Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The second semester is under way, and report cards will be mailed out at the end of this week. If you do not receive your son’s/daughter’s report card before mid-winter break (February 15-19), please call the principal’s office at 866-2230 to verify your mailing address and request a copy. Grades may also be viewed beginning February 4th using Parent Portal on our school’s website, www.herkimercsd.org. If you have concerns regarding your child’s grades, please do not hesitate to be in contact with their teachers.

Consistent and punctual attendance is an essential component of education. The habits our children form as adolescents help shape who they become as adults. I am hoping to reinforce the importance of being on time for “work,” since school is really their job right now. I ask for your support as we address an issue that has a lasting impact on the quality of their education. The District’s Attendance Policy is enclosed for your reference.

We have been able to sustain numerous extracurricular opportunities for our students, and I am grateful for the service they provide to our school community. Thank you to the Student Council for sponsoring the Winter Weekend Dance and the Outdoors Club for sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive the first week of February. There is currently a severe blood shortage, so please consider donating blood this Thursday, 2/4, 9-2 PM.

We are fortunate to offer a new slate of half-credit electives for high school students this spring. Digital Graphics and Psychology are two of eight College Now courses we offer. We also have Current Events, Creative Writing, Regional Foods, Journalism, Rock & Roll Literature, Meteorology, Clothing & Design, Beginning Piano, Painting, and Ceramics. Classes have already begun, so have your child inquire immediately.

I am hoping to plan a Herkimer “Grad Day” in March, where we invite recent grads to return to HHS to share their experiences and advice with current high school students. If you know a recent (2012-2015) Herkimer graduate who might be willing to join us, please have them contact me by phone or email to let me know when they will be home, so that we may select a date that works for many students who are home during their spring college break. I am eager to show our current students that there is life after Herkimer High School, and that Herkimer grads can do great things!

As always, feel free to call the junior/senior high school office at 866-2230 if you have questions or concerns.

Educationally yours,
Ms. Mary A. Tomaso, Principal
NO SCHOOL
MID-WINTER RECESS
FEBRUARY 15-19, 2016

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016 - 6:00 P.M. (WORKSHOP)
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016 - 6:00 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

Inside This Issue
1. Principal’s Notes
2. February Calendar of Events
3. District News - Nominating Petitions
4. District News - Budget Calendar
5. Guidance News
6. Career Tech Center Visitation
7. School Library Scoops
8. Attendance Policy & Procedure
9. School Health Services News
10. 2015-2016 School Calendar
11. Red Cross Blood Drive
12. February Menu
13. BOCES Nutrition Notes
14. Junior High Newsletter

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION
In the event that we have to close school
the information will be broadcast on the
following radio/television stations:

Global Connect Phone System
W.K.T.V. Ch. 2
W.T.V.H. Ch. 5
News 10 NOW Ch. 10
W.B.U.G. 101.1 FM
W.S.K.S. 97.9 FM
K-Rock 94.9 FM
W.U.T.R. Ch. 7
W.A.D.R. 1480 AM
W.I.B.X. 950 AM
W.X.U.R. 92.7 FM
W.R.U.N. 1150 AM
W.F.R.G. 104.3 FM
K.I.S.S. 102.3 FM
W.U.T.Q. 1550 AM
W.L.Z.W. 98.7 FM
W.B.G.K. 99.7 AM
W.S.K.U. 105.5 FM
W.V.T.L. 1570 AM
W.A.R.M. 93.5 FM
Observer Dispatch

Happy Valentine’s Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPIRIT WEEK</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>PAJAMA DAY</td>
<td>TIE-DYE DAY</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>TWIN DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>PAJAMA DAY</td>
<td>TIE-DYE DAY</td>
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<td>TWIN DAY</td>
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<td>DATE</td>
<td>BUDGET ACTION</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2015 – March 2016</td>
<td>Superintendent begins budget process with administration.</td>
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<td>Late January 2016</td>
<td>Governor’s Executive Budget Proposal announced.</td>
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<td>January 13, 2016</td>
<td>Budget Workshop Meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 10, 2016</td>
<td>Budget Workshop Meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24, 2016</td>
<td>Superintendent’s first draft of the budget presented to the Board at its</td>
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<td>regularly scheduled meeting.</td>
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<td>March 1, 2016</td>
<td>Tax Levy Limit Calculation Due to Comptroller and NYSED.</td>
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<td>March 1, 2016</td>
<td>Board of Education Candidate Petitions available in District Office.</td>
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<td>March 9, 2016</td>
<td>Budget Workshop Meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21, 2016</td>
<td>Adoption of any special propositions at scheduled board meeting.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NOTE: First publication by April 1, 2016 – Publish total of four (4) times</td>
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<td>in the seven weeks preceding the Annual Meeting/Election.</td>
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<td>April 13, 2016</td>
<td>Budget Workshop Meeting. Property tax report card submitted to the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>State Education Department (SED); submission deadline: April 22, 2016.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting Board Candidate Petitions and Special</td>
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<td>Propositions due in the office of District Clerk by 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>April 19, 2016</td>
<td>Adoption of the proposed budget at scheduled board meeting.</td>
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<td>May 2, 2016</td>
<td>Budget statement available in schools and District Office.</td>
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<td>May 9, 2016</td>
<td>Meet the Candidates Night (6 p.m.) and Official Budget Hearing (7 p.m.).</td>
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<td>May 10, 2016</td>
<td>Budget Notice mailed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17, 2016</td>
<td>Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections (1-9 p.m. HHS Library</td>
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<td>Media Center.</td>
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<td>May 25, 2016</td>
<td>Board of Education formally accepts 2016-2017 Board</td>
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<td>Candidate/Operations Budget vote results.</td>
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</table>
DISTRICT NEWS

Nominating Petitions

The following vacancies are to be filled on the Herkimer Board of Education:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Last Incumbent</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Mark Conley</td>
<td>7/1/16</td>
<td>6/30/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Robert Mihaly</td>
<td>7/1/16</td>
<td>6/30/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Daniel Voice</td>
<td>7/1/16</td>
<td>6/30/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Board candidate nominating petitions are available in the District Office beginning March 1, 2016. Interested candidates have until 5 p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2016, to submit nominating petitions. Each petition must be directed to the Clerk of the District, must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the district, must state the residence of each signer and must state the name and residence of the candidate.

