

Superintendent Highlights

November 2018



Future Capital Project

Being the largest school district in the heart of Tioga County, one of our goals is to ensure we are able to offer the top educational programs and facilities in the region, to both our students and community. Over the past few years we have been analyzing our district's facilities closely and recognize the importance of

maintaining and upgrading, in order to provide the necessary educational opportunities for our students, both now and in the future. We are currently at the end of several building projects that were primarily funded by FEMA as a result of the flooding in 2011. In the past year, we used stakeholder input from district surveys through Thought Exchange, analyzed our five-year facilities plan and held meetings with groups of staff members from both Owego Free Academy and Apalachin Elementary to come up with future building project needs. The district's goal is to have our community vote on a capital project January 22, 2019. The project will total 24 million dollars in construction upgrades with a total of 1.7 million of reimbursed Smart School Bond Act funds. There will be a no tax impact as a result of this project. The BOE will vote on the capital project resolution at the November 29th Board of Education Meeting. Beginning in December, the community will have the opportunity to learn more about the projects through literature mailings and informational meetings. Below, I have outlined some of the items that will be addressed in this project.

OFA/OAMS & AES

- Health and Safety (Single Point Entry Upgrades)
- Maintenance Upgrades
- 21st Century Learning Spaces Focused on STEAM and Pathway Development
- Arts & Music
- Athletics

New Athletic Stadium Update

Phase 1 of our new multi-purpose turf athletic stadium is now complete. The home bleachers and new press box, along with the sound system, have been installed as part of Phase 1. Spring 2019 will bring Phase 2, where we will resurface the track and install visitor bleachers. Our student-athletes enjoyed the opportunity to compete on a state-of-the-art facility. The stadium is also used daily by our middle and high school physical education classes.

Greenhouse Grant Project

The planning phase of the Greenhouse project is complete and we will use the \$350,000 grant, awarded with the support of Senator Akshar, to complete this project in the Summer & Fall of 2019. We are excited to add this component to expand our agriculture program.

New Communication Tool

The OACSD Mobile App was released in October. The app makes district information more readily accessible for students, parents, staff and community members. The OACSD app is free and works on any smart phone or mobile device. The app provides quick access to everything school-related, including calendars, contact information, important documents, cafeteria menus, and more. Users can customize which buildings they want to receive information from and enable push notifications to get instant alerts on news, events and any weather or emergency-related closings and delays.

Robotics Champs

OAMS students competed against 17 other local school districts during the fourth annual Engineering Day hosted by Broome-Tioga BOCES. The students challenge was to design the best functional Rube Goldberg machine. Teams of 4 were provided a set of everyday materials and given two hours to craft their machines. This hands-on competition required students to use not only their academic skills, but also interpersonal skills such as time management, teamwork and problem solving. The machines were judged on criteria including the number of steps involved in their machine, whether or not the machine was successful, how long the machine took to complete its run, and the creative use of materials. With 45 middle school teams competing, the OAMS team of Thomas Anderson, Kaden Krohmalney, Taylor Dalton and Haley Stephens took 1st Place.

Music Recognition All State NYSSMA

Owego Free Academy has 6 students selected and 2 alternates for the All State NYSSMA ensembles. Out of 800 students selected as the best musicians in the state, seniors Camden Dyer-DeCator (bass 1), Abigail Dove (soprano 1) and Ally Fisher (soprano 1) are in the Mixed Choir. Juniors Ashleigh Allen (alto 1) and Rachel Raftis (alto 2) will sing with the Treble Choir. Junior, Emmalyn Saddlemire, will play clarinet in the Symphonic Band. Seniors Andrew Clark (bass 2) and Katie Ulrich (alto 1) are alternates. This is the largest group of students to attend All State in OFA's recent history. They perform with the NYSSMA All State ensembles in Rochester on December 1st and 2nd.

District Hosts Apprenticeship Program and looks to build Pre-Apprenticeship Program

This summer we launched an Apprenticeship program through a partnership with Central New York Manufacturing Association, Tioga County, Broome Community College and local companies such as Crown Cork and Seal, Applied Technology, and Crowley's. This school year we will be looking to build our own Pre-Apprenticeship model as a feeder program, starting with Building and Construction Systems, Agriculture and Advanced Manufacturing. The goal is to have the programs up and running for the 2019-20 School Year. The plan is for students to have future opportunities for employment right in our own community. If we keep students on campus and in our own programs, we believe they will stay more engaged in our school community.

Fall Athletics

Our Fall Athletics season wrapped up this past weekend. In Swim & Dive, 7 girls competed in the NYSPHSAA State Championship on Saturday at Ithaca College. Girls Varsity Volleyball went 18-1 in the regular season, ended as Section IV & Class B Regional Champions, and the Class B State Runner-up. The

Boys Cross Country team ended their season as Section IV Class B Champions for the 2nd Straight year. 10 runners competed in the NYSPHSAA Championship race in mid-November. The Varsity Girls team was the Section IV, Class B Runner-up and 4 runners competed at the state championship meet. Kayla Hankey & Lauren Angelone ended the Varsity Tennis season as Section IV, Class B doubles champions. The Indians Varsity Football team went 6-2 in the regular season, qualifying for the Section IV, Class B semifinals, while members of the Varsity Golf team competed in both the Section IV Class B and STAC Championship matches. Our Girls Varsity Field Hockey team ended their season as the Section IV, Class B runner-up and the Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer teams saw postseason play in the Section IV semifinals. Overall, it was a great season for our OA Athletics teams and we're looking forward to the start of the Winter Season. Good luck to all of our student-athletes!

STEAM City/Town

We are currently in the process of putting together a few collaborative teams consisting of district staff and community partners to begin discussing the idea of building a STEAM City/Town. It is essential that the school district and community partners are working together to prepare our region for the future local economy. We are continuing to equip our students with the skills necessary to fill the future workforce roles in our community and region.

Here is a look at our vision and how a STEAM City/Town will positively impact our area.

Goal: To prepare our students to be globally competitive with 21st Century skills for building businesses, careers and jobs.

Objective: Cities, towns and regions create a comprehensive 21st Century STEAM immersion for students in grades PK-12, focusing on technology and entrepreneurship.

A STEAM City/Town Project: Collective impact that will tap into education and embrace the technology revolution, in order to provide 21st Century education for ALL of its children. STEAM City/Town can provide economic viability in a 21st Century economy by developing the workforce to build current businesses, will position a city, town, or region as a 21st Century place in which those will want to live, work and play.

Collective Impact: Partners from each of these groups will be invited to join one of the teams.

1. Government
2. School District
3. Community Partners
4. Higher Education
5. Business
6. Vendor Partners
7. Economic & Workforce Development

Best Regards,

Corey A. Green