

# NEWSLETTER

## Little Falls City School District

15 Petrie Street, Little Falls, NY 13365  
315-823-1470

EDITION #1– AUGUST 2021

*The Little Falls City School District strives to inspire and empower our students to reach their full academic, physical, and emotional potential in a safe and supportive environment.*

Little Falls City School District 2021-22 Calendar

August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
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31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31

<b>Superintendent</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Assistant Superintendent</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Director of Curriculum &amp; Instruction</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Director of Student Services</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Director of Facilities &amp; Maintenance</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Director of Transportation</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Director of Technology</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Director of Community Relations</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Director of Special Education</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Director of Health &amp; Safety</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Director of Finance &amp; Administration</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org	<b>Director of Legal &amp; Compliance</b> Dr. John J. Conville 315.823.1470 jconville@lfcsd.org
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**SCHOOL**  
**CALENDAR**

**WHO TO CONTACT**

**DISTRICT SAFETY**  
**PLAN**

**LETTER**  
**FROM OUR**  
**SUPERINTENDENT**

## Summer Learning



Pictured above: Zoo Volunteer & MS/HS Teacher, Justin Horrender showing the class a snake and Mrs Congdon's Third Grade with the icecream truck.

Summer Learning Academy under the direction of SLA Principal Mrs. Bonville, and led by the following teachers. K-Mrs. Paugh, Mrs. Barnett

1-Ms. Green, Mrs. Scaparo, TA

2-Mrs. Dawley, Mrs. Reile, Mrs. Hartman

3-Mrs. Congdon, Mrs. Ostasz, Ms. Volo, Mrs. Koch

Nurse: Mrs. Crim

34 students in K-3 attended the five week session beginning July 7th-August 5th from 8-11 a.m. Students primarily worked on reading and math skills through a variety of small group and hands-on activities. The SLA was a wonderful way for students to continue their learning from the previous school year. Students were also treated to a visit from the Utica Zoo mobile and an ice cream truck.

We were fortunate to be able to offer the Summer Learning Academy to Benton Hall Academy students this summer.

**After School Learning Academy-** we successfully implemented a Grades 3-12 after school program for the last couple months of school - this helped to keep some of our struggling students on track, but also allowed some students to get caught up to the point of not having to attend summer school. We will be looking to have this program again, but start in October/November for a few days a week.

**Summer School** - We hosted our own summer school for grades K-8 with 97 students enrolled and attendance was excellent.. The instruction was prioritized around the standards and skills that are absolutely necessary for students to be successful in the next grade level. The entire program was in person, hands-on, and paper/pencil. We felt this was important, especially for the students who remained 100% virtual since March 2020 and have only submitted work through technology until now.

Both of these programs are so successful due to the district providing transportation. While we do have some who have parents bring them and/or pick them up, our neediest students are able to attend because of being able to take a bus.

# BENTON HALL ACADEMY

Welcome back to a new school year with a lot of new and exciting people, places and things in our beautiful BHA school building!

We are so excited that ALL of our students are coming back to school IN-PERSON! There is nothing better than all of us being in school together, teaching and learning with each other! And speaking of our school building...as you know, we have been able to make incredible changes to further enhance learning for all of our students:

We have built a new "Cube" consisting of two beautiful new classrooms in our BHA courtyard. One room will expand upon our former computer lab and will give us a huge new state-of-the-art STEAM Center. This STEAM Center will allow our students to expand their scientific knowledge and learn creatively by using the Engineering by Design program. The upper room in the Cube is where our new Computer Lab will be housed. This room will be used for further computer technology instruction and student research. We've added two new classrooms where our therapists (Speech, Occupational Therapy, Counseling) were formerly housed. Our therapists have already moved into a new suite of offices that was constructed across from our District Office. We have re-done our beloved BHA Auditorium by adding a new sound system and new carpeting. We have also replaced all the windows in our building. In addition, we have redesigned and reconstructed our Main Office and our Special Education Office, and our entrance, in order to make them more secure and functional. Security of students and staff is extremely important. Our cafeteria and kitchen have been reconfigured and modernized in order to effectively and efficiently address the nutritional needs of our students.