To be eligible to run for a seat on the Herkimer Board of Education, a candidate must meet the following qualifications:

a. A citizen of the United States;

b. Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age;

c. Able to read and write;

d. A legal resident of the District for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one (1) year prior to the election;

e. Cannot be an employee of the Herkimer Central School District;

f. The only member of his/her family that is (cannot be a member of the same household) on the Herkimer Central School District Board;

g. May not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office, including, but not limited to Superintendent, clerk, tax collector, treasurer or librarian, or any employee of the Board. However, in central school districts a Board member may be appointed clerk of the Board and of the District; and

h. A Board member of a BOCES may not be employed by any of that BOCES' component districts.

i. May not have been removed from any school district office within one (1) year preceding the date of appointment or election to the Board.

If you are interested in running for Board of Education, or if you have any questions about becoming a Board member, please feel free to call Superintendent Miller at 866-22330 for additional information.
FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

As the second semester begins, counselors will begin meeting with students and planning for next school year. When selecting courses, please keep in mind that high school classes should be challenging and above the minimum requirements to prepare students for college level work.

Check out www.guidedirect.com to investigate careers, interests and college searches  SCHOOL ID: 3812169  PASSWORD: H14832467

COLLEGE FAIR
Thurs, March 10 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm @ Onondaga CC
Tues. April 5 @ 8:00 pm - 7:30 pm @ Herkimer College

SENIORS:

If colleges are requesting midyear grades, students must request them from the guidance office.

Seniors have applied to college and many have received their acceptance letters from the admissions office. Hopefully, all students planning to attend college have applied for financial aid. Most require you to submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), while a few schools require the CSS Profile. Be sure to check with colleges as to what forms are needed. In addition, some colleges require institutional financial forms specific to their college. Schools vary, so it is important to follow up on financial aid questions. Refer to the enclosed page “Critical Financial Aid Information” as a guide. Also WATCH DEADLINES! FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. There is no charge to submit a FAFSA form!

Another form of aid for college is scholarship. Attached is a current list of scholarships we have received in the guidance office. Check out scholarship searches online too. Searching for scholarships can be a very tedious ongoing process. There are monies available, but it takes a lot of effort, time and commitment to find it and apply. Do not get discouraged. Following are some tips to writing scholarship essays. Also, BEWARE of scams; read attached article. Some good sites to assist with financial aid and scholarships are:
www.fastweb.com
www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.collegeboard.com
JUNIOR

The next year is filled with a lot of exploring and decision-making. From high school programs to college admission and financial aid, juniors are preparing to complete high school and begin a new chapter.

Beginning later this month, all juniors will be scheduled for an appointment with his/her counselor. At this time, we will not only look at classes for next year; but begin the individual planning process for their future endeavors. If planning to attend college, it is important for students to ask themselves questions such as “What do I look for in a college?” “What size?” “What major?” “Location?” “Activities?” Students are encouraged to search colleges and start looking at post-high school plans. Many colleges have scheduled Open Houses in the spring. Go visit! This is the best way to learn about campuses and the colleges’ offerings. Applications will be completed in the fall of the senior year. Deciding on a college is a family decision! Be sure to thoroughly investigate your choices. Colleges can differ greatly.

PSAT scores have been mailed home with a guide for interpreting scores. All students received an access code directly from collegeboard. Students will set up an account and have more in-depth analysis as well as free preparation for the upcoming SAT.

The ASVAB results will be returned to students in class this month as well. Scores will be explained and interest inventory completed. This information is excellent when looking at careers and abilities. Students have an individual access code to use online for even more analysis.

SAT (www.collegeboard.org) and ACT (www.ACTstudent.org) tests are typically taken in the spring of the junior year. Students need to register for these tests online.

SAT & ACT INFORMATION

Register on-line

A picture MUST be uploaded on the registration ticket.
Herkimer High School CEEB Code: 332-345

SAT (www.collegeboard.org)
Test Date: May 7
   Registration Deadline: April 8
Test Date: June 4
   Registration Deadline: May 5

ACT (www.ACTstudent.org)
Test Date: June 11
   Registration Deadline: May 6

PAY ATTENTION TO REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

FEE WAIVERS are available.
See your guidance counselor for eligibility.
SOPHOMORES:

The counselor at BOCES Career Technical Center visited Social Studies class recently to review the opportunities for students. In early March, sophomores throughout the county will be visiting the Career and Technical Center at Herkimer County BOCES. All students are encouraged to attend. It is a great opportunity to learn about the exciting programs that are offered, many of which can earn students college credit! Whether planning to enroll or not it is a chance to explore programs and career areas of interest. Students received permission slips. Following this, counselors will be meeting with students to select courses for next year.

8th GRADERS:

On February 8, students will have a presentation about the VP-Tech program at BOCES. Interested students will receive an application packet. Selected students will be scheduled for the program starting next year. It is a 4-6 year program whereby students work towards a high school diploma and an Associates Degree from Herkimer College.

The 8th grade class will be taking part in the 8 to Great program on February 25. It takes place at Herkimer BOCES and gives students an opportunity to view the CTC programs and how they provide training and job skills.

It’s time to get ready for High School. Together we can help make the transition from Junior High to High School to College smoother. Information will be sent home with students.

7th GRADERS:

Continuing with the career exploration, students in English class will be learning about various types of related careers.

Any questions or concerns please contact the Guidance Office at 866-2230 extension 1318.

Carolyn LaSalle clasalle@herkimercsd.org
Suzanne Rodio srodio@herkimercsd.org

Keep up-to-date:
- Like Herkimer Guidance Office on Facebook
- Follow Herkimer Guidance Office on Twitter
SCHOLARSHIPS

Central New York Kennel Club Award
- Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors who have worked with dogs; volunteered at shelters, humane society, vet offices, 4H or other animal related businesses
- Application is in the Guidance Office
- Application deadline: March 21, 2016

New York Water Environment Association Scholarship
www.nyee.org
- NYWEA Chapter Scholarship
  - Enrolled in a college with a NYWEA chapter
  - Majoring in an Environmental major
  - Deadline: Feb 10, 2016
- NYWEA Program Scholarship
  - Acceptance in a college environmental program
  - Deadline: Feb 10, 2016
- NYWEA Member Award
  - Student's parent is a member of the NYWEA
  - Deadline: Feb 10, 2016

Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York
- https://firedistnys.com
- A firefighter or related to a firefighter in an affiliated member organization of the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York
- Senior planning to further education
- Planning a career of service to the community (Fire Service, Nursing, Social Work, Health Care, Teaching, etc.)
- Deadline: March 5, 2016

Buick Achievers Scholarship
- Senior planning to attend 4-year college
- Pursuing education in engineering, technology design or business, with an interest in the automotive industry
- www.buickachievers.com
- Deadline: February 29, 2016

Herkimer County Community College Scholarship
- After applying to HCCC fill out the scholarship application
- www.herkimer.edu/the-foundation/scholarships/scholarship-list/
- Must apply to college before submitting scholarship ASAP

Mohawk Valley Community College Scholarships
- After applying to MVCC complete scholarship application
- Download form at www.mvcc.edu
- Variable deadlines

Phi Delta Kappa Future Educator Scholarship
- Senior pursuing a degree in education
- Deadline: March 1, 2016

American Society of Military Comptrollers CNY Leatherstocking Region
- Senior entering the field of finance, accounting, business admin, economics, public policy, computer science, etc.
- Deadline: February 29, 2016
FASNY Gerard J. Buckenmeyer Volunteer Scholarship
  - Senior who actively participates as a volunteer firefighter or junior firefighter, including BSA Explorer posts, Venturing Crews and RAMS or a volunteer EMS program
  - www.fasny.com
  - Deadline: March 15, 2016

The Amy Blindglass Memorial Scholarship
  - High school junior or senior
  - Deadline: April 1, 2016

The Jean M. Coon Humanitarian Award
  - High school junior or senior with outstanding community service
  - Applications available in the Guidance Office
  - Deadlines: Returned to the Guidance Office by March 1, 2016

The Young Women in Public Affairs Award
  - Female student between the ages of 16-19
  - Based on leadership
  - Deadline: March 1, 2016

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Scholarship
  - Senior who is enrolling in college, Senior working towards a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering
  - www.ascemohawkhudson.org
  - Deadline: March 18, 2016

Casale Family Scholarship
  - Herkimer High School graduating senior
  - Will be attending HCCC in the fall
  - Full tuition scholarship
  - Written essay, “The positives about Herkimer and growing up here”
  - Deadline: June 27, 2016
  - Mailed to:
    Jan Fuhrer
    HCCC Foundation
    100 Reservoir Rd
    Herkimer, NY 13350

The National Co-op Scholarship Program
  - GPA of 3.5 or higher
  - Plan to attend a participating college (Clarkson, Drexel, Johnson & Wales, Kettering, RIT, SUNY Oswego, Univ of Cincinnati, Univ of Mass at Lowell, Univ of Toledo, Wentworth)
  - www.co-op.edu
  - Deadline: Feb 15, 2016

NYS STEM Incentive Program
  - US citizen living in NYS (12 continuous months)
  - Senior enrolling in a SUNY or CUNY school in the fall 2016
  - Matriculated in a STEM major
  - Full tuition
  - Applications available www.hesc.ny.gov
Evaluating Financial Aid Award Letters
Quick Reference Guide

What is a Financial Aid Award Letter?

The financial aid award letter provides prospective and current college students with information about the student’s college costs and the financial aid available to help the student pay for these costs. The award letter may also include details on the college’s calculation of the student’s demonstrated financial need. The letter will provide a determination of financial aid eligibility and, if the student is eligible for financial aid, a detailed breakdown of the financial aid package according to the type, amount and source of financial aid. The award letter may also include information about the terms and conditions for the financial aid.

Financial aid award letters for prospective students typically arrive with or soon after the offer of admission. (For most students this is late March or early April.) Financial aid award letters for continuing students may arrive later. Some financial aid award letters will be provided online, through a secure web site.

Some colleges require students to accept or reject each source of financial aid. Others do not. If you reject one form of financial aid, such as loans or student employment, they will not increase other types of financial aid to compensate.

Compare College Financial Aid Award Letters Based on the Bottom Line Cost

To compare financial aid award letters from different colleges, compare them based on the out-of-pocket cost.

The out-of-pocket cost is the difference between the total cost of attendance and the total gift aid (grants and scholarships). The cost of attendance includes tuition and required fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses, dependent care and possibly student health insurance and the cost of a computer. Gift aid does not need to be repaid and includes grants, scholarships, tuition waivers and housing waivers. The out-of-pocket cost is the bottom line cost of college, the amount the family must pay, earn or borrow to cover college costs. The out-of-pocket cost is sometimes called the net price. Since each college awards different amounts of gift aid, the out-of-pocket cost may vary from college to college.

This is in contrast with the net cost, which is the difference between the cost of attendance and the need-based financial aid package. But the financial aid package includes loans, which have to be repaid (often with interest). This means the actual bottom line cost to the family will be higher than the net cost.

The net cost is a measure of cash flow requirements, not the bottom-line cost of college. The net cost will correspond to the expected family contribution (EFC) and will be similar at most colleges. If there are significant differences in net cost, it may be a sign of unusual circumstances that were taken into account at one college but not the others.

Thus, families should compare college financial aid award letters based on the out-of-pocket cost and not the net cost.

If the difference in out-of-pocket cost is less than $500, the difference is not significant enough to affect the choice of college. But if the difference is greater, especially if it is more than $5,000, the family should consider the out-of-pocket cost along with other criteria when choosing a college. Higher out-of-pocket costs lead to a greater debt and work burden, potentially affecting college success and potentially increasing the chances of graduating with excessive debt. The amount of education debt has an impact on further education, career choices and lifestyle after graduation.

Tools for Comparing Financial Aid Award Letters from FinAid.org

Simple Award Letter Comparison Tool: The tool compares the financial aid packages from three colleges, highlighting any significant differences. It also calculates the net cost and out-of-pocket cost figures, and estimates the total cost of any education loans.

www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.shtml

The Advanced Award Letter Comparison Tool: This tool compares financial aid packages and includes non-financial criteria. The financial and non-financial differences are displayed visually in a matrix format.

www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletteradvanced.shtml
Problems and Pitfalls with Financial Aid Award Letters

No standard for financial aid award letters. There is no standard format for financial aid award letters, making them difficult to interpret and to compare and contrast.

Actual costs may be higher than the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is not the price you pay. Financial aid packages usually include loans, which have to be repaid, and there may also be unmet need. Some colleges use two different EFCs, one for federal and state aid and another for the college's own funds. Often the price you pay is much higher than the expected family contribution. On the other hand, the amount you pay will probably be lower than the overall cost of attendance.

