



## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

November 2019



### *A Message from the Superintendent:*

In December of 2018, the voters of Elizabethtown-Lewis Central School District and of Westport Central School District voted to merge by consolidation, forming a new Board of Education and a new school district, encompassing nearly 250 square miles in Essex County, named Boquet Valley Central School District. The Lake View Campus in Westport houses Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the District Office. The Mountain View Campus in Elizabethtown houses Prekindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and the 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Moving forward, in an effort to maximize efficiencies for the district, large-scale capital projects are being explored. It is my belief that we must have all of our roughly 475 students in one building. As such, the three options being explored are 1) to renovate and expand the Lake View Campus; 2) to renovate and expand the Mountain View Campus; and 3) to build a new, centrally located facility to accommodate the needs of the district. A separate, but equally important project being considered is the future of the bus garages. Both garages need a significant amount of costly renovations. A new, centrally located facility is also being considered for the bus garage.

Any capital project of this size will require a community vote. It is my intention to keep the community informed of this process through all of our communication outlets including but not limited to: quarterly and weekly newsletters, community forums, Board of Education meetings, the district website, and social media. A project of this size is likely a once-in-a-generation occurrence. We want to make sure that it is done correctly.

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# Mountain View Campus

*PreK-5 and 9-12*

During the first quarter we had opportunities to engage in activities that helped to unify Griffin Nation. We had a spirit week that included all students in Boquet Valley K-12. We had various days with district wide themes that our students and faculty were able to engage in. Our Boquet Valley 9-12 students had a spirit activity day along with well attended Soccer games with a Friday night bonfire. Following the bonfire our 9-12 students had their first Boquet Valley dance on the Mountain View Campus while our 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students were engaged in a roller party at the Lake View Campus. The Boquet Valley student council played a role in helping to create this successful week along with numerous teachers from both campuses.

We had district-wide student engagement at Boquet Valley for the first Boquet Valley Halloween parade and activities hosted by the Lake View Campus faculty and staff. The transportation department assisted with the transferring of our Mountain View students which included a decorated bus that our students enjoyed. Coordination was also done with the towns of Westport and Elizabethtown for the after school Trick or Treating. Seventh through Twelfth Graders had the opportunity to engage in skits and other activities at the Lake View campus in the evening.



**HALLOWEEN  
AND  
BONFIRE AT  
BVCSD**



Mountain View Students in front of one of the new murals

Our K-5 teachers had an opportunity to meet with their counterparts at the Lake View campus to review district wide math data as well as working together to prepare for the upcoming changes to the state curriculum. Our 7-12 teachers on that afternoon met at Mountain View providing us time to meet as curricular departments to plan for upcoming regents and curricular changes. Departments also had the opportunity to learn from our Model Schools trainer how to use various components of Google Classroom.

The senior class is presented "Senior Night Live!" This is the first in a hopefully long run of Boquet Valley senior plays. All proceeds go towards the Class of 2020's senior trip and graduation.



With the first quarter coming to an end we will be sending report cards home with our 9-12 students and the elementary student report cards will be available for pickup when parents/guardians attend teacher conferences. Our teacher conferences will be held Monday November 25<sup>th</sup> after the half day and into the evening.



**On the horizon we are planning on conducting a district-wide 7-12 activity for the Winter Solstice to celebrate our great start of Griffin Nation.**



# Lake View Campus

*K-5 and 6-8*

What a great start to the school year here at the Lake View Campus. Our 6-8 students are taking full advantage of the middle school model we are creating. Our students have been putting their mark on the building and growing opportunities on our campus.

Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders traveled to the Plattsburgh Marina to visit a University of Vermont Research vessel as well as tour the Plattsburgh water treatment plant. This trip was a follow up to the Sea Grant work students did last week as they explore local watersheds and monitored local streams.

Grade 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to travel and participate in Middle School All County this quarter as well. These students traveled to Tupper Lake to join students from around the county to experience unique instruction and have the opportunity to perform with some of the best musicians in the county.



At Boquet Valley we are making strides and specifically planning to ensure our elementary students have access to a wide range of learning experiences. Music, both instrumental and vocal, Art, Technology, Physical Education and Character Education are all parts of our instruction design.



Farm to table instruction with our first grade students

# GREEN NATION



3rd Grade students enjoying Pajama Day of Spirit Week



*Boquet Valley continues to join the experiences of each town and district to for the betterment of our students. We were able to bring in the spirits of Halloween and join our students in grades K-5. High School Student council joined and help lead our elementary and middle school students through an exciting tradition from the former Westport Campus. In December we will celebrate an Elizabethtown tradition during the Winter Solstice.*



# Student Services

## *Early Bridges*

Wow! It is hard to believe that we are already finished with our first two months of school. What a wonderful time it has been with our young Griffins. The Early Bridges team is incredibly proud of our students. They have entered the new school year and for some of them a new routine with energy and excitement. We have had a busy two months. We have learned new classroom routines, learned about our new friends and are now working on the thing involving the fall season.

