

Schenectady

Fall 2006

Committed to
teaching and
learning...
one child at a time

City School District

A national award
winning district



Several administrative changes made for 06-07 Chief of security, parent liaison positions new for this year

While students spent the summer break enjoying warm weather and long days, district officials were busy filling positions on the administrative team. This school year brings with it ten administrative changes.

These include two new coordinators, a new principal and assistant principal at Oneida Middle School, a new director at the Washington Irving Education Center, two principals on special assignment, a new director of federal and state programs, a new principal at Paige Elementary School and the new positions of chief of security and parent liaison.

Putting faces to the names

Vincent Giammusso Chief of Security

Vincent Giammusso is a retired veteran of the New York City Police Department. As a lieutenant in Queens, Giammusso oversaw school resource officers and brings a wealth of experience working in urban environments. In his position he will be responsible for assessing safety and security and emergency protocols throughout the district, making recommendations, and training school staff.



Catherine Canavan Parent Liaison

In this new position Canavan will work in encourage parents to become more involved with their child's school. She will also work with

PTOs across the district to meet their needs and increase parental involvement. She will serve as a valuable resource to all district parents. Canavan has a BA in political science from Union College and has been active in volunteer and advocacy work for the last 10 years.



Julie Heller

English Language Arts/Library Coordinator, K-12

This position was vacated on June 30 when long-



time ELA/Library Coordinator Tom Della Sala retired. Heller served as the K-12 ELA administrator for the Mohonasen Central School District for the last two years. She has also developed curriculum, organized administrative training for state assessments

and been involved in budget planning and review. Prior to becoming an administrator she served as an English teacher for eight years. Heller has received National Board Certification and also held the regional director post for the New York State English Council for two years beginning in October 2001.

Carmella Parente

Social Studies/Foreign Language Coordinator, K-12

Parente comes to Schenectady from the Albany City School District. She started her career in Albany as a social studies teacher in 1996 and then

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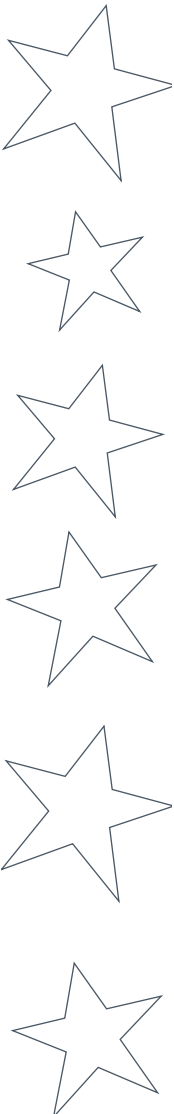
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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The sound of (digital, professional, quality) music

New high-tech audio equipment allows for new TV show, professional recordings

The Schenectady City Schools Television Station (SCS TV) is not likely to become the next major record label spinning out top 40 hits. Nor will it start producing primetime MTV favorites like Total Request Live. But if SCS TV Manager Eric Connolly and senior Andre Brown have anything to do with it, they might come close.

Thanks to new digital audio equipment, which was a joint purchase by the Schenectady High School Production Club and Music Club, students will now be able to create professional quality recordings in the school's production studio.

"We are starting a full-fledged recording studio where we'll be able to cut high-end quality CDs and have them sound really good," Connolly said.

Thanks to this new equipment, a new SCS TV show called *Spotlight* will allow student performers to show off their talent while making their own recording.



Senior Andre Brown, left, and Music Club co-advisor and English teacher Pat Harman, right, work with computer music technology consultant Ken Valentine in the SHS recording studio. Valentine came to SHS on the first day of school to train Brown, Harman and others on using the studio's new digital audio equipment. The equipment was purchased by the Music Club and Production Club and will allow students to make high quality recordings and CDs.

Hosted by Brown, the show will feature student musicians, singers and dancers in the studio coupled with on-air interviews.

"The closest thing I can think of that it compares to is the Tonight Show with Jay Leno," Brown said, trying to describe the show. He added that at first he was nervous about being the host, but now is just excited to go on camera and "be himself."