Inconsistent cost of attendance information. Colleges may use different definitions of the cost of attendance. Some colleges report direct costs, which are usually billed by the college, while some report both direct and indirect costs. You can find detailed cost information in the college's catalog or on its website. Make sure you have current figures for each of the major costs, including tuition, required fees, room and board, textbooks, supplies, travel and transportation, personal expenses such as student health insurance and dependent care, and technology such as a computer.

Cost allowances may be underestimates and unrealistic. There may be significant differences in the various cost allowances, such as textbooks, travel and transportation, personal expenses and off-campus housing. Some colleges will underestimate these figures to make their costs look less expensive, so make sure the costs are reasonable. You may wish to use the same estimate of textbook costs for all colleges, say $1,000 to $1,200 a year, to ensure that the costs are comparable. Transportation costs may vary based on distance of the college from the student's home, number of trips home per year and whether you reside on campus or commute home per year and whether you reside on campus or commute. Make sure the transportation costs are reasonable. If you are commuting, the transportation figures should be based on the round-trip distance from home to school, the IRS mileage rate, the number of days on campus and the cost of parking on campus. If you will be living on campus, assume the cost of four round-trip tickets home per year, one for fall break, one for winter break, one for spring break and one for summer break.

Discretionary costs are under your control. Some of the indirect costs are discretionary. You can control how much you spend on housing or textbooks. Living off campus with a roommate can reduce your housing costs. Buying only required textbooks, buying textbooks online, buying used textbooks (or older editions or re-imported international editions), renting textbooks, buying textbooks through a co-op, buying ebooks or renting textbooks to the bookstore at the end of the semester can save you as much as half the cost of the textbooks. You can also borrow textbooks from the college library (or the preview copies from the faculty) or share textbooks with your roommate.

Packaging of non-need based loans. Some colleges may provide non-need based loans such as the unsubsidized Stafford and PLUS loans on the financial aid award letter in order to increase awareness of lower-cost federal loans. Families are eligible for these loans at every college, regardless of financial need. You are under no obligation to accept the loans and can request a lower loan amount. (Refusing these loans, however, will not increase your grants.) Try to avoid borrowing the maximum allowable amounts if you don't need to, as every dollar you borrow will cost you about two dollars by the time you've repaid the debt. Live like a student while you are in school so you don't have to live like a student, after you graduate.

Gaping. Some colleges do not provide enough financial aid to meet the full demonstrated financial need. This leaves the student with unmet need, also referred to as a gap. This is more likely at colleges with limited financial aid resources. Some colleges may try to mask the existence of a gap by including loans in the financial aid package, by increasing work expectations or by underestimating costs.

Cost of Attendance Check List
- Direct Costs (Required)
  - Tuition and Required Fees
  - Room and Board
  - Textbooks and Supplies
- Indirect Costs (Discretionary)
  - Travel and Transportation
  - Personal Expenses
  - Computer
  - Student Health Insurance
  - Dependent Care

Last updated: 2/21/2012

Fastweb Quick Reference Guide Series
It may be difficult to determine the type of each award. Financial aid award letters sometimes use cryptic acronyms or abbreviations for awards or fail to identify the type of an award, making it difficult to distinguish loans, which have to be repaid, and student employment from gift aid such as grants and scholarships (which do not have to be repaid). Most financial aid award letters do not mention interest rates, fees, monthly payments, or total loan amounts next to the loan amounts. A loan might be identified as a "LO" or just by name. Loans include the Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan, Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, Federal PLUS Loan and private or alternative student loans. The Federal TEACH Grant is actually a forgivable loan. Federal Work-Study and College Work-Study are forms of student employment. Even when awards are identified as loans, it may be difficult to determine which are less expensive and which are more expensive in the long term.

Student employment is not guaranteed. Federal work-study funding is paid as it is earned. If students work fewer hours, they will not earn the full amount of their awards. It may also be difficult to find a desirable work-study job.

Front-loading of grants. Some colleges award more grants during the freshman year and fewer grants in subsequent years. The intention is partly to ensure that students who drop out have fewer loans to repay, since students who drop out are more likely to default as students who graduate.

Financial aid award letters provide information for just one year. For one year, the financial aid award letter provides cost and financial aid information. The cost of attendance will probably increase every year, and may be higher by the senior year in college. Cumulative debt at graduation will typically be about four to five times freshman year debt for Bachelor's degree recipients.

- Types of Financial Aid
  - Gift Aid
    - Grants
    - Scholarships
    - Tuition Waivers
    - Housing Waivers
  - Self-Help Aid
    - Student Employment
    - Student Loans
    - Installment/Payment Plans

10 Questions to Ask College Financial Aid Administrators

1. Does the college meet the full demonstrated financial need for all four years, or is there unmet need (a gap)?

2. How much on average do the college costs increase per year?

3. Does the college practice front-loading of grants? Can students expect to receive a similar amount of grants in subsequent years, assuming their financial circumstances are similar? If the college practices front-loading of grants, how much will the grants change each year?

4. What is the college's outside scholarship policy? How does the college reduce the need-based financial aid package when a student wins a private scholarship? Does the scholarship reduce the loan and work burden (and unmet need, if any) or does it replace the college's grants and scholarships?

5. What are the residency requirements for in-state public college tuition?

6. How many hours will I need to work to earn the full work-study award I've been offered? How much will I be paid per hour? Are work-study jobs readily available, or are they hard to get?

7. What are the requirements for keeping my grants and scholarships in future years? Do I need to maintain a minimum grade point average? Do I need to participate in any extracurricular activities such as community service?

8. How does one appeal for more financial aid if the financial aid award is insufficient or the family's financial circumstances have changed?

9. What percentage of first-time, full-time students graduate within a normal timeframe? How many years, on average, does it take to earn the degree?

10. What percentage of students graduate with debt and what is the average cumulative debt at graduation?
Glossary of Terms

Adverse Credit History. To be eligible for a Federal PLUS loan, the borrower may not have an adverse credit history, which is defined as having a bankruptcy, foreclosure, repossession, tax lien, wage garnishment or default determination in the last five years or a current delinquency of 90 or more days.

Alternative Student Loan. See Private Student Loan.

