



THE FALCON

Fall 2024

Falconer
Central School
District Newsletter

Upcoming Events

October - - - - -	
17	FBLA Fall District Mtg.
21	Elementary PTO Mtg. 6:30 p.m. @ Fenner
22	Fenner Picture Retakes
23	MS/HS Picture Retakes Temple Picture Retakes
24	Senior Portrait Retakes
26	Marching Band Championship Competition
30	3B's Day (Temple Elem.)
31	PTO Fall Festivals (Elem.)
November - - - - -	
1	Superintendent's Conference Day (No School)
1-2	NYSSMA Jr. High All-State Akron High School
5	Board of Education Mtg. 5:30 p.m. @ MS/HS
8	1/2 Day (Elementary Only) Middle School Play 7:30 p.m. MS/HS Aud.
9	Middle School Play 2:30 p.m. MS/HS Aud.
11	Veteran's Day (No School)
15-16	NYSSMA Jr. High All-State SUNY Fredonia
18	Elementary PTO Mtg. 6:30 p.m. @ Fenner
19	Board of Education Mtg. 5:30 p.m. @ MS/HS
22	1/2 Day (Elementary Only) Blood Drive @ MS/HS Auditorium
27-29	Thanksgiving Recess (No School)

Dot Day!

Students from UPK to seniors as well as faculty and staff took a moment in September to make their mark. A global celebration of creativity, courage and collaboration, based on Peter H. Reynolds' book *The Dot*.



In This Edition

Administrative Letter	2
New Faculty and Staff	2-3
MS/HS News	4-6
Elementary News	6-7



Stephen M. Penhollow,
Superintendent
spenhollow@falconerschools.org



Welcome Back FCS Golden Falcons for the 2024-2025 school year!!! We're excited to be back to school with our students and FCS Family! Our teachers, administrators, and support staff started their school year on August 27th with three days of professional learning to jumpstart the education of all the growing minds that pass through our doors daily. Our Back-to-School Bash at the MS/HS was another amazing success! Representatives from colleges and universities were present along with a variety of FCS clubs and local organizations outside to meet with our kids and families. We also had a great in-person turnout at both Harvey C. Fenner and Paul B.D. Temple Elementary schools that same evening.

Education continues to change throughout our state, and we've worked very hard this summer to prepare to meet these ever-changing challenges in standards and assessments. As we enter this new school year, we hope to build on the many successes we had across the District last year, while continuing to build toward our new goals. We are a great community that rises to challenges and supports our schools. Our strength, diversity, and dedication have made Falconer a great place to educate our children.

Please take the time to view our website in the coming months as we share our school's accomplishments and activities with our FCS community. You can find many pictures and news updates on our site at www.falconerscsd.org! Parents are able to log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and determine how they want to be contacted for general announcements, attendance alerts, school cancellation messages, and lunch balance alerts as well as monitoring their children's grades and attendance. We continue to add highlights to the site and our Facebook page each week.

We certainly have a lot of work to do, but we are a great District with great teachers and great support staff. Together, we will achieve great things. On behalf of the Board of Education, we wish the entire Falconer family an exciting and successful 2024-2025 school year!

Stay Falcon Strong!

Meet Our New Faculty & Staff

District

Tiffany Brown: Bus Aide/Monitor
Danielle Hinman: District Treasurer
David McLane: Bus Driver
Josh Riley: BOCES Tech (M-W)
Jason Yonkers: Bus Driver

MS/HS

Elizabeth Case: Cleaner
Andrew Coone: Cleaner
Scott Dean: Cleaner
Todd Guynn: Cleaner
Lorri LeBarron: Cleaner
Brett Muscarella: Alt Ed Teacher
Cade Nelson: Teaching Assistant
Cordell O'Brien: Spec. Ed. Teacher
Kaylee Vincent: Teaching Assistant
Austin Wuerch: Science Teacher

Fenner Elementary

Kerri Brightman: 4th grade Teacher
Kellie Feather: Teacher's Aide
Melanie Gifford: LPN Aide
Jessalyn Peterson-Palmer: Music Teacher (Fenner/Temple)
Ryan Work: AIS Math Teacher

Temple Elementary

Stacy Curtis: Teacher's Aide
Kaleigh Dwyer: Spec. Ed. Teacher
Joseph Hall: School Counselor
Jessica Holmquist: Teacher's Aide
John Guichard: Cleaner
Rachel Himes: Cleaner
Margaret Robbins: Teacher's Aide
Emily Ryberg: Teacher's Aide
Brittany Youngberg: Literacy Teacher



Welcome New Falcons!

