

Hannibal students participate in environmental lesson

The significance of conservation and valuing natural resources recently took center stage at Dennis M. Kenney Middle School.

In the fifth-grade science classrooms, students participated in workshops about climate change, preservation and interconnectivity, with the lesson culminating in a performance of "Emilia and the Heart of the Amazon."

Students were engaged in the lesson as actors from Merry-Go-Round Playhouse took the stage to present the story of Emilia and her journey through the Amazon. During her journey, she and her friends unite to prevent deforestation.

"The performance showed our students the real threat and impact that deforestation can have on our environment and on society as a whole," said one fifth-grade teacher. "This opened up our students' eyes and gave them a chance to brainstorm their own strategies to reduce the use of natural resources."



Actors from Merry-Go-Round Playhouse perform "Emilia and the Heart of the Amazon" for fifth-graders at Dennis M. Kenney Middle School.

Hannibal fifth-graders build, race Hovercrafts in STEAM lesson

A multifaceted hands-on learning experience came to the Hannibal Central School District recently during the Hovercraft Project.

The unique opportunity gave fifth-graders a chance to develop their teamwork and communication skills while diving into complex topics in the STEAM fields. Students utilized their math and engineering knowledge to measure and cut materials to build blower-powered hovercrafts. Once assembled, teams created hypotheses and tested out the hovercrafts using different variables to achieve the best results.

"The students really embraced the lesson," said Dennis M. Kenney Middle School Assistant Principal Cayla Defren. "They applied teamwork, critical thinking, productive struggle, and problem-solving skills to create fast-moving hovercrafts, and the end results were fantastic."

Students celebrated as they worked together to race the hovercrafts from one end of the gymnasium to the other. Each fifth-grader had an opportunity to pilot a hovercraft, with

teachers and administrators also getting in on the action to wrap up the day.

The Hovercraft Project was brought to the HCSD in partnership with the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's Arts-in-Education program.

Hannibal fifth-grader Benjamin Fowler is all smiles as he races his team's Hovercraft across the gymnasium.



Hayden Granzow tests out the Hovercraft she and her team members assembled during a hands-on STEAM lesson.

Students, families come together for Fairley holiday craft night



A Fairley student shows off the Santa hat he made during the school's recent holiday craft night.

To gear up for the holiday season, Fairley Elementary families recently created ornaments and decorations during the school's annual craft night.

The cafeteria was bustling with excitement as students, siblings, parents and guardians came together to create holiday keepsakes. Students and family members could

create different projects at nearly a dozen stations that were set up with construction paper, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, glue, crayons, scissors and glitter.

"This is always a fun event and gives our families a chance to come together for a fun craft night," said Assistant Principal Stephanie Griffin.

Throughout the evening, students made Santa hats, ornaments, reindeer candy canes and other hand-crafted holiday items to take home. They also had an opportunity to sip hot cocoa and listen to Christmas music during the event.



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Our students come first! We are dedicated to maximizing the potential of each individual student. Our educational programs and experiences are purposefully designed to position our students for success. With the support of parents, faculty, staff, administration, community members and the Board of Education, each student will become a confident, responsible and proud graduate of the Hannibal Central School District.

A Message from the Superintendent

The holiday season is often a time of reflection, and as we look back on the previous calendar year, we recall our collective successes and progress as a Warrior family. Although we celebrate our students' achievements each day, it's especially rewarding to look at the big picture and long-term growth that has transformed our district in recent years.

Student proficiency and graduation rates have climbed significantly since 2015. As a result of our students' progress, our district is no longer on the New York State Education Department's list of "focus districts." These accomplishments are truly a source of Warrior pride and the result of a systemic, team approach to education.

With a desire to keep the pendulum moving forward, our Fairley staff members have embraced the Oswego County Literacy Initiative and implemented successful, evidenced-based teaching methods to help students build foundational reading skills. This approach to reading instruction is helping our students develop confidence and master those initial reading skills at a more rapid pace. We're looking forward to our students' continued success in this area.

In addition to student progress in the classroom, our athletes, artists, actors and musicians continue to be a source of Purple Pride. These students excel in their extracurricular activities while maintaining their commitment to academics. We are so proud of all they have accomplished and encourage you to catch them in action at games, competitions, concerts and other performances.

As we remember all that our students, our district and our community have accomplished in 2019, we are even more excited to see what is in store for 2020. If the past year has been any indication, the new year is sure to be a success for our Warrior family.

From my home to yours, I wish you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Staats

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High School Band



7th/8th Grade Chorus



AM Pre-K Students

Songs of the season

Our student musicians performed holiday songs during several concerts throughout December.



Fifteen Hannibal students inducted into National Honor Society

The Hannibal Central School District recently celebrated 15 students for their scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship and character during a National Honor Society induction.

The inductees submitted applications as part of a rigorous selection process, according to NHS co-advisor Lisa Mason. Students met a variety of criteria, including achieving a minimum of a 90 percent overall GPA, volunteer service and demonstrated leadership abilities.

