



# HANNIBAL

## Central School District

### Esports program launches in Hannibal schools; Spring season approaching



*Members of the Hannibal Central School District's esports team practice on state-of-the-art equipment. The team's spring sports season is just around the corner.*

After a successful inaugural season in the fall, the Hannibal Central School District's esports team is gearing up for its spring season.

According to coach James Schwartz, esports provides players with an opportunity to compete against their peers from other schools. Students

have state-of-the-art gaming technology available to work together, strategize and compete in games such as Rocket League, Super Smash Bros. and Mario Kart.

"For a lot of our students, they've played these games before but not on competitive teams," Schwartz said. "Esports gives them a chance to work together in a team environment. They are able to develop soft skills like communication and problem-solving, and they also develop leadership skills."

Schwartz noted that the skills students learn in esports can provide additional opportunities in the future. Several local colleges offer scholarships to students for participating on college esports teams, including Oswego and Syracuse, he added.

For Schwartz, one of the most rewarding parts of coaching the team is watching students come out of their shell and thrive in a team atmosphere. Many of the fall esports participants had not been

involved in other school-related extracurricular activities, and esports provided a chance to reach additional students.

"I think for many of our students, this is their first sports team they've played on, and watching them develop teamwork skills and be connected to something larger than themselves is fantastic," Schwartz said. "I also think we get a lot of students from other sports who are excited to try something new and bring an outstanding level of leadership and predeveloped skills to the table. It's exciting to watch students of all skill levels, abilities, and walks of life, working together and helping each other out."

For more information about the esports program, please contact Mr. Schwartz at [jschwartz@hannibalschools.org](mailto:jschwartz@hannibalschools.org).

### Hannibal Home and School donation provides games, puzzles for Fairley students



*Teacher Chloe Weaver looks on as her students play together, using some of the items donated by Hannibal Home and School.*

At Fairley Elementary School, lunch time has also become a time for learning and playing, thanks to the generosity of Hannibal Home and School.

The organization recently donated several items such as magna tiles, games and toys for students to enjoy after they've finished their lunch in the cafeteria. The donated items give

students an opportunity to work together solving puzzles, building things and sharing with one another.

Students have enjoyed the extra play time and social interaction with their classmates and were grateful for the generous donation.

### Donation Benefits Hannibal Students

Members of the NYSOPBA western region recently presented a \$1,000 donation to benefit the Hannibal Central School District. The money will be used by the Life Skills classes at DMK and the HS, as well as the Unified Sports program, which provides inclusive athletic and leadership opportunities for all students.





## 17 Hannibal High School students inducted into National Honor Society

Academic excellence, character and citizenship were celebrated during a recent ceremony at Hannibal High School, as 17 students were inducted into the National Honor Society.

The school's Sadie Adamy chapter of NHS welcomed its newest members into its prestigious ranks. Each inductee met the criteria for membership, which included an application process as well as the ability to demonstrate their commitment to scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character.

"These students are exemplars of those traits," said Hannibal High School Executive Principal Meredith Furlong. "When I look at the faces of these inductees, I see the faces of our future. I am so proud of them for all they have accomplished."



The 2022 Hannibal High School National Honor Society inductees gather for a photo following the recent ceremony welcoming them into the prestigious organization.

According to NHS co-advisors Lisa Mason and Kristina Licatase-Linn, the inductees have been positive role models for their peers. In addition to their academic successes, students have volunteered their time coordinating blood drives for the American Red Cross,

working at events such as the Christmas Bureau Carnival and community trick-or-treating, and serving the community in other ways.

"These students are just incredible human beings," said Superintendent Christopher A. Staats. "Congratulations on this achievement!"

The inductees lit a candle and recited the NHS oath to signify their membership into the organization. Each also received a certificate celebrating their accomplishment.

This year's inductees were Mandy Allen, Katrina Ryder, Hailey Barbeau, Skylar Blake, Ryan Dennison, Ethan Fowler, Alison Hallinan, Quinlan Horn, Julianna Kaufman, Chloe Kerst, Mia Knight, Chloe Knopp, Trinity Lannon, James Moore, Riley Somers, Sean Taylor and Reese Watts.