Eventually, Connolly said they would like to have local performers from outside the school also appear on the show.

The new digital equipment includes computer programs, an audio mixer, vocal and instrument mics and a digital keyboard that can be made to sound like any instrument. Everything is completely digital, meaning a singer's voice will go straight from the microphone to a data file on a computer.

The technology allows for each track to be recorded separately, meaning they can record the rhythm section, vocals and horns individually and then mix them together to create a final product.

This process, Connolly said, is just how it's done in the "real world." Not only will it be the basis for the show, he added, but students will be able to put together quality CDs that they can then submit to colleges.

Also from SCS TV this fall

Spotlight is not the only new show SCS TV viewers can expect this fall. A new show featuring student actors will also be coming across air waves. Connolly said his crew is still coming up with a name for the new show, which will show students sitting around a cafeteria table talking about the "things that kids talk about at lunch."

The table will be set against the blue screen wall in the TV studio, with staged cafeteria activity playing behind them.

"This gives actors a terrific forum for displaying their talent," Connolly said.

Schenectady can also expect to see two shows returning from last year – *Wookie Time* and *Oneida Reads*. These shows, along with the new programs will air in October.

New course for Spring 2007

News from the production studio isn't all about music these days. This spring students at SHS will have the opportunity to learn how to make their very own newscast in a new course called Electronic News Gathering.

The 1/2 credit course will be open to all high school students who have taken either video production or film making.

Students receive new school supplies

For the fourth year in a row, the Junior League of Schenectady and its annual Operation Back-to-School program has brought backpacks and school supplies to children on the first day of school.

This year the 474 students at Hamilton Elementary received supplies ranging from crayons to glue sticks and rulers.

"The goal of Operation Back-to-School is to excite children about learning. We all remember how excited we were when we got our new notebooks and fresh pencils in September — we felt like anything was possible," Junior League President Denise Murphy McGraw said.

According to McGraw, Operation Back-to-School was made possible this year by \$19,000 in grants from the Broughton Foundation, Stewart's, the Wright Family Foundation, CDPHP, Troy Savings Bank and Fedelis Care.

Now in its fourth year, the program has brought

school supplies and backpacks to more than 1,500 children throughout the city of Schenectady. For the last two years the project came to Van Corlaer Elementary School, and before that Lincoln Elementary.

This year volunteers handed out:

- 474 boxes of crayons
- 11,675 pencils
- 1,007 notebooks
- 2,108 pocket folders
- 125 pencil boxes
- 969 erasers
- 125 bottles of glue
- 750 glue sticks
- 325 chubby pencils
- 350 pairs of scissors
- 475 packs of index cards
- 325 pencil sharpeners
- 325 rulers
- 56 protractors
- 125 packs of lined paper
- 200 green, blue and black pens
- 60 dictionaries/thesauruses

School is back in session...

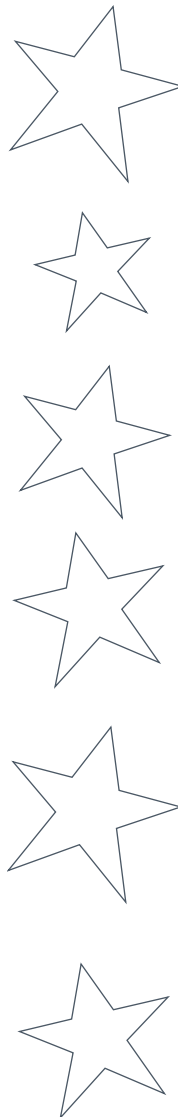
Please board your bus carefully

Some tips for riding the school bus this year:

- ✓ Be on time to the bus stop
- ✓ Dress for the weather. Wear clothing that is safe, visible and warm.
- ✓ Carry your belongings in a bookbag or backpack.
- ✓ Go directly to your own bus stop.
- ✓ When walking to your bus stop, face traffic and stay on the sidewalk whenever possible.
- ✓ Don't bring pets, small children or large objects to the bus stop.
- ✓ Don't talk to or go with strangers while waiting for the bus.
- ✓ Stand BACK from the road at your bus stop.
- ✓ When crossing the road, wait for the driver to signal and check for traffic.
- ✓ When crossing in front of the bus, walk far enough in front of the bus so that the driver can see you.
- ✓ Always remain seated while the bus is moving.
- ✓ Don't throw objects in the bus.
- ✓ Eating and smoking are not allowed on the bus.
- ✓ Keep arms and heads inside the bus windows.
- ✓ Don't try to distract the bus driver from getting you to school safely.
- ✓ Medication cannot be transported by bus drivers.
- ✓ Elementary students are required to wear seatbelts.



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Students at Hamilton Elementary School receive backpacks and school supplies from the Junior League of Schenectady on the first day of school.

Athletic Schedules Online

Looking for the fall or winter sports schedules?

Log onto:

[www.schenectady.k12.ny.us/
AthleticsDepartment](http://www.schenectady.k12.ny.us/AthleticsDepartment)



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became a social studies team leader. In 2002, Parente became summer school principal for Albany and she served as the extended day program team leader since 1999.

Patricia Paser

Paige Elementary School Principal

Paser comes to us from the Middleburgh Central School District where she worked since graduating from college in 1987. During this time Paser was a middle school Spanish teacher, a sixth grade English language arts teacher and an administrative intern. She also served as a track and soccer coach, the ELA 5-8 curriculum coordinator, general education director, foreign language curriculum coordinator and the advisor of several student activities. Paser has certifications in several areas, including school counselor, school administrator and supervisor and school district administrator.



in the Federal and State Programs office in 2003 where she served as the supervisor for data, testing and assessment. In this position she developed in-depth knowledge of programs, processes and procedures. McKenna has demonstrated strong leadership, communication skills and expertise in the intricacies of No Child Left Behind.



Karmen McEvoy

Oneida Middle School Principal

McEvoy has been an administrator in Schenectady Schools since 2001, serving most recently as director of adult and continuing education. She began her career as a special education teacher and then became the assistant director of adult and alternative education.



“Ms. McEvoy is a natural fit at Oneida because she has a love of students at this age and excellent knowledge of the developmental, pedagogical and curricular needs of middle school students,” Superintendent of Schools Eric Ely said.

Paul Scampini

Principal on Special Assignment for the Office of School Development

This position is partially funded by the State Education Department and has been created to provide leadership in the area of curriculum development. Scampini will evaluate and enhance curricular programs and ensure research-based school and district improvement. Scampini will also supervise the school and curriculum development office, which is responsible for ongoing curriculum review and enhancement. He will also work with current magnet schools and be involved in the development of strategies to implement the district's strategic plan. Scampini will lead the effort to prepare Fulton School to be opened in Fall of 2007.



Lee Satterlee

Oneida Middle School Assistant Principal

Satterlee was a music teacher in Schenectady Schools from 1986 to 2005. He was named dean at Oneida for the 2005-2006 school year and then interim principal at Yates Magnet School over the summer while principal Valerie Scott was out on medical leave.



Dr. Sheila Tebbano

Director of Adult and Continuing Education at Washington Irving Education Center

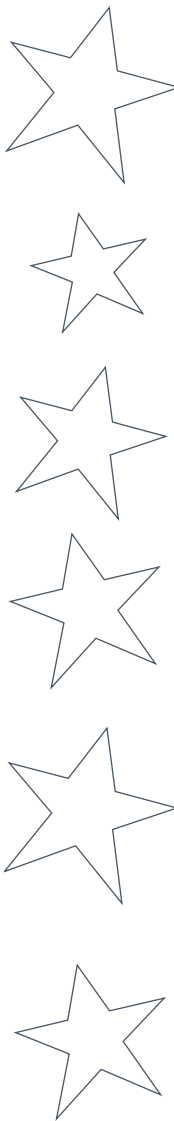
Tebbano was a music teacher for 25 years before becoming an elementary and then middle school principal in the Schenectady School



Lori McKenna

Director of Federal and State Programs

This position became vacant due to the untimely passing of longtime district administrator Jim Lucca. McKenna served as an elementary principal beginning in 1996 prior to being named to the supervisor position



Offering a Safe Haven

Program gives students a new place to go

Bullying is a problem that Schenectady shares with school districts across the country. However, with the new Safe Haven program, district officials are hoping to help the bullied and deal with the bullies.