In order to address and overcome the challenges that our students have faced over the past year-and-a half, we have added some new staff. We are re-assigning an experienced teacher to the position of Curriculum Facilitator in order to further align our curriculum from grades K-5. This staff member will assist teachers as they deliver the curriculum to their students. This person will also help us to use data in order to assess student progress.

We have hired a teacher to work with the grade level that the Curriculum Facilitator will be leaving. We have also added two new Special Education teachers who will be working in our primary grade levels.

We are able to have two content support teachers who will be working with students, helping them to overcome any learning loss that has occurred over the last year-and-a half. In addition, we will be utilizing the skills of a retired teacher and a student teacher in working with intermediate math students and primary students. We continue to be creative in meeting the needs of all of our kids.

We have also added a Teacher Assistant who will be focusing on working with Kindergarten. We continue to have an R4K (Ready for Kindergarten) Navigator, who gives us a wonderful connection between young children's homes and our school.

This year, we are also able to add to our counseling staff by adding a counselor. We are able to further build bridges within the community by housing a Community Schools Coordinator and a SEALS (Social Emotional Academic Learning Supports) Coordinator in our school building. These skilled people will help our students and their families with many of their needs as they arise.

We are extremely excited about the upcoming school year and all of the great things happening here at Benton Hall Academy. Please contact us at 315-823-1400 with any questions or comments.

AT BENTON HALL, WE DO IT ALL!!!

## What are R4K and Family School Navigators?

**R4K (Ready for Kindergarten) is an initiative of United Way of the Mohawk Valley. It's hollstic approach brings a unique perspective to early childhood education, helping famillies ensure their children are best prepared for success as they begin school.**

**A Family School Navigator is an employee of United Way of the Mohawk Valley as part of their R4K initiative. They are embedded in several elementary schools throughout Oneida and Herkimer counties and work with children ages 0-12 and their families. R4K Family School Navigators connect with families in our community. Their goal is to enhance children's readiness for kindergarten and success in life.**

## SCHOOL SAFETY AUDIT

Performed by Herkimer-BOCES– Fall 2021

Evaluating the building and campus security to identify vulnerabilities and areas in need of improvement utilizing a survey developed by the US Department of Homeland Security



# HIGH SCHOOL

## 2019-2020

**Graduation Rate was 86.4 %**

**AP Courses offered at LF:**

AP Studio: 3D, 2D, Drawing/Painting  
AP Art History (being added 2022-23)  
AP ELA Composition  
AP Calculus I  
AP Calculus II  
AP Computer Science Principles  
AP Computer Science A Java  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP World History  
AP US History

**Computer Courses Offered:**

Computer Application  
Intro to Computer Science I  
Intro to Computer Science II  
Computer Information Systems 1 & 2  
Leads to CompTIA A+ Certification  
Graphic Design  
Social Media Marketing  
Entrepreneurship

**Future Offerings projected for 2022-2023:**

Working on CTE Entrepreneurship/  
Small Business Management. This will  
lead to a technical endorsement.

**College Now Courses:**

Ceramics  
Drawing  
Painting  
Graphic Design  
Digital Photography  
Art History  
Accounting (Offered Every other year)  
Financial Math  
Business and Personal Law  
English I: College Writing  
English II: Introduction to Literature  
Personal And Public Speech  
Spanish I  
Spanish II  
Nutrition  
Pre-Calculus  
Calculus I  
Calculus II  
Statistics  
Introduction to Sociology  
Intro to Psychology  
Western Civilization I  
Western Civilization II  
American Government  
American History I  
American History II  
Introduction to Macroeconomics

## Community Schools Update

We continue to meet regularly with the agencies through Connected Community Schools (CNYHHN, Rome Alliance for Education, and Safe Schools Mohawk Valley). Connected Community Schools has hired Sue Wallace-Eaton as our Community Schools Coordinator (CSC). She comes with glowing recommendations, a plethora of experience serving families in need in our area, and a mental health background which is vital at this time. She will not only be an advocate for our families in all areas of need (food, clothing, hygiene, health care, job search, etc.), but will also be a tremendous resource for our district faculty and staff as we maneuver the return to school with students who are dealing with trauma in their lives.

We have hired a SEALS (Social Emotional Academic Learning Support) Coordinator utilizing our ARP funding. The purpose of this program is to help build trauma informed care and resiliency in our schools. While the CSC will deal with all the needs of our families, the SEALS coordinator will work collaboratively with the CSC to focus just on the mental health needs of our students and families.