## Grant funds to boost Hannibal full-day UPK program

The Hannibal Central School District recently secured funds to bolster its UPK instruction and continue operating as a full-day program.

The funding, which totaled \$245,000 for Hannibal, was made possible through the New York State UPK Expansion Grant program. Funds were awarded to districts based on plans to serve high-need populations, level of existing pre-kindergarten services and the extent to which a district planned to maximize the total number of eligible 4-year-old children served in its programs.

"We are thrilled to be one of only 24 recipients statewide to receive this critical funding," said HCS D Superintendent of Schools Christopher A. Staats. "Our grant-writing team did a phenomenal job gathering data and submitting a compelling application to help secure these much-needed funds."

Staats noted that the grant will allow the district's youngest learners to benefit from full-day programming that will help them develop the foundational skills needed to be successful in school.

"When we strengthen supports and provide equitable opportunities for children in their early years, we see the benefits throughout their school years and beyond," New York State Education Commissioner Betty A. Rosa said. "The New York State Education Department is committed to expanding full-day prekindergarten programs that provide a strong educational foundation for our children, resulting in positive long-term outcomes."



A Hannibal UPK student taps into his imagination and STEAM skills while building a structure with Magna Tiles. The district recently secured a \$245,000 grant for its full-day UPK program.

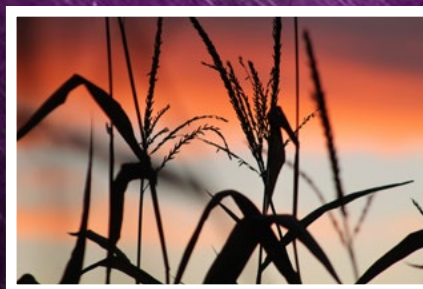
## Hannibal High School students earn recognition for artwork

Three talented Hannibal High School student artists recently earned recognition for their work, which is now on exhibit at Onondaga Community College.

Madison Ruggio, Gavin Griffin and Meredith Wakefield each submitted work to the CNY Scholastic Art Competition. Their submissions were among nearly 3,900 from students representing schools across Central New York. Each year, students submit artwork ranging from ceramics to photography and everything in between. The pieces are judged by a panel of nearly 70 artists, educators and photographers.

Ruggio's photography titled, "Fungi" earned a Gold Key distinction while Griffin's photograph "Still Morning" received a Silver Key and Wakefield's Scratchboard piece, "King of the Pride," earned honorable mention.

Members of the Hannibal High School Art Department lauded the students for their achievement, which will be on display in the Whitney Applied Technology Center on the Onondaga Community College campus now through March 4.



Madison Ruggio's Gold Key photography, "Fungi."  
Gavin Griffin's Silver Key photograph, "Still Morning."  
Meredith Wakefield's scratchboard piece "King of the Pride."



## Hannibal student musicians deliver holiday performances



*Decked out in a Santa hat, a Dennis M. Kenney Middle School student plays the drums during a recent concert.*

Several dozen Hannibal Central School District student musicians recently took the Lockwood Auditorium stage to perform holiday concerts.

The high school band and chorus opened the concert season with a full set list on Dec. 13. Group songs such as "White Christmas," "Shalom Chauverim" and "The Snow Carol" were complemented with several solo performances. Two nights later, the fourth- through eighth-grade concert provided an evening of music with dozens of winter and holiday-inspired classics.

The HCSD Music Department hosts a variety of concerts throughout the school year. For a full list of upcoming events, visit [hannibalcsd.org](http://hannibalcsd.org).



*Hannibal High School band students perform a holiday concert in mid-December.*

## Hannibal Launches Monthly Reading Buddies Program



*High school and elementary students get together for the Reading Buddies program.*

Students from Hannibal High School will now be partnering with second and third grade students at Fairley Elementary for an exciting new "reading buddies" program each month.

On Dec. 15, students from Hannibal High School's Students Against Destructive Decisions Club met for the first time with their new reading buddies at Fairley Elementary.

High School volunteers read stories to the younger students, shared a snack and even made simple crafts with festive themes. The new program is in collaboration with the second and third grade teams at Fairley led by Lydia Scholton.