Asset. An asset is property with a financial value, such as bank and brokerage accounts, cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, money market accounts, certificates of deposit, trusts, tax shelters, college savings plans (529 plans, prepaid tuition plans, Coverdell education savings accounts), real estate (house, land, farm), businesses, retirement plans (401(k), 403(b), Traditional IRA, Roth IRA, Keogh, SEP, SIMPLE, pension plans), life insurance policies and income-producing property.

Capitalization of Interest. Interest capitalization occurs when unpaid interest is added to the loan balance. This causes the loan to grow larger, increasing the cost. Interest can be capitalized monthly, quarterly, annually or when the loan enters repayment. Capitalization causes interest to be charged on top of interest.

Co-signer. A co-signer is a co-borrower, equally as obliged to repay the debt as the primary borrower.

Cost of Attendance (COA). The cost of attendance is the full one-year cost of enrolling in college. It includes direct (required) costs, such as tuition and required fees, room and board, textbooks and supplies, as well as indirect (discretionary) costs, such as travel and transportation, personal expenses, computer, student health insurance and dependent care.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. The PROFILE form is used to apply for financial aid at about 250 colleges, to apply for the college’s own financial aid funds and does not affect eligibility for government aid. It calculates the student’s expected family contribution (EFC) under the Institutional Methodology (IM).

Deferment. Deferment is the temporary suspension of the obligation to repay a debt. Interest on subsidized loans is paid by the federal government during a deferment. Interest on unsubsidized loans continues to accrue and remains the responsibility of the borrower and is capitalized if unpaid. Federal education loans may be deferred while the borrower is enrolled at least half-time, during the grace period and during periods of economic hardship. The economic hardship deferment has a three-year limit. See also Forbearance.

Demonstrated Financial Need. Demonstrated financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance and the expected family contribution. (Financial Need = COA – EFC)

Dependency Status. Students may be considered dependent or independent. Dependent students must provide financial information for their parents on the FAFSA. Independent students must provide financial information for their spouse, if any, on the FAFSA, but do not provide parental information. Independent students include students who are over age 24 as of December 31 of the award year, married students, graduate students, orphans, veterans, active duty members of the Armed Forces and students with dependents other than a spouse. Students who are not independent are considered dependent. If there are unusual circumstances, such as the incarceration or institutionalization of both parents, the student can appeal for a dependency override, which is granted at the discretion of the college financial aid administrator. The definition of dependency for federal student aid purposes differs from the definition used by the IRS for federal income tax purposes.

Education Tax Benefit. An education tax benefit is a form of student aid obtained by filing a federal income tax return. Examples include the Hope Scholarship (American Opportunity Tax Credit) and Lifetime Learning tax credits, the Tuition and Fees Deduction and the Student Loan Interest Deduction.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The expected family contribution is a measure of the family’s financial strength. It is based on the income and assets of the student. For dependent students, it is also based on the income and assets of the student’s parents and the age of the older parent. For independent students, it is also based on the income and assets of the student’s spouse, if any. The EFC is also based on family size and the number of children in college. The EFC does not consider certain forms of unearned income, such as credit cards and auto loans. There are two main formulas for calculating an EFC, the federal methodology (FM) and the institutional methodology (IM). The two formulas differ in the types of assets that are included (e.g., family home, assets of siblings), the assumptions of a minimum student contribution, the treatment of paper losses, regional differences in cost of living, allowances for educational savings and emergency funds, the treatment of children of divorced parents and adjustments for more than one child in college at the same time. The FM EFC is used for determining eligibility for federal and state aid and financial aid at most colleges. About 250 colleges use the IM EFC instead for awarding their own financial aid funds.
Evaluating Financial Aid Award Letters
Quick Reference Guide

Federal Education Loans. Federal education loans are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private student loans. The interest rates on federal loans are fixed, while most private student loans have variable rates. Examples of federal education loans include the Perkins, Stafford and PLUS Loans. Since July 1, 2010, all new federal education loans have been made through the US Department of Education's Direct Loan program.

Federal Methodology (FM). See Expected Family Contribution.

Financial Aid. Financial aid is money to help families bridge the gap between the expected family contribution and the cost of attendance. It includes gift aid and self-help aid.

Financial Aid Appeal. See Professional Judgment.

Financial Aid Award. A financial aid award is a component of the financial aid package. Awards come in many types, such as grants, scholarships, loans and student employment.

Financial Aid Package. A financial aid package is a combination of multiple types and sources of financial aid. It may include money from the federal government, state government, the college itself and private sources.

Financial Need. See Demonstrated Financial Need.

Forbearance. A forbearance is a temporary suspension of the obligation to repay a debt. Interest continues to accrue during a forbearance and will be capitalized if unpaid. Unlike a deferment, the borrower is responsible for the interest on both subsidized and unsubsidized loans during a forbearance. Forbearances on federal education loans have a five-year limit.

Forgiveness. Forgiveness is cancellation of a debt, usually for working in a particular occupation, such as a public service job, teaching in a national shortage area or serving in the military.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is a financial aid application form used to apply for federal and state student financial aid, as well as financial aid at most colleges. It is filed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The student will receive a Student Aid Report containing his or her expected family contribution about a week after filing the FAFSA.

Gift Aid. Gift aid is financial aid that does not need to be repaid, such as grants, scholarships, and tuition and housing waivers. Gift aid will vary by college, depending on available funds.

Grace Period. The grace period is the time after the student graduates, withdraws or drops below half-time enrollment and before repayment begins. The grace period is 6 months for the Federal Stafford and PLUS loans and for most private student loans, and 9 months for the Federal Perkins loan.

Grant. A grant is a form of gift aid, usually based on financial need. The Federal Pell Grant is the largest need-based college grant program.

Institutional Methodology (IM). See Expected Family Contribution.

Interest. Interest is a periodic fee charged for the use of borrowed money. The interest rate is expressed as a percentage of the loan balance and may be fixed or variable.

Loan. A loan is borrowed money that must be repaid usually with interest. See also Federal Education Loan and Private Student Loan.

Master Promissory Note (MPN). A promissory note is a legal contract in which the borrower agrees to repay the loan. It specifies the terms of the loan, such as the interest rates and fees. The Master Promissory Note is a promissory note that is effective for a continuous period of enrollment up to 10 years.

Merit-Based Aid. Merit-based aid is based on academic, artistic or athletic talent or other student attributes or activities.

Need Analysis. Need analysis is a process of evaluating the family's financial strength by considering income, assets, family size, the number of children in college and the age of the older parent. See Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Need-Based Aid. Need-based aid is based on demonstrated financial need.

