

SPENCER-VAN ETTEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Together We