"I would like to commend them for this outstanding achievement," Mason said as she detailed the many community service projects NHS members participate in throughout the school year.

To make the achievement official, the inductees each lit a candle and took the NHS oath, pledging to continue embodying the high academic and personal standards that define the organization.

"You young men and young women make our district so proud," said Superintendent Christopher Staats. "I respect your leadership and all that you do for our school community. Congratulations!"

The inductees included seniors Jhanae Douglas, Matthew Fellows, Kristin Kellogg, Zachary Moore and Faith Smith; and juniors Austin Calkins, Emma Deloff, Marc Fellows, Mason Garbus, Thomas Kenyon, Serena Mashaw, Lucas Mason, Triston Myers, Phillip Nosko and Emma Wood.



Fairley Elementary students participate in the Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week.

Hour of Code introduces Fairley students to computer science

Fairley Elementary students recently participated in the "Hour of Code" to celebrate Computer Science Education Week.

As part of the learning initiative, kindergarten through fourth-grade students learned the basics of computer code under the guidance of library media specialist Marie Smith. Students watched a tutorial, asked questions, then applied their knowledge in the computer lab on code.org.

"It sparks an interest in coding for some of the students," Smith said. "I think students should be exposed to all kinds of different learning opportunities. Maybe some will pursue it in the future, but they won't know unless they try it at some point."

Smith noted that the Hour of Code teaches students that computer science is fun and creative, and accessible at all ages.

 Check out our Facebook page for more photos and information about district-wide events. facebook.com/HannibalCSD

Hannibal educator earns spot in NYS Master Teacher Program



Lisa Mason is one of only two dozen CNY educators to be accepted into the New York State Master Teacher Program this year.

When Hannibal High School science teacher Lisa Mason began her career, she never imagined she would be recognized as one of the state's elite educators. However, hard work and a passion for education recently earned her a spot in the New York State Master Teacher Program.

The program, according to its website, recognizes teachers for their "dedication to providing the most innovative STEM education to their students, their commitment to professional growth, and their enthusiasm for sharing their successful practices with colleagues in their schools, districts, and regions."

"It's a great honor and I'm excited that I can work with a lot of great teachers to bring ideas together as part of the program," Mason said. "I would like to thank the HCSD administration and my colleagues for encouraging me to pursue acceptance into this program."

Mason's path to success began after graduating from SUNY Oswego with an education degree. She went on to earn her certification in chemistry and biology and began teaching in the Hannibal Central School District in 2006. She currently teaches living environment, consumer chemistry, AP environmental science and related labs.

"I try to combine a lot of different methods to reach students who learn from different teaching styles," Mason

said. "We start the class with a review to reinforce the previous lesson. I use notes and visuals, and then encourage partner or individual hands-on work. Then we wrap up by reflecting and talking about what we learned."

For Mason, that combination has proven successful, and she said she is eager to begin networking with other Master Teachers in the region.

"I'm always trying to find new ways to approach things and learn," Mason said. "This program gives me a great network of colleagues to share ideas with and participate in additional professional development opportunities."



Hannibal High School science teacher Lisa Mason works with students in her consumer chemistry class as they test the chemical makeup of various shampoos.

Hannibal students, staff embrace literacy efforts

To build on its upward momentum and increasing academic success, the Hannibal Central School District recently introduced a new teaching initiative designed to bolster literacy rates.

Through the Oswego County Literacy Initiative, HCSD elementary teachers and staff have participated in professional development opportunities designed to give them the tools to help students learn the skills needed to become successful readers.

"We very much appreciate the efforts of all of our staff in putting our students first," said HCSD Assistant Superintendent Dee Froio. "We wanted to ensure that everyone had the same level of knowledge with regard to evidence-based practices that could be implemented to positively impact student achievement. The focus is truly on building teachers' capacity to make instructional decisions based on student needs regardless of the program."

With the shift in how reading is taught, students have already shown progress in their ability to learn the basic skills required to read. Teachers have reported that students are developing more confidence in their abilities and are mastering foundational reading skills more quickly.

"Based on a comparison of our fall 2018 and fall 2019 data, benchmarking results look promising and we are excited to see the progress between the fall and winter test administration this school year," she said. "All of our students can achieve at high levels. This initiative is making that a reality by encouraging all of us to be reflective about how our practices align with the needs of our students."

Although the initiative is in its early stages, teachers and administrators are confident that the literacy efforts will have a long-term positive effect on overall achievement.

"We are excited about the direction we are headed and are looking forward to celebrating the continued success of our students and staff," Froio said.

Christmas Bureau carnival raises nearly \$6k for families in need

The holiday spirit was in the air at Hannibal High School recently, as community members united for the annual Christmas Bureau carnival.

Hannibal faculty, staff, students, parents and local families attended the fundraising event, which raised money to benefit families in need during the holiday season. Members of the National Honor Society volunteered their time at game booths, selling tickets for basket raffles, and collecting food and toy donations.