Net Cost. The net cost is the difference between the cost of attendance and the need-based financial aid package. (Net Cost = COA – Financial Aid)

Net Price. The net price is the same as the out-of-pocket cost, the amount the family pays, earns or borrows to cover college costs.

Out-of-Pocket Cost. The out-of-pocket cost is the difference between the total cost of attendance and total gift aid. (Out-of-Pocket Cost = COA – Gift Aid)
Evaluating Financial Aid Award Letters
Quick Reference Guide

Principal. The principal is the amount of money borrowed or still owed on a loan, not including interest and other charges.

Private Student Loan. A private student loan is made and funded by a private lender, such as a bank or other financial institution. Private student loans tend to be more expensive than federal loans and have less flexible repayment terms.

Professional Judgment (P-J). (Special Circumstances Review) Professional judgment is a process by which the college financial aid administrator reviews unusual circumstances to determine a possible adjustment to the need-based financial aid package. Unusual circumstances include changes in the family's financial situation from the previous year, such as job loss, salary reductions, and death of a wage earner, as well as nonypical situations such as high unreimbursed medical expenses, childcare or eldercare costs or private K-12 tuition. The review is driven by independent third-party documentation of the unusual circumstances. If the financial aid administrator decides that the unusual circumstances are worthy of consideration, the adjustments to the data elements on the FAFSA or cost of attendance will be based on the financial impact of the unusual circumstances on the family. This may then yield a new EFC which will lead to a new or revised financial aid package.

Promissory Note. See Master Promissory Note.

Room and Board. Housing and meal plan costs.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Satisfactory academic progress is required for continued receipt of student financial aid. It usually involves a requirement that the student maintain a particular grade point average (e.g., 2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and that the student be passing classes at a rate consistent with the requirements for graduation within no more than 150% of the normal timeframe (e.g., within 6 years for a bachelor's degree).

Scholarship. A scholarship is a form of gift aid, usually based on merit and funded by private foundations, philanthropists, corporations, and colleges and universities.

Self-Help Aid. Self-help aid is financial aid that depends on the family's resources. It includes student loans (which have to be repaid, usually with interest) and student employment.

Sticker Price / Sticker Shock. The sticker price is the total cost of attendance. Sticker shock refers to a family's dismay when they learn about a college's sticker price. Sticker shock may cause some families to not consider a college, even if the financial aid package reduces the costs to an affordable level.

Student Aid Report (SAR). The Student Aid Report lists the data elements submitted on the FAFSA, some intermediate calculations and the student's expected family contribution, along with other information such as the graduation rates of the colleges the student is considering.

Student Employment. Student employment usually involves a part-time job of 10-15 hours per week during the academic year. Jobs may include on-campus employment, such as working in the library or cafeteria, or off-campus employment, such as inner city math and reading tutoring programs. Federal Work-Study is the largest student employment program.

Subsidized Loan. The federal government pays the interest on subsidized loans during the in-school deferment, during the grace period before repayment begins and during an economic hardship deferment. The Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan are examples of subsidized loans. Eligibility is based on demonstrated financial need.

Tuition. Tuition is a fee charged for the cost of instruction.

Tuition Installment Plan. A tuition installment plan or tuition payment plan spreads out college costs into 9-12 equal monthly installments. Tuition installment plans usually charge an up-front fee without separate interest charges. This is in contrast with loans which are typically repaid over a much longer term and which usually charge interest.

Unmet Need. The unmet need, sometimes called a gap, is the difference between the full demonstrated financial need and the student's need-based financial aid package. (Unmet Need = Financial Need - Financial Aid)

Unsubsidized Loan. Interest on unsubsidized loans continues to accrue during the in-school deferment, during the grace period before repayment begins and during an economic hardship deferment. If the borrower does not pay the interest as it accrues, the interest is capitalized (added to the loan balance). The Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and the Federal PLUS Loan are examples of unsubsidized loans. Eligibility is not based on financial need, so even wealthy families will qualify.

Verification. The US Department of Education and the college financial aid office will select some FAFSAs for verification to ensure their accuracy. The family will be required to supply documentation corresponding to the data elements on the FAFSA, such as a copy of the most recent year's federal income tax return, W-2 and 1099 statements, and the most recent bank and brokerage account statements prior to the date the financial aid application was filed, etc.
SOPHOMORE

CAREER TECH CENTER VISITATION

I give my sophomore, ___________________________, permission to attend visitation day at the Herkimer County Career Technical Center on **Tuesday, March 8**. Members of the sophomore class will have the opportunity to meet with faculty and learn about the offerings at the CTC. All students are encouraged to attend. This helps students to make more informed decisions regarding high school and post-high school planning.

______________________________
Parent signature

______________________________
Phone number

PERMISSION SLIPS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE GUIDANCE OFFICE BY Tuesday, 3/1.
SAVE THE DATE!

3/29/2016

Carolyn LaSalle, Suzanne Rodio
School Counselors
801 West German Street
Herkimer, NY 13350
Phone: 315-866-2230 ext. 1318
Fax: 315-866-4425
E-mail:
clasalle@herkimercsd.org
srodio@herkimercsd.org

Please set aside **March 29, 2016** and come join us for an evening of information gathering on such topics as college searches, college admissions, financial aid, community volunteering, employment, NYS graduation requirements, and much, much more!!!
School Library Scoops

New From Mid-York Library System!!

Zinio Magazines
  100 magazine titles available online
  Access with your Mid-York Library Card
  Create an account — also good for Transparent Language Online
  Free mobile app for several devices
  Tutorial available

  Full content of the magazine
  You can borrow unlimited number of magazines
  You keep the magazine until you delete it

eResource Central -- OverDrive
  90,000 eBooks and eAudio books
  Access with Mid-York Library card
  Directions for downloading the OverDrive app
  Downloadable on a variety of internet devices
  Browse in Electronic Library Catalog or in My Library 2go catalog

OneClick Digital
  Collection of classics eBooks and eAudiobooks
  Access with Mid-York Library card

Transparent Language Online
  Learn a language — listening, reading, speaking, writing
  Over 95 languages
  A variety of courses and activities
  Access with your Mid-York Library Card
  Create an account — also good for Zinio
  Free mobile apps for a variety of devices
  Directions for downloading

Explore and enjoy!!
The Herkimer Central School District recognizes the importance of attendance for the successful academic development of the student. Regular, punctual and cooperative participation in school (and in all scheduled classes) are required of all pupils. Absence from school for any reason detracts from the learning process. All the requirements for each course, including classwork, homework, labs, prompt arrival, and regular attendance, must be met satisfactorily if the pupil is to earn academic credit.

