNING

Big Picture News

We are so excited to begin the 16th year of the LaFayette Big

Picture School. We welcomed a 101 class of 16 students and added a few upperclassmen as well. We also welcomed Sean Kelly as a Teaching Assistant in our program. We started our year, as we always do, with the staff serving the students brunch. We enjoyed our meal and began getting to know each other and rebuilding former relationships. As we began community building, we mixed in a few design challenges as well as an introduction to our PBIS model. We are committed to recognizing all of the positive actions and behaviors our students display.

It has been a pleasure transitioning into the routine of our school year with this group of students and staff. There is a great balance of optimism and positive energy. I love the leadership that I am seeing from the 401 advisory. We held our Welcome Back Potluck Dinner and enjoyed delicious food with fantastic company. Again, we had great energy flowing and building relationships with our students and families. Vickie Gernhardt, a Teaching Assistant in our 201 advisory, is taking on the role of Learning Through Interest/Internship Coordinator as David Stablein has taken a new position at SU. Vickie has been learning the role and meeting with students to explore interests and possible internships. We are eager to begin internships at the end of September. Be on the lookout for our students out in the community working with professionals and experts. If you are interested in mentoring a student or hosting a student for a shadowing opportunity, please contact Vickie at vgernhardt@lafayetteschools.org

September was also filled with our culinary crew preparing, cooking and serving the Elders luncheon on the Onondaga Nation. Our culinary students have been doing this for several months and have been met with positive reviews and feedback. It is such a great opportunity to practice their culinary skills and provide service to the Onondaga Nation Community. Additionally, the 101s took a Leaving to Learn opportunity to Green Lakes State Park. They hiked 3.5 miles and learned about the botany, geology and history of the park. Lastly, we are preparing for the Apple Festival where our students sell our homegrown garlic and garlic oil. Our students have cleaned the garlic and we are getting ready to make the garlic oil and package the garlic that will be for sale. Come find us at the Apple Festival in the agricultural area!



◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

From the Desk of the
INTERIM PRINCIPAL
 John Gizzi

ONS News

One of the goals of the Onondaga Nation School is to immerse our students in

Onondaga language and culture. We will use the lunar moon cycle as a guide from which teachers will create lessons in all classrooms providing students the opportunity to make cultural and linguistic connections to all subject areas. The current lunar moon is: Kheñ'deñ'gó·nah (Deer has a long tail.)

For some teachers the integration of Onondaga language and culture into the larger curriculum is brand new. For others, this is a rekindling of a great practice that was begun three years ago.

The perpetuation of old practices continues at our school. Peter Jones, a world renowned Onondaga potter, visited on Wednesday, September 13, and held a class with our eighth graders on the making of traditional Haudenosaunee pottery. Clay and the pottery made from it were vital to the lives and traditional ways of the Haudenosaunee people. Mr. Jones will return to fire the pots with the eighth graders on October 4. Family and community members are welcome to join the students as they gather at the fire pit near the garden on the ONS campus. For more information on Mr. Jones and his work please see an article on the Onondaga Nation website (10/14/22) entitled, *"You Have To Treat This Clay Like Your Mother Because It Is."*

Nyawenha

I would like to extend a thank you to all staff at ONS, instructional and non-instructional. We are working together to create a safe and welcoming environment for our students. The consistent bus schedule allows children to have breakfast, socialize and get to homeroom on time to have a great start to the day. The cafeteria staff and custodial staff have the breakfast and lunch periods working very smoothly. Charmaine and Mackenzie help staff and students so well everyday in the Main and Nurse's offices. Teachers have students engaged. Parents are in the building to support their little ones. A special recognition goes to our five new staff members, they are all doing a great job for students. Nice job to; David Amidon, Deb Kelly, Amanda Spicer, Rylie Conover, and Jerry Kelly.



◆ LaFayette District News ◆

Lancer Athletic News

The 2023 Fall sports teams are quickly navigating through their schedules. The volleyball team is undefeated and has only lost one set so far. Their season will go all the way through October in hopes of capturing their second sectional title in three seasons.

Our Varsity Boys Soccer team has gotten some wins early this season as they continue to work hard towards a sectional playoff run!

All of the Varsity Fall sports had the opportunity to go to Media Day for Syracuse.com. As you can tell our Golf team was excited to be there and they have jumped out to a good start early on this season. Joe Colletti and Reed Warren lead the group as two of the top scorers.

Athletic Schedules for all of the LaFayette student athletes can be located on the athletic webpage or schedulegalaxy.com

Modified Winter I - Girls Volleyball and Boys Basketball will be starting on October 30. Sign ups will be available starting on October 1st via FamilyID.



Nurse's Office News

Welcome to all of our new and returning students,

Please notify us if your child is ill and will miss school, especially if your child has a confirmed case of the flu, strep, COVID-19, or conjunctivitis. It is very important to keep children home 24 hours after they vomit or start taking antibiotics. They should also be fever free for 24 hours, without the aid of medication, following any illness before returning to school.

Health examinations are required for new entrants and in grades Pre K or K, 1,3,5,7,9, and 11. Health examinations are also required every year for students participating in sports, as well as those needing working papers. Please provide documentation from your healthcare provider each time a physical exam is conducted.