"I grew up in Frewsburg. My hobbies include outdoor swimming, hiking, and animals. I have two dogs, Casper, who is three-legged and deaf Ellie, who is a white lab, also I have six chickens, three fish, four cats. I chose this career because I wanted to make a difference in people's lives and it helps me be close to my son who is currently in kindergarten."

Tiffany Brown, Aide/
Bus Monitor

Stacy Curtis,
Kindergarten/Special
Ed. Teacher Aide

"I grew up in Falconer and went to Erie Community College. Reading, camping, and vacationing with my family are my hobbies. I have 12 chickens, five cats, three dogs, and 1 fish. My favorite food is Thanksgiving Dinner. I chose this career to be a small positive in someone's day."

"I grew up in Jamestown. I love spending time with my family and our three dogs. My favorite food is chicken alfredo. Because I always love helping people, I chose this job."

Kellie Feather,
Special Education
Teacher Aide



Joe Hall,
PK-2
School
Counselor

My hometown is Ellery and I have attended SUNY Fredonia, PennWest Edinboro, and St. Bonaventure. I enjoy travel, reading swimming and following my kids' activities. I have three Shih Tzu dogs, Rosie, Norm, and Walter. My favorite food is BBQ. I chose this career because I love helping kids find their way in the world. Each child has unique potential and teachers have the privilege of helping them discover what they can make of themselves."

"Growing up in Jamestown, I enjoy boating on Chautauqua Lake, exercising, and great food like pizza (my favorite). I have a dog named Charlie. I went to Jamestown Community College, SUNY Fredonia, and the University of Rochester. Working with students on their next steps in life is one of the most rewarding careers."

Brett Muscarella,
Alt. Ed.
Teacher



Cade Nelson,
HS
Teaching
Assistant

"Gerry is my hometown, and I have graduated from SUNY Fredonia. My hobbies include music, sports, and history. I love being able to help out. Helping students who are struggling has always been very self-fulfilling and I love seeing students succeed."



"I grew up in Warren, PA and attended Penn State University, and the University of Florida. I enjoy kayaking, horseback riding, playing the flute, and strawberries. I have a golden retriever, Maya, and a cat, Minnie. I love music and have always wanted to share it with others! I enjoy helping students discover and develop their musical talents, and encourage a lifelong appreciation for music."

Jessalyn Peterson-Palmer
UPK-5 Music
Teacher



Josh Riley
BOCES Computer
Specialist

"I'm from Jamestown and have attended Alfred State and Jamestown Community College. I enjoy hunting, fishing, gaming, and steak! I have three cats named Onyx, Mocha, and Luna. I chose a career in tech due to the fact technology is forever changing and it will always be a necessity in everyday life."

"I grew up in Jamestown and attended Jamestown Community College. My hobbies include swimming, bowling, and soccer. I have three cats and one dog and my favorite food is chicken alfredo. I have always wanted to work with kids in a school setting. Being an aide is a step in the door and in the right direction as I pursue a career as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant."

Emily Ryberg
Teacher Aide in
Special Education

Austin Wuerch
H.S. Science
Teacher

"I'm from Alden. I attended Canisius College for Biology and enjoy camping and lifting. I have a dog named Sammy and my favorite food is brisket."

"Falconer is my hometown. I enjoy kayaking, fishing and barbecuing. I have two Golden Doodles and love chicken wings. Although I've been driving bus for 19 years for a neighboring district, I wanted to come home to Falconer!"

Jason Yonkers
Bus Driver

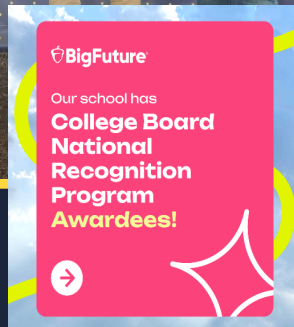
Back-to-School Bash 2024

Falconer families district-wide kicked off the new school year at the Back-to-School Bash on August 29. Students and families had the opportunity to navigate the buildings, meet their teachers, and interact with representatives from various colleges & universities, FCS clubs, and local organizations.



Falconer Students Compete with Randolph FFA at the NYS Fair

Mariah L., Allison C., and Katrina S. went to the NYS Fair with Randolph FFA. Mariah and Allison got 3rd place team in horse evaluation. Katrina received 1st place team in livestock evaluation and the livestock team is going to FFA nationals in Indianapolis in October. Katrina was 10th overall for livestock. Allison was 6th overall for horse evaluation. Congrats and awesome job to all those who participated!



College-Bound Seniors Reminders

Begin Common Application and/or SUNY Application

FAFSA available in December 2024: Please be advised that the 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will launch in December. Every college-bound senior must file a FAFSA form. The FAFSA is the first step in applying for aid to help pay college expenses. Students may visit fafsa.ed.gov/ and get started on this process. Keep in mind that you will be using the tax return filed in 2023. It's recommended you file the FAFSA as soon as it's available so you don't miss out on anything! We will be holding a FAFSA Completion Night on Wednesday, January 22 from 6pm - 8pm. Be on the lookout for more information.