All students must attend at least 90% of all classes to receive credit for a course. A student may not be absent from three (3) class sessions for a quarter year course or five (5) class sessions for a semester course or ten (10) class sessions for a full year course. Credit bearing courses which meet on a different schedule (e.g., reading, PE, labs) will maintain this percentage.

However, students with properly excused absences, tardiness and early departures for which the student has satisfactorily performed assigned make-up work, assignments and/or tests shall not be counted as an absence, tardiness, early departure for the purpose of determining the student's eligibility for course credit.

Any activity that is sanctioned by the Herkimer Central School District will not constitute an absence from class. Any suspension from school will not constitute an absence from class. Suspended students will be offered alternative instruction. If the alternative instruction is refused, the suspension will then count as an absence from class. Exceptional circumstances will be reviewed by the principal.

The Minimal Attendance Policy will start on the day a student first enters the class and will be pro-rated to maintain the 90% attendance figure.

It is important to note in the steps outlined below that numerous contacts are made with the student and parent by the teacher and principal. The guidance counselors and other support staff will also intervene as support personnel to help students who may be experiencing personal difficulties.

**Steps:**

1. When a student has the 3rd unexcused absence of a full-year course, the 2nd in a half-year course, the first in a quarter-year course, a written notification will be issued to both the student and the parent/persons in parental relation, with a copy of the letter forwarded to the appropriate guidance counselor. The Attendance Officer will determine strategies to improve class attendance. Strategies may include, but not limited to, remedial counseling sessions with the school social worker, peer counseling groups, Child Study referral, and student intervention programs.

2. When a student has the 6th unexcused absence of a full-year course, the 3rd in a half-year course, the 2nd in a quarter-year course, the verbal and written notification will be issued by the principal. A building administrator will meet with the student (and parent/persons in parental relation if deemed appropriate to the circumstances) to review reasons for the unexcused absences and to implement strategies to improve class attendance.

3. When a student meets or exceeds the maximum allowable absences in any given course, (three (3) class sessions for a quarter-year course or five (5) class sessions for a semester course or ten (10) class sessions for a full-year course) a student may be denied course credit. The student and parent/guardian must be informed of this verbally and with a letter from the Attendance Officer.

In order to receive course credit at this stage, the student must fulfill participation requirements and demonstrate competency according to course standards and guidelines. These expectations must be outlined in a contract established between the student and teacher, and witnessed by the building principal. Copies of this contract will be provided to the parent/guardian and the guidance counselor.

- The grades for any agreed upon additional assignments shall be averaged with the student's other grades for that quarter in the course to determine the student's quarter grade.
- Failure to satisfactorily fulfill the contract results in failure to complete the course requirements, and therefore denial of credit. Any additional unexcused absences will void the contract and result in denial of course credit.
- If the student wishes to be eligible to take the course in Summer School, the student must attend that course for the duration of the school year, accruing no more unexcused absences.

**Appeals Process**

If a student faces the denial of course credit due to excessive absences, the student or parent/person in parental relation may appeal the denial of course credit to an Attendance Review Committee by notifying the building principal in writing within two school days of being denied credit. The school will convene this committee within two school days of receipt of this letter requesting an appeal.

This Committee will be composed of the Principal or designee, the attendance officer, two impartial teachers and the school social worker. Both the student and teacher are entitled to address the committee. The principal or designee will inform the student and/or parent/person in parental relation within two school days of the outcome of the appeal.

All decisions made under this appeals process may be appealed to the Superintendent and Board of Education in order of succession within two school days of notification of decision.
Tips for Parents from the School Health Office

Many parents ask, “When is my child sick enough to stay home from school?”

This is not always an easy question to answer! We hope that these tips can help!

A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and is likely to spread the illness to other children and staff. We suggest making a plan for childcare ahead of time so you will not be caught without a comforting place for your child to stay if he/she is ill.

Our school policy states that you should not send your child to school if he/she has:

- Fever in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting in the past 24 hours
- Diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Strep Throat (must have been taking an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school)
- Bad cold, with a very runny nose or bad cough, especially if it has kept the child awake at night
- Head lice – until your child has been treated according to the nurse or doctor’s instructions

If your child becomes ill at school and the teacher or school nurse feel the child is too sick to benefit from school or is contagious to other children, you will be called to come and take him/her home from school. It is essential that your child’s teacher have a phone number where you can be contacted during the day and an emergency number in the event you cannot be reached. Please be sure that arrangements can be made to transport your child home from school and that childcare is available in case of illness. If your daytime or emergency phone number changes during the year, please notify your child’s teacher immediately.

Please call the school’s Health Office if you have any questions or concerns.

Mary Ellen Clark  School Nurse

Herkimer Jr/Sr High School
315-866-2230 Ext. 1322
Herkimer High School’s Outdoors Club is sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 4th. Club members will be signing up students during English classes. You can sign up if you are 17 or older, and if you are 16 years old with your parent’s permission. Please consider donating, your donation alone can save up to 3 lives. This drive is open to the public and all blood types are urgently needed.
### February 2016 Menu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Protein Packed Chicken Patty Assorted Subs &amp; Wraps Assorted Salad Plates Parsleyed Potatoes</td>
<td>Chicken Quesadilla Assorted Subs &amp; Wraps Assorted Salad Plates Whole Kernel Corn</td>
<td>Mozzarella Sticks w/Dipping Sauce Assorted Subs &amp; Wraps Assorted Salad Plates Tiny Broccoli Trees</td>
<td>Mexican Tacos Assorted Subs &amp; Wraps Assorted Salad Plates Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato</td>
<td>Cheesy Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Assorted Subs &amp; Wraps Assorted Salad Plates Lean Mean Green Beans Yummy Oreo Whip!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Assorted Subs &amp; Wraps Assorted Salad Plates Steamy Tomato Soup Tiny Broccoli Trees</td>
<td>Available Daily Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Fresh Veggie Cruncher Cups Fresh Assorted Fruit Assorted Chilled Fruit and Juice Ice Cold NYS Milk</td>
<td>Menu is Subject to Change Email: <a href="mailto:kdorr@oneida-hoces.org">kdorr@oneida-hoces.org</a> for nutritional information or with any questions regarding the menu.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Beets & Rutabagas

Kid-Friendly Eating Tips
- Try pickling thinly-sliced beets!
- Grated raw beets are an excellent addition to a salad; beet greens can be treated like spinach or chard; sauté or use for a salad.
- Purée rutabaga on its own, with a bit of parmesan or add it to mashed potatoes and/or carrots.
- Rutabagas are a great addition to soups or stews and make a great soufflé.
- Cube and roast beets and rutabagas, with olive oil and your choice of herbs or with a honey or maple syrup glaze.