The program, started this year, is composed of a network of teachers across the district who will offer their time and their classrooms to victims of bullying. Safe Haven teachers will be identified only by the display of the program's logo in his or her classroom. The majority of teachers participating in this program are full-time and have a designated classroom.

The idea, according to Assistant Superintendent of Operations Bill Roberts, is that these teachers offer students a safe environment, as well as counseling and confidentiality.

"All teachers taking part



in the program are experienced, have good listening skills and are working closely with the administration," Roberts said. "These teachers are there to listen to problems and help students deal with whatever issues they might be facing."

One of the main reasons the program was started is that in the effective schools' survey, administered last year, students said that bullying is a problem but that they would most likely not say anything to an adult for fear of retaliation.

For more information on bullying, visit www.schenectadyk12.ny.us/bullying.

Updated for 2006-07:

The Discipline Code

Parents and their children, as well as district faculty and staff will notice some changes to the school discipline code this year — both inside and out.

For the 2006-07 school year the code was redesigned, making it easier to read and hopefully easier to understand.

Changes to the code include updated language referring to headgear and electronic devices.

- Headgear should not be **worn or displayed** inside the school except for media or religious purposes, or for approved activities.
- The **USE and/or DISPLAY** of electronic devices, such as walkmans, gameboys, cellular phones, and camera phones, MP3 players, IPOD, etc. are prohibited during the school day. This

includes lunch and passing periods as well as school sponsored trips and extended day activities. Students are not permitted to display the cell phone or other electronic devices, however, they may carry them in a backpack, purse, or inside a pocket of slacks, jeans, jacket, etc. **Electronic devices must be turned off during the school day.** The school district is not responsible for the loss, theft, damage or vandalism of any electronic devices.

The document outlines standards for student conduct, as well as discipline procedures.

Anyone with questions regarding the revised Discipline Code, or who did not receive a copy, should contact their building principal.

District. She has been serving the district as principal of school safety and extended day and brings innovative thinking along with an array of leadership, organizational and motivational skills to the adult and continuing education department. Dr. Tebbano also has extensive knowledge of community resources and service organizations, which will help make her a valuable ambassador for the school district with the adult students in our school community.

Edna Baker

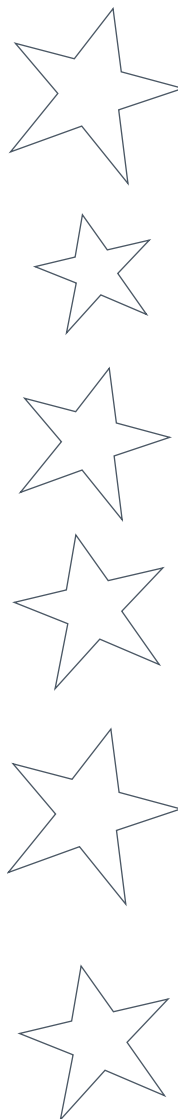
Principal on Special Assignment for the Office of Community Involvement and School Safety/Security

Baker is the former principal of Oneida Middle School and she brings experience to a department that is being restructured to address public concerns

regarding the need for increased community involvement, safety and school security. She will be responsible for overseeing and implementing school safety and district security plans, after-school programs and community outreach. Baker carries a broad base of knowledge across all grade levels and is very aware of security and safety issues. She is committed to implementing the district's Strategic Plan regarding community involvement. Mrs. Baker has been an administrator in the Schenectady School District for more than 15 years.



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Howe, Van Corlaer welcome Thai teachers

From the food to the language and the holidays, students at Howe International Magnet School and Van Corlaer Elementary School are learning a lot about Thailand this year.