Register for ACT at www.act.org
Register for SAT at www.collegeboard.org



Congratulations Gabe D. (left) and J.C. H. (right) for being announced as the Awardees of this year's College Board National Recognition.

Cheerleaders

The Falconer Varsity Cheerleaders cheering on the Herd at their neon-themed Friday night win on September 6 against Randolph High School.



2024 FREE SUNY APPLICATION WEEK: OCT. 21ST - NOV. 3RD

For more information:
www.suny.edu/attend/apply-to-suny

ATTENTION FALCONER SENIORS!
YOU MAY SUBMIT UP TO FIVE FREE APPLICATIONS TO ANY SUNY SCHOOL

21 OCTOBER

START SUBMITTING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

3 NOVEMBER

FREE SUNY COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINE

DECEMBER

FAFSA AVAILABLE

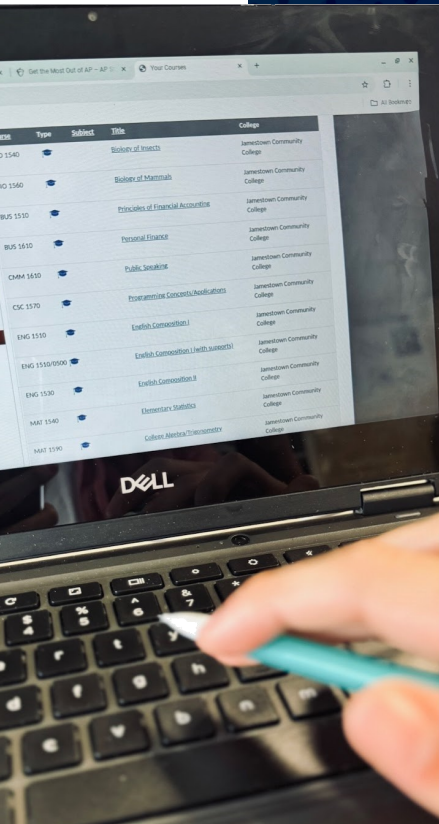
Instant Admit Day



Congratulations! You have been accepted to Jamestown Community College semester! On behalf of our faculty, staff, and administration, **welcome to our family!**

At JCC, our mission is you. We are excited to support you in *your* journey to plan your next steps, we invite you to get to know the opportunities available to student, such as events, student services, programs of study, and more. Please to review these next steps at sunyjcc.edu/nextsteps.

An official acceptance packet will be mailed to you soon. **Your student ID at the top of the letter included in your acceptance packet;** you will need throughout the onboarding process, and for the entire duration of your time. Office of Admissions will continue to reach out to you regularly, and will send registration information closer to the start of the semester. Please note, your contingent upon receipt of your final high school transcript, indicating your and diploma type.



FCS, JCC & HU

Falconer is partnered with Jamestown Community College and Houghton University with an agreement in which the college and university grants credit to pre-matriculated high school students for successfully completing course requirements and meeting standards as on-campus students. Likewise, high school teachers teaching these courses must meet the same credentialing standards as those who teach on campus.

Falconer offers 22 dual enrollment courses equaling 63 credits in which over 250 students participate.

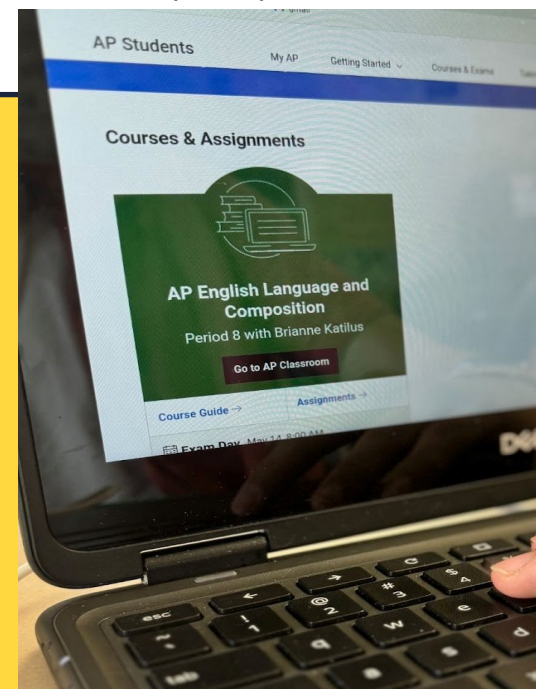
On Friday, September 13, in Participation in Government, all 87 of our seniors applied and were accepted to Jamestown Community College!