If your student will require any medications this year, please request the appropriate documentation from your healthcare provider. With documentation, a student may carry rescue medication, such as inhalers, epipens, and medication for management of diabetes. All other medication must be stored in the nurse's office, even if it is an over the counter medication.

Please provide documentation from the medical provider for any injury your child sustains so that we may provide the necessary care during the school day. Certain injuries may require modifications to the student's classroom assignments, as well as refraining from physical activity.

Each year, district nurses must submit the immunization status of students in Pre-k through 12th grade. Please be sure to check with your pediatrician if there are necessary immunizations for your child this year.

This year, our district also has Weight Status Category data collected by the state. No personal student identifiers are used. Fifty percent of all public schools are surveyed each year, and obesity prevalence data of school-age children and adolescents at the local and state level is used to understand the severity and distribution of obesity.

Happy fall,

Jennifer Gates
High School nurse

Ashley Brown
Grimshaw nurse

Mackenzie Cook
ONS nurse

◆ LaFayette District News ◆

Order your **SCARY GRAMS** today!

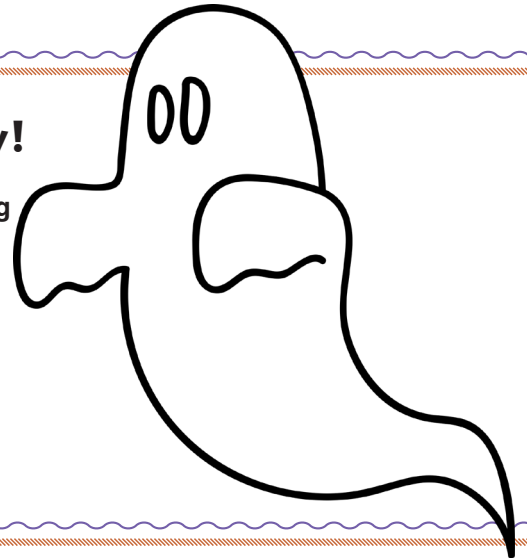
Interested in letting your PreK-12 student know you are thinking of them on Halloween?

Support the 7th and 8th grade classes and send them a “Scary Gram” to brighten their day! Scary Grams are goodie bags of candy with a Halloween greeting card delivered to your student on Halloween day!

If you'd like to place an order, send an email to esopchak@lafayetteschools.org to have the link sent to you!

\$2 each or \$3 for 2!

Orders and money must be in by Monday, October 23!



◆ LaFayette Community News ◆

LaFayette Community Council News

315-677-7272

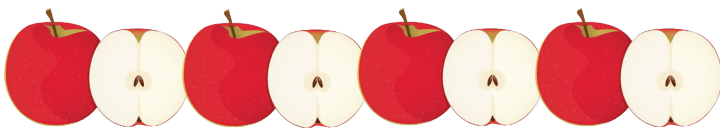
lcc@townoflafayette.com

www.townoflafayette.com

P.O. Box 98 Lafayette, NY 13084

Apple Festival

Volunteers are needed to help run the pizza booth at the Apple Festival (October 7 & 8). Please consider donating an hour or two of your time to support our youth programs. Kids are welcome to help too.



Youth Programs - Fall Sports

Soccer: Games for Grades 3 through Grades 6 are underway at the Apple Festival Fields and will continue until mid October. The season is off to a great start! PreK-2 have begun their instructional practices at Vinegar Hill Sports Park and the turn-out is wonderful. Thanks to all our coaches and volunteers for helping make another great season happen.

Winter Sports: Wrestling, basketball and volleyball are planned for the winter season - stay tuned for registration details.

Adult Programs

Basketball: Mondays starting September 18 from 7:00-9:00 PM at Grimshaw Elementary.

Volleyball: Begins Fridays in October. Watch the LCC website and social media for updates on Registration.

If you are able to help with any of the LCC programs – AND WE DO NEED YOUR HELP - please contact LCC at 315-677-7272 or via email: lcc@townoflafayette.com. We cannot offer these programs without volunteers. Thank you.

Updates on all LCC programs can be found on the Town's web site under the “Community Council” tab.

Information is also posted on LCC's Facebook page and the Town's social media outlets (Twitter, Facebook).

When possible, notices will also be provided through the LaFayette School District.



LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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LaFayette, NY 13084

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Jeremy Belfield, Title IX Compliance Officer, LaFayette Central School, 5955 Route 20, West, LaFayette, New York 13084

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.

Oct/Nov

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

- 9 No School
- 11 BOE Meeting 5:30pm
- 20 JSHS End of MP 1
- 31 GS Halloween Parade 1pm

NOVEMBER

- 2 School Bus Drill
- 6 GAPS Meeting 6pm
- 7 GS Picture Retake Day
NHS Induction 7pm
- 8 JSHS Picture Retake Day
- 9-10 No School
- 15 BOE Meeting 5:30pm
- 17 GS/ONS: Half Day
- 21 ONS Harvest Dinner
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Recess
No School

Don't forget
to like us on
Facebook.