This is thanks to the year-long visit of two Thai teachers - Chutima Phuengchimplee ("Tip") and Patarin Khamyod ("Rin"). Both are part of the American Field Service (AFS) visiting teachers program and will be at the schools until June.

Tip is currently working at Van Corlaer, while Rin is at Howe.

Both teachers will teach all students at each school about Thai culture, including the food, customs and specifics of daily life.

"This is such a wonderful experience for our

students," Howe Principal Barbara Coffey said. "We learn more specifically they nuances of Thai cultures."

While the students learn about their Thai teachers, Rin and Tip are both busy learning about the United States. While both can speak some English, they are hard at work on their fluency.

They are also getting used to US food, weather, and even the kitchen appliances. They are also getting used to American students.

In Thailand, Rin said, students are very quiet and shy. They show great respect for their teachers, bowing down to them when they walk in a room.

Here students are noisy, however, she said this isn't necessarily a bad thing. They ask a lot of

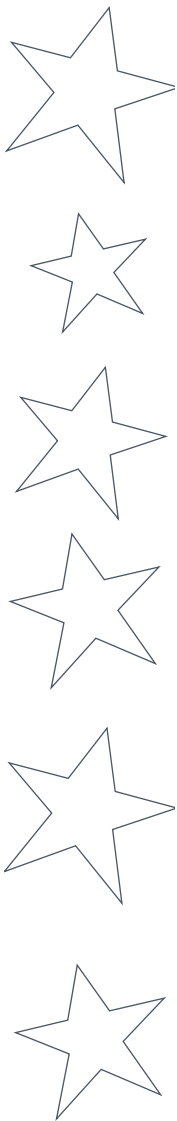


Rin, a visiting teacher from Thailand, shows Howe International Magnet School fifth graders Hassan Rainey-Venetal, Michael Hamila, Emma Ward, Emily Agnello, Cody Logan and Alissa Hill some traditional Thai dance moves.

questions, and learn to become leaders — two things that are not very common in Thailand.

Teachers in the program stay with host families for a minimum of 10 weeks starting around Labor Day. Families are cur-

rently being sought to host Rin and Tip later in the school year. Anyone interested in knowing more about hosting should call AFS Volunteer Cathie Currin at 581-9199 or e-mail her at AFSCathie@aol.com.



PBIS Update

The school year is well underway and so is the district-wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program. The program, which encourages and rewards good behavior, is currently in all district middle and elementary schools.

The goals of the program are to improve school and classroom climates; reduce unnecessary office discipline referrals and suspensions; provide teachers, students and families with a predictable and positive structure for improving student behavior; help those students who are behaviorally high risk; and help the families of those students that are high risk.

During the first few weeks of the year, each school held its own PBIS stations — a way of teaching proper behavior in different settings around a school building.

Each school has 3-5 school-wide rules, which are broad and apply to all settings. Examples of these rules are, Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful. At the PBIS stations, students are brought to each setting and the rules and proper behaviors are demonstrated. For example:

Rules	Setting: Bathroom	Setting: Hallway
Be Safe	Go directly to the bathroom; Wait your turn	Stay on your right; Walk
Be Respectful	Flush the toilet; Keep area clean	Use quiet voices
Be Responsible	Turn off sink; Wash hands	Have your pass

★ Around & About...

Brigadier General meets with Junior ROTC

Members of the Schenectady High School Junior ROTC were given a warm welcome into the program on Sept. 13 when Brigadier General Suzanne M. "Zan" Vautrinot made the trip from her base in Texas to share her experiences with the United States Air Force.



The SHS JROTC program is the first of its kind in the area, and more than 100 students have already signed up. Students in the program, which is open to grades 9-12, attend a weekly class in aerospace science and also participate in community service, physical training, leadership training, field trips and a drill team.