AP Courses

Taking AP courses and exams in high school could give you an advantage in college by letting you:

- Earn college credit and placement
- Save money and time
- Stand out to colleges
- Keep your options open

This year we are offering AP Computer Science A, AP English Language and Composition, and AP Physics 1 - Algebra based. In addition, we have AP Microeconomics and AP United States, and AP Government and Politics being offered through Distance Learning. There are 63 students participating here at Falconer High School.





Temple Students of the Month

Congratulations to Temple Elementary June Students of the Month! They met up this summer for a celebratory lunch with Mrs. Hannon.



Falconer FBLA...Represented at Nationals

Following our great success at the State Leadership Conference in April, Falconer FBLA began preparing for the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. While seven members of FBLA High School and Middle-Level chapters qualified to compete, only one was able to make the journey.

Mrs. Johnson escorted Anna C. to the competition where over 15,000 members brought their expertise in hopes of making it to the stage as the top 10 in the nation. Anna presented the Local Chapter Annual Business Report to a panel of judges, attended general sessions and workshops, and served as one of two New York State Voting Delegates for the election of national officers.

The NLC is always an action-packed experience that offers members a chance to build their performance skills, make new friends, network, and learn from a variety of presenters, all while having the experience of a lifetime. Mrs. Johnson and Anna were also able to enjoy FBLA Night at Universal Studios and a trip to SeaWorld.

FBLA is open to students in grades 9-12 and meets each Wednesday in room 131 from 2:35 – 3:00. FBLA Middle-Level is open to those in grades 5-8 and meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. New members are always welcome!





Summer Reading Champions

On Friday, September 20, students at Harvey C. Fenner Elementary gathered for the first assembly of the year to honor the school's summer reading champions! This year's theme was "Camping Out With Books". Students were invited to read "s'more" (a minimum of 50 days during the months of July and August) in an effort to keep reading skills sharp for

the school year ahead. A total of 54 students became "happy campers" by completing the required reading throughout the summer! Their perseverance paid off as they donned their hard-earned gold medals and entered the assembly to the cheers of classmates and school staff. Summer readers were recognized and rewarded with prizes, games, and treats. Hopes are high that even more students will complete the summer reading challenge in 2025!



Challenge Celebration at Temple Elementary

Students at Temple recently also celebrated their participation in the Summer Reading Challenge.



Falconer CSD

2 East Avenue, North
Falconer, NY 14733
www.falconerschools.org

Board of Education

Tracy Schrader, Pres.
Tom Frederes, Vice Pres.
Heather Cardot
Robert Carpenter
Marcella Centi
Mark Wilcox
Ro Woodard

Deliver to Postal Customer

Administration

Stephen Penhollow, Superintendent
Judith Roach, Dir. of Instruction & Staff Development
Sara Kennison, School Business Administrator
Julie Widen, Dir. of Spec. Ed. & Student Support Svcs.
Mary Plumb, Dir. of Technology & STEM
Jeffrey Jordan, High School Principal
Terry English, Middle School Principal
Gary Gilbert, Fenner Elem. Principal
Holly Hannon, Temple Elem. Principal

ECRWSS

Non-Profit
Organization

U.S. Postage
Paid

Permit #30
Jamestown,
NY 14701



Scan for
info



Scan for
form



Free Breakfast & Lunch

As of December 1, 2023, ALL students in the District qualify for one free breakfast and one free lunch per day.

Students may qualify for additional services based on family income. For more information on how the Community Eligibility Provision form is used to benefit students, scan the QR code on the top.

Please take the time to fill out the Community Eligibility Provision form on our website by scanning the code on the bottom.

Save the Date!

Practices are underway in preparation for *The One-Act Play Disaster* by Don Zolidis (performed by special arrangement with Playscripts.com). It will certainly be a knee-slapping good time at the middle school play on **Friday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 9 at 2:30 p.m.**

Pulling off a heist is pretty tough. But that's nothing compared to pulling off an unauthorized adaptation of a popular heist movie onstage. Everything that can go wrong, will go wrong when you've got a light board operator out for revenge, a dollar-store set, and a cast that's a total mess. The smooth-talking con man has crippling stage fright, the acrobat is completely uncoordinated, and the understudy keeps reading all the stage directions out loud. Can the group survive a run-through? It might be a total disaster, but it will definitely be hilarious.

Falconer Fought Hard in an Attempt to Keep Title

Faculty and staff from FCS participated in the Jamestown Battle of the Businesses. Despite taking first place in four events (the scores were the closest in the battle's 36-year history) the trophy slipped through FCS's hands by one point. Congratulations to the Chautauqua County Government for unseating FCS from a six-year reign. We'll see you next year!