Cooking Tips
- If you scrub these root vegetables vigorously, you don’t need to peel them.
- If you have waxed rutabagas, remove the wax with your fingers and/or a knife; if wax remains, scrub under hot water.
- Allow 30-60 minutes to boil or steam beets and rutabagas, depending on size; when the root vegetables are fully cooked, you can easily remove their skins and pierce a fork through them.
- Peeling and chopping before boiling or steaming cuts down on the cooking time, although adds more prep time.
- Baking or roasting beets and rutabagas best preserves their flavor.
- Rutabagas can replace turnips in most recipes.

Benefits
- Beet leaves are an excellent source of potassium and a good source of vitamin B9 (folic acid) and the mineral magnesium. Beet roots are an excellent source of vitamin A and the mineral potassium; they are a good source of vitamin C, B2 (riboflavin) and magnesium.
- Rutabagas are an excellent source of the mineral potassium and a good source of vitamin C.

Fun Facts
- Betanin is the pigment that gives beets their deep purplered color; it is known for its cancer-fighting properties.
- Beets can serve as a substitute for coffee; finely slice, dry, roast and grind into a powder!
- The English name rutabaga is derived from the Swedish term for the vegetable: rotabagga.

Varieties of Beets & Rutabagas:
- Detroit Dark Red
- Early Wonder Tall Top
- Forono
- Chioggia
- Touchstone Gold
- Joan Rutabaga

VermontHarvestoftheMonth.org
© Green Mountain Farm-to-School
Friends of Rachel Bandage Campaign

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Herkimer Middle School's Friends of Rachel Club is collecting Band-Aids in an effort to help honor victims of the Holocaust, other victims of hate crimes, and lost loved ones.

We are competing with Frankfort-Schuyler Central School to see who can collect THE MOST Band-Aids! Collection begins NOW and ends March 2nd.

HELP US BEAT FRANKFORT-SCHUYLER!
Let's contribute to a good cause!
BRING IN YOUR BAND-AIDS TODAY!

“In Sacramento, California a school decided to honor the children that were killed during the Holocaust. Since bandages are used to heal pain, the school created a campaign to collect one bandage for each of the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust. The goal is to create an art installation to display the 1.5 million bandages to be held in a museum in Los Angeles. The school is almost halfway to their goal, but they need the help of your Friends of Rachel Club.”

--The Bandage Campaign

8th Grade English

Reader of the Month--February:
Emily Salamon

Emily Salamon is February's Reader of the Month! Emily has already completed 27 books this year. Emily has many talents (she's also an artist!), but we love her in English because she is passionate about reading, especially if it has anything to do with dragons! Therefore, this month's award goes to our fire-breathing reader, Emily!
Studio in Art students continue to study the element of value (how highlights and shadows help create the effect of three-dimensional forms on a two-dimensional surface). They learned how value helps create the illusion of forms (three-dimensional objects) on a flat surface. In a previous lesson, students learned how to use the grid system for copying, enlarging, and reducing an image. At this time, students are applying the grid system and using value to create dramatic pencil drawings of their choice.

Youth Art Month takes place in March. It marks our formal celebration of the arts, joining schools across the nation as we recognize the creative talents of our K – 12 students. As educators, we realize that art instruction helps to stimulate problem-solving and creative thinking skills, so necessary for our future decision makers, business people, engineers, scientists, and teachers.

Several of Mrs. Zorn’s students will have their artwork featured in the 7th Annual Youth Art Month Show at Bassett Healthcare in Herkimer. Those students include Jasmine Beach, Gianna Bambara, Ronald Gage, Amelia Whitney, Marissa Long, Andrea Lanphier, and Molly McDonnell. A show opening reception will take place on Tuesday, March 1 at 5:30 PM to honor those students. All community members are invited to attend.

As the first semester comes to an end, new sections of Junior High Art and art electives are being offered. If you have a child enrolled in Art 7, Art 8, Introduction to Painting, or Advanced Art, please read and sign and return the course objectives, rules, and procedures handout given to your child.
Hands-on, Everyday Activities Build Middle School Math Skills

Educators say hands-on activities such as games, counters and other "manipulatives" are the best way for middle schoolers to learn math.

Parents of middle schoolers can help teach math concepts at home in these ways:

- **Graphs and tables.** Ask your child to tell you about the weather. What do the graphs, charts and tables on TV and in the newspaper reveal?

- **Word problems.** Have your child help you with everyday word problems. Figure how much punch to make for a party of 20. Divide candy among goody bags for a birthday. Work within an allotted budget for buying groceries.

- **Measurements.** Show your child how to build things: tiny wooden sailboats, birdhouses, forts and furniture. Make models and sew. Weigh and measure.

- **Fractions.** Get your child in the kitchen. Ask her to half, double and triple recipes.

- **Probability and estimating.** Take your child grocery shopping with you. Let her estimate how much your total bill will be. How much will the sales tax add to the purchase? What will your change be?


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**Homework**

**Take Action If Your Child Consistently Forgets Homework**

Middle school children are commonly forgetful. And one of the things they often forget is homework. The textbook doesn't make it out of the locker. The assignment sheet stays on the bus. Whatever it is, there's no need to get angry. But you need to correct the problem now.

Consider following these steps:

1. **Contact teachers** of classes where finishing homework has been a problem for your child. Tell the teachers you would like to know what the assignments are, at least for awhile.

2. **Establish schedule at home.** If your child forgets to bring homework home, he still has to practice math problems or write essays during study hours.

3. **Notice when your child** does bring homework home and gets it done. "You finished your homework. I appreciate your hard work."

4. **Give an incentive.** Talk about a reward with your child. Pick one you both agree on. It could be making his favorite dinner or seeing a movie together. Set a time limit, perhaps two weeks. If homework is done every day during that time, he has earned the reward.


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