General Vautrinot, a Commander in the Air Force Recruiting Service, entered the Air Force in 1982. She has experience in space systems acquisition and operation, including national reconnaissance satellites, the Satellite Control Network, advanced space surveillance, satellite command and control and theater missile warning. She has also served as Chief of Operations for the 14th Air Force and Director of Aerospace Operations Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Students learn banking at The Patriot Branch

The Patriot Branch of the First NY Federal Credit Union is open and ready for business at Schenectady High School. Students in the International Banking course have been trained as tellers and process deposits and withdrawals made by both students and staff. The goals for this year, School of Global Commerce House Principal David Denofio said, is to increase the number of students who are banking at the branch and to make it part of their weekly routine.

"Parents should encourage their children to make weekly deposits to help increase their savings account and participate in sound financial practices," Denofio said. "Students will carry these practices with them in the future."

The branch is open at the high school every Friday.

Giving Coats for Kids Sake

Help Mrs. McCrum's second graders at Paige Elementary School with the Coats for Kids Sake project. The class, along with the Paige school community are collecting coats and snow pants to give to local families in need.

This is a wonderful community service project in which our children learn how to give back to their community. All of the students at Paige are asked to donate coats and snow pants.



It's a simple way to help those in need. All you have to do is wash all of your donations and put them in garbage bags. Send or bring them to the Paige school main office by Oct. 28.

Mrs. McCrum will drop all of the donations off at the designated Coats for Kids Sake locations.

Three honored at annual AHOF dinner

The 9th Annual Schenectady City School District Athletic Hall of Fame and Reunion Dinner was held on Monday, Sept. 18 at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga Springs. Honored this year were professional race car driver, Shirly Muldowney, all-star athlete Don Blaha and professional boxer Abe Feldman. Muldowney was the first woman to be inducted. Assemblyman James Tedisco served as the event's guest speaker.



Sign up for enews Direct

Sign up for the Schenectady City School District's electronic newsletter for parents, staff and community members and receive news, school reminders, updates and a listing of districtwide events each month. To sign up visit www.schenectady.k12.ny.us and click on the Parent enews Direct icon. The service is free.

A Culture of Wellness

The Schenectady City School District Board of Education recently adopted a Wellness Policy, which is designed to strengthen and further promote an institutional culture of wellness among students, staff and the entire school community. To learn more about the policy log on to www.schenectady.k12.ny.us, or ask about it at any district school.

GE provides students with supplies

On Sept. 12 149 book bags full of school supplies, cases of tissue and paper towels and an industrial-sized bottle of hand sanitizer were handed out to students and teachers at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet School. The supplies were donated by the Global Research Lab at GE. Students were very excited to receive both the supplies and the new book bags. The effort was made possible by school Principal Mrs. Sarfoh and the school's Parent Liaison Kelly Kilian, as well as Andrea Schmitz and David Mills of the GE Global Research Group. GE raised all the money needed to purchase the supplies by holding a silent auction and receiving donations from local businesses.

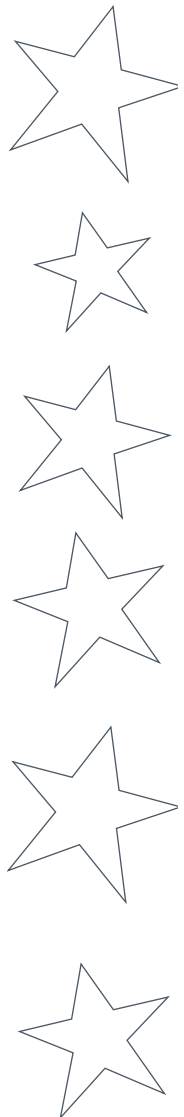


Pre-K Program Expanding

This year, the pre-K program has expanded to include a full-day program at King Magnet School and an additional program at Washington Irving Education Center. As a result pre-K programs are now available at six sites around the district. The program is open to 4-year olds. Each class has a maximum of 18 children and includes a district teacher and paraprofessional. There is currently a waiting list for all sites. If you have questions or would like to be placed on the waiting list, please call Carol Messina at 881-2006 or e-mail messinac@schenectady.k12.ny.us