We are in the process of creating our Youth and Family Community Resource Hub in each building. This is an area where students and families will be able to access food, clothing, hygiene products, computers, school supplies, etc... It will also be the space where our CSC and SEALS coordinator will be housed. We have professional development planned for our administrative team, guidance counselors, and social workers this summer where Community Schools will come in to walk us through the LINK process (how families will be referred for services) and a Youth Mental Health First Aid Training. This will then be presented to our faculty and staff at faculty meetings early in the year. We will have a Community Schools representative attending our first Superintendent's Conference Day to introduce this initiative to our entire district.

We are excited to begin our next steps of aligning our local and regional community resources as the school year begins. Community members such as Mark Blask, Tony DeLuca, Dave Casullo, Martin Babinec, Tamara Razzano and others will be important in these next steps. This part will not happen overnight due to the demands that will be on all of us to re-open school, but will be a work in progress as the year progresses.

We are extremely excited about this initiative. We live in a community where there is so much potential for partnerships between community resources and our school district. The goal is to help create stronger families and healthy communities allowing students to learn at their maximum potential so that they have a bright future ahead of them and aren't afraid to start dreaming big and taking the steps to make them come true.

## Cafeteria News

Happy Summer to our students and families,

The kitchen/cafeteria has been undergoing a large renovation this summer. We started with the High/Middle school and the focus this summer is on Benton Hall. We will be adding new equipment and making renovations that will help serve students and faculty safer, healthier and tastier food for years to come. We are particularly excited about a new walk-in freezer and cooler which will add to the much needed storage space at Benton Hall.



We have also had a few changes in the kitchen regarding staff. We have hired a friendly new face and have moved some staff around between buildings.

Just like last year, our school is able to participate in CEP (Community Eligibility Program). This means that all breakfast and lunch is free of cost to students. To ensure our eligibility in this program, we are asking that each household fills out the income form that will be mailed later in August regardless if your student would be reduced, free, or paid and return to the school.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of summer and we look forward to seeing all our students in a few weeks.

Stephanie Johnson  
Food Service Director



The Little Falls Music Boosters are looking for new members! The Music Boosters are a group of parents who support the Little Falls Music Department through fundraising and volunteering at music events. Please contact your child's music teacher if you are interested in helping out!

Music Teacher Contact Info:  
Amanda Grimaldi (6-12 Chorus)  
[aagrimaldi@lfcsc.org](mailto:aagrimaldi@lfcsc.org)

Stacie Luczynski-Perch (6-12 Band)  
[sluczynski@lfcsc.org](mailto:sluczynski@lfcsc.org)

Amy Osborne (K-3 Music/Chorus/Brass Specialist)  
[aosborne@lfcsc.org](mailto:aosborne@lfcsc.org)

Emily Rozonkiewicz (4-5 Music/Chorus/Band)  
[erozonkiewicz@lfcsc.org](mailto:erozonkiewicz@lfcsc.org)

## 2021-2022 School Year Immunization Requirements

**[CLICK HERE FOR MEDICAL](#)**  
**[CLICK HERE FOR DENTAL](#)**



### Transportation Department

We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer!

If you have moved or have changed your address please contact the District Office at 315-823-1470.



## Capital Project Updates



**Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.  
Middle School & High School Open House**

**Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.  
Benton Hall Academy Open House**

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## **Little Falls Mounties Hit The Fields and Courts This Fall**

After a strange year due to COVID which saw some sports played in late fall, some played in the spring, while modified sports were skills and drill only, the Mounties return to a more traditional schedule.

Sports offered this fall are: Varsity and modified football, girls varsity tennis, girls and boys varsity and modified cross country, varsity and JV and modified field hockey, varsity and modified boys soccer, varsity and JV and modified girls soccer. Varsity sports started on August 23rd, while modified sports start on August 30th.



Information regarding practices is posted on the school website at  
**[www.LFCSD.org/athletics](http://www.LFCSD.org/athletics)**

**[HIGH SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE](#)**

**[MIDDLE SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE](#)**

**[CLICK HERE FOR UP TO DATE SCHEDULES](#)**

Follow the action on our Twitter page at **[@LFMounties](#)**.

# **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Little Falls City School District takes pride in the collective efforts made to provide *all* students with an educational experience that empowers them to reach their full academic, physical, and emotional potential!

Students who are suspected of having a disability are referred to the Committee on Special Education (CSE). When a student qualifies for Special Education, the CSE determines appropriate services, accommodations, and modifications that should be provided, based on individual needs. The Committee always considers the Least Restrictive Environment when determining special education services, and often is able to provide those services to our students within our own buildings. However, students are also entitled to receive services through BOCES and/or other Educational Institutions, when necessary.

Some of the Special Education services that the District provides to students, in addition to specific individualized accommodation include:

Integrated Co-Teaching  
Consultant Teacher Services  
Resource Room  
15:1 Classrooms  
12:1:1 Classrooms

The Little Falls City School District looks at the **WHOLE CHILD**, whether receiving special education services, or not, and strives to provide them a safe and supportive environment in which students will thrive. Services that are available to our students include Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Vision and Audiological Therapy. Each building also has a Guidance Counselor and the District employs one Social Worker. These services provide the supports that students need in order to grow and learn and eventually become productive members of society. It is the District's ultimate goal to meet the needs of **ALL** the students and to provide equitable access to a strong and supportive education. Students' success requires teamwork. The Little Falls City School District CSE Department is proud to be part of the team.

Jennifer Smith  
Director of Special Education  
[jennifersmith@lfcisd.org](mailto:jennifersmith@lfcisd.org)  
315-823-3953

## **2021-2022 Board of Education**

<b>Frank Mendl, President</b>	<b>Term expires</b>	<b>6/30/2024</b>
<b>Christine Shepardson, Vice-President</b>	<b>Term expires</b>	<b>6/30/2022</b>
<b>Tracy Coulson</b>	<b>Term expires</b>	<b>6/30/2022</b>
<b>William Dodge</b>	<b>Term expires</b>	<b>6/30/2023</b>
<b>Joseph Finkst</b>	<b>Term expires</b>	<b>6/30/2024</b>
<b>Kristina Hameister</b>	<b>Term expires</b>	<b>6/30/2023</b>
<b>Bernard Jodway Jr.</b>	<b>Term expires</b>	<b>6/30/2022</b>

Board of Education Meetings are held at Benton Hall Academy  
6:00 P.M. unless otherwise noted

July 1, 2021  
August 11, 2021 (Middle School- Multipurpose Room)  
\*August 18, 2021- 5:00 P.M. \*Special Meeting  
September 8, 2021  
October 13, 2021  
November 10, 2021  
December 8, 2021  
January 12, 2022  
February 9, 2022  
March 9, 2022  
April 20, 2022  
May 11, 2022  
June 8, 2022

### **District Administration Team**

Dr. Keith Levatino, Superintendent of Schools  
Bart Tooley, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Ashraf Allam, Director of Business Operations/Technology  
Leeann Dooley, High School Principal  
Maria Lindsay, Middle School Principal  
Joe Long, Benton Hall Academy Principal

## TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



The LFCSD Technology Department is hard at work over the summer with many updates and projects. We are excited to be closing out our first year's formal intern program (dubbed ITS Summer Internship) where we trained 3 current and former local students to help assess and fix the mountains of Chromebooks for our students and rebuild various computer labs. Two of those students will continue with a credited internship program during the year to aid in technology support for faculty and students.

We finished off the academic year with Chromebook collection from all K-12 students where we are fully 1:1. During the summer we fix and update all 1100 Chromebooks to get them ready for the new year in addition to replacing units with new hardware.

Here are some of the other high priority projects we are working on:

- Setting up a new BHA computer lab designed around mobile chromebooks in lieu of desktops
- Reconstructing the Business and Middle and High School computer labs after building construction and remodeling
- Setting up new hardware and devices for the coming year and the never ending software updates throughout
- Prepping curriculum and activities for new technology classes where we have a slate of new offerings at the Middle and High School



In addition, we are all kept on our toes cleaning up after the construction crew with wiring connections or bringing network equipment back online after being jostled or having power cut. Never a dull moment in the Tech Department at LFCSD.

All of this is made possible through our partnership with the Up Mobility Foundation.



Little Falls summer intern receives completion certificate