SADD Club advisor Roseann Inzalaco explained the benefits of the new opportunity. "The goal is for SADD members to participate in a positive and impactful activity with a younger student in their community," she said, noting that younger students may be encouraged to read and make positive decisions because of the interaction.

The program plans to meet monthly through the rest of the year.

## Hannibal alumna presented with Shirley Chillson Cianfarano Scholarship

After successfully completing her freshman fall semester at Keuka College, Hannibal High School alumna Julia Shortslef (class of 2022) was recently presented with the Shirley Chillson Cianfarano Scholarship.

The \$500 annual scholarship serves as a tribute to Cianfarano, a longtime guidance secretary in the Hannibal Central School District who left a lasting impact on the community. Upon her passing, family and friends created a scholarship in her name, which is awarded each year to a student who exhibits good character, commitment, leadership and academic achievement.

Shortslef met the criteria and will use the money to help defray some of the expenses associated with college, where she is pursuing a degree in occupational therapy.



*Members of the Cianfarano family, representatives from the Hannibal Alumni Association, and the Shortslef family were recently on hand for a scholarship check presentation ceremony. From left are Hannibal Central School District Superintendent Christopher A. Staats; Hannibal High School Executive Principal Meredith Furlong; Terry Wilbur, of the Hannibal Alumni Association; Julia Shortslef; Kim Shortslef; Jan Cianfarano; Kylie Wilbert; and Jackie Cianfarano Wilbert.*

## Fairley students learn about law enforcement careers



*David Hall and his K9 partner Haas meet with Fairley students during a recent event.*

A career exploration initiative at Fairley Elementary School recently introduced students to local law enforcement personnel.

In conjunction with National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, Fairley students had an opportunity to meet with area police agencies while learning about that career path. Representatives from the Oswego and Onondaga County Sheriff's Departments, Oswego, Fulton and Syracuse Police Departments, and New York State Police were on hand to talk about their careers.

"This is a great way for students to have positive interactions with law enforcement officers and learn about that career," said Hannibal Central School District career resource specialist Meg Welling. "Students really enjoyed seeing the police K9 unit, participating in some physical fitness activities, and asking the officers about their careers. We're so thankful to everyone who made this event such a success."



*Fairley third-graders ask questions to area law enforcement personnel during a career exploration activity.*



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## A Message from the Superintendent

Following a busy December full of concerts, crafts and celebrations, our students and staff have returned to school with momentum to start the new year.

At the elementary school, our students are thriving as new opportunities are presented. The career exploration component provides our students with a glimpse into numerous careers. Partnerships with local businesses and community agencies have given students a chance to meet folks working in

different fields, including law enforcement and environmental science.

Our new esports program also provides unique opportunities to our student population. Students compete against their peers from other schools and use strategy, communication and teamwork to succeed. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who helped launch this innovative program at Hannibal!

As the school year continues, we will remain focused on ensuring we offer quality programming

to meet the diverse needs of our student population. Through the support of our entire community, we can continue that trajectory and we're looking forward to seeing our students' continued growth in 2023!

*Sincerely,  
Christopher A. Staats*

## Turaj represents Hannibal on Section III Student Leadership Committee

Hannibal High School senior Lena Turaj recently capitalized on an opportunity to hone her leadership skills while advocating for fellow athletes as part of a regional committee.

Turaj, who plays varsity soccer and indoor and outdoor track and field, was selected to serve on the Section III Student Leadership Committee after applying last June. She is one of a handful of athletes to be chosen for the role.

"It truly is an honor to be selected," Turaj said. "It gives me a strong platform to make change in my school district."

On Jan. 11, Turaj and three other league representatives from neighboring schools

delivered a presentation to area athletic directors. The presentation talked about leadership clubs in schools, mental health for athletes, community service, referee appreciation, SAAC and nutrition.

"Those were areas that we felt were significant to student-athletes," Turaj said. "It's rewarding to be in a position to advocate for others."

Turaj plans on taking her leadership and athletic abilities to SUNY Brockport in the fall, where she hopes to play soccer and run track and field.



*Hannibal High School senior Lena Turaj (right) goes for a 50/50 ball against Skaneateles during a game in the fall. Turaj was selected to participate in the Section III Student Leadership Committee.*