"Year after year, we are blown away by everyone's generosity but not at all surprised at how we come together for this cause," said Christmas Bureau committee member Brooke Fingland. "I am beyond thrilled to report that this year was our most successful Christmas carnival to date! We profited \$5,850.80, and every cent will go directly in to the Christmas Bureau Fund."



Fairley Elementary students Mason Babbitt and Taylor Earle are all smiles after playing games during the annual Christmas Bureau carnival.



A Hannibal student enjoys the balloon animal he received during the Hannibal Central School District's recent Christmas Bureau carnival.

As a result of the fundraising efforts this year, nearly 175 families will receive boxes with food, clothing and toys just in time for Christmas.

Hannibal students build apps in coding class

As computer-based jobs continue to grow, students in the Hannibal Central School District are embracing high-tech learning options.

This year, Dennis M. Kenney Middle School students are building code and developing applications using JavaScript during a 10-week course in Tony Tusso's classroom. Throughout the process, they are learning about algorithms, program design and principles of computer science.

"Yes, they learn about coding, but they also develop important skills that translate into any field," Tusso said. "They are developing problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, which will take them wherever they want to go."



Dennis M. Kenney Middle School sixth-graders work on a Chromebook to create code for a game as part of Tony Tusso's computer programming class.

The students are also honing their communication skills as they work with a partner through the code.org curriculum. After learning the foundational skills, they apply their knowledge to build a game or an app.

"There is a huge need for computer programmers today and there will be in the future," Tusso said. "This curriculum is right for these students and it gives them the basics to understand coding. They'll be well-equipped and prepared for the future."

Penny Leonard receives state PE Teacher of the Year honor



DMK's Penny Leonard is the Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year for New York state.

Dennis M. Kenney Middle School physical education teacher Penny Leonard's passion for her career and community recently led to statewide recognition.

Leonard, a 2000 graduate of the Hannibal Central School District, was named Middle School PE Teacher of the Year for New York state. She joined PE teachers from across the state during an annual conference and awards ceremony in late November at the

Turning Stone Convention Center.

"I was shocked when I found out," Leonard said. "It is quite the honor to be recognized on the state level."

The award comes two years after she earned the Central North Zone Middle School PE Teacher of the Year distinction. That award came after a nomination from Fairley PE teacher Lynn Halliwell, who praised Leonard for her commitment to her students' health and physical well-being.

"The best part of the job is being able to make connections with the kids," Leonard said. "They relate to me because I graduated from here and I take pride in being part of this community."

Leonard noted that her success is not an individual effort, and expressed her gratitude to a strong supporting cast.

"I'd like to thank my PE colleagues and also the administration for being so supportive and letting us try new things in the curriculum," she said.

Grammy winners join Hannibal students for once-in-a-lifetime performance

A pair of Grammy Award-winning artists teamed up with Dennis M. Kenney Middle School students for a once-in-a-lifetime concert Nov. 6.

Kate Lee and Forrest O'Connor, world-renowned bluegrass singers and songwriters with chart-topping hits, met with Hannibal student musicians for a personalized learning experience. The duo spoke to middle school students of the hard work and dedication required to achieve success and punctuated their visit with a combined performance of "Glimpse of Heaven."

The song struck a chord with DMK music teacher Jeffrey Sawyer, who wrote it and helped facilitate the performance with the seventh and eighth-grade chorus.

"This is such a fantastic learning experience for our students," Sawyer said. "They will remember this for the rest of their lives. Not many chorus students have an opportunity to perform alongside Grammy winners."

The O'Connors have collaborated with artists such as Paul Simon and Zac Brown, and they have performed at the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium and Fenway Park. While they have a long resume of accomplishments, the pair noted that it's important to stay grounded and continue to work hard.

"They are so humble and were able to reinforce the importance of practicing and working hard," Sawyer said. "We're so grateful to be able to provide this opportunity for our students."



Bluegrass musicians Kate Lee O'Connor and Forrest O'Connor perform for Hannibal students.



Members of the Dennis M. Kenney Middle School chorus stand alongside Grammy-winning artists Kate Lee O'Connor and Forrest O'Connor, with Hannibal music teacher Jeffrey Sawyer at right.

Hannibal foreign exchange student showcases culture, knowledge

To celebrate International Education Week recently, Hannibal High School foreign exchange student Tri Mahka introduced her classmates to Indonesian culture.

Mahka, one of the Hannibal Central School District's three foreign exchange students this year, talked with elementary, middle and high school students about her home country. She delivered several presentations detailing Indonesian geography, government, customs and traditions.

"Our school and our daily life are so different back home," Mahka said, explaining that classes at her school in Indonesia are held outside rather than in buildings.

She also showed students Indonesian currency and other items from the place she calls home.



Hannibal High School foreign exchange student Tri Mahka talks about Indonesian money during a presentation to her peers as part of International Education Week.