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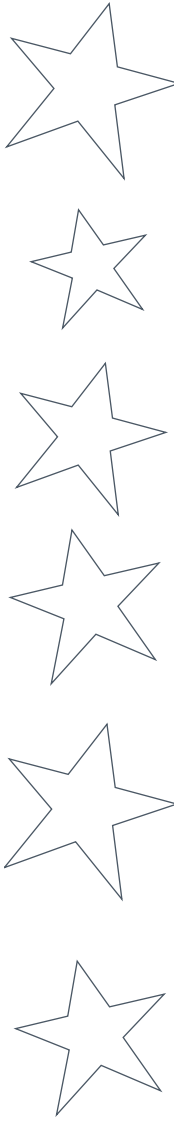


Mark Your Calendar

*The complete district calendar is available at <http://www.schenectady.k12.ny.us>



**FALL
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October

- 16**
Central Park MS school picture retakes
- 17**
Paige ES school photos
King ES school photos (K-3)
PSAT registration deadline (Oct. 20 test)
Zoller ES PTO, 6:30 p.m.
- 18**
King ES school photos (4-6)
Van Corlaer ELA dinner, 5 p.m.
- 19**
Yates ES PTO
SHS MST House PTO & Guidance Roundtable, Rm D1
- 20**
PSAT exam at SHS, 8 a.m.
- 25**
King ES Family Math Night, 6 p.m.
- 27**
King ES Fall Dance, grades 4-6, 6 p.m.
ACT exam at SHS, 8 a.m.
- 29**
Daylight Savings Time ends
- 31**
Half Day — All Students
King ES Character Day Parade, 9:30 a.m.
Lincoln ES Community Fair

November

- 1**
Van Corlaer ES school photos
Zoller ES BEST Assembly, 2 p.m.
- Blue Roses Theatre Co. presents Neil Simons Broadway Bound, Nov. 1-4, 7 p.m. (2 p.m. matinee on Nov. 4) at the Black Box Theatre, Schenectady High School**
- 2**
King ES PTO, 4 p.m.
- 3**
ACT registration deadline (Dec. 9 test)
Howe ES Literacy Night, Families Sing
- 4**
SAT test at SHS, 8 a.m.
- 6**
Howe ES PTO
- 7**
Half Day — All Students
Election Day
- 8**
Paige ES PTO
Yates ES PPT
ACC@PV PPT
- 9**
Go Home Early Drill (school

- dismisses 15 min. early - no after school activities)
Yates ES Movie Night
Mont Pleasant SDM, PTO, PPT
- 10**
Veterans' Day - NO SCHOOL
- 13-14**
Half Day — Elementary
Parent Conferences
- 14**
Oneida MS PTO, 6:30 p.m.
Central Park MS PTO, 6 p.m.
Woodlawn ES PTO, 6 p.m.
Zoller ES PTO, 6:30 p.m.
- 15-16**
Grade 5 Social Studies test
- 16**
King ES Family Movie Night, 6 p.m.
Yates ES PTO
Lincoln ES Turkey Dinner & ELA Night
SHS MST House PTO
- 17**
Van Corlaer ES Fall Test
Howe ES school photo retakes
Student Progress Reports mailed home
- 20**
SSFA Fall Concert, SHS, 7 p.m.
- 21**
Yates ES school photo retakes

23-24

Thanksgiving Recess - NO SCHOOL

- 28**
King ES school photo retakes
ACC@PV PPT Holiday Craft Night
- 29**
Half Day - Elementary
Parent Conferences

December

- 1**
Van Corlaer ES Christmas Caroling, 6 p.m.
- 2**
Paige ES Holiday Breakfast
SAT test at SHS, 8 a.m.
- 4**
Zoller ES BEST Assembly, 10 a.m.
- 6**
King ES PTO 4 p.m.
- 7**
Half Day - Elementary
Parent Conferences
- 8**
King ES school spirit day
Zoller ES Movie Night, 7 p.m.
- 9**
ACT test at SHS, 8 a.m.
- 11**
King ES Holiday Shop, Dec. 11-15

▶ Board of Education

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