The Early Bridges program is vested in allowing children to learn through play and exploration by following the comprehensive, research-based curriculum Creative Curriculum. Creative Curriculum guides our instruction through exploration and discovery activities to ensure our students are developing confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills through play. Along with our instructional goals we are committed to healthy eating, and provide our students with a healthy Scratch cooked meals and large motor/gross motor play daily.

To ensure all of our parents and families are up to date we have created a ClassDojo. We also post pictures and announcements on Boquet Valley Central School's Facebook and Twitter pages. Please make sure to follow us. October 31<sup>st</sup> will be our day to celebrate the color orange, we will also be visiting the Essex Center. Please make sure our young Griffins are wearing orange. The Early Bridges staff is thankful and appreciative of all the parents and children in our program. We feel very blessed to be able to be a part of your lives.



Early Bridges Staff

(left to right)

Ms. Jen, Ms. Emily, Ms. Sarah, Ms. Jasmine,  
Ms. Janet, Ms. Jeanette, and Ms. Jolene



# *District is working to ensure students' needs are met...*

The Boquet Valley Central School District believes in providing interventions to students who are not meeting standards. Some children have different learning styles, and respond differently to instructional materials, so they learn at different rates. This does not mean they are in need of special education services, but they may require some additional educational support. To ensure we are identifying and providing for the needs of all students, the Boquet Valley Central School District has begun implementing Response to Intervention services. At the beginning of each school year, teachers administer an assessment. Boquet Valley Central School uses I-Ready as the assessment tool. I-Ready helps us identify students with critical skill deficits. When a skill deficit is identified, the teacher initiates the remedial instruction or supports to facilitate the child's success.

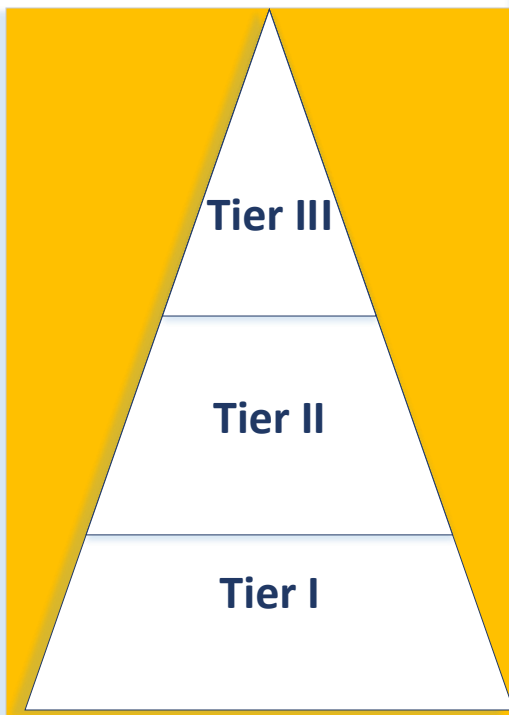
The Boquet Valley Central School District implements a three-tiered approach to identifying a student's needs and providing varying levels of support:

Tier I — The District employs an intervention team approach during which school staff meet to review a child's progress and to tailor an individual academic support plan. The classroom teacher will use different strategies, and may use additional and/or different materials so the child is successful.

Tier II — The District employs the same intervention team approach but also include more strategic and targeted intervention.

Tier III — It may be necessary to alter the child's schedule and make some choices regarding subjects and the provisions of educational services in order for the educational interventions to occur.

The intervention period for each Tier can range from four to ten weeks. Parents are encouraged to participate in their child's/children's Intervention Support Team. We believe we have the responsibility to make ALL children successful and we do this one child at a time.





# GRIFFIN ATHLETICS



Our Fall Season was a success.

The merged Moriah/Boquet Valley Cross-Country team earned a Boys Section VII title in the Section Cross-Country meet. We have four Student-Athletes that take part in that merged program.

Our Girls Varsity Soccer team made a return trip to the championship game. They gave a great effort in a tough loss to Chazy 2-1. They finished the season with an honorable mention in the state rankings.

As we wrap up the Fall season we are looking forward to the Winter Season and offering a few new sports to our students. We have a few staff members that are willing to coach as volunteers in order to get these new sports of the ground. With the combining of the Basketball programs, it is important that we offer a variety of sports, so Student-Athletes can find what suits them best, while not jeopardizing the numbers we have on our current sports teams.

We have 116 students signed up for a Winter Sport in grades 7-12. That's outstanding! Our hope is to keep as many students involved as we can.

Our winter athletics menu will include Varsity, JV and Modified Basketball for both genders, Weightlifting, Cheerleading and Archery. We will continue Indoor Track as a merger with Moriah. Students wanting to compete will need to transport themselves to MCS for practice.

Much work has been done to order new uniforms for our new school. We have also been in contact with vendors that will supply Varsity letters, Varsity jackets and other pieces of Griffin gear for our students.

Our new Family ID registration process served us well in the early stages, allowing parents to register their child for athletics without attending an evening meeting to complete paperwork.

We are looking forward to our first Griffin Winter Season.

Go Griffins!



**Joshua R. Meyer**

Superintendent of Schools

**Jana Atwell**

District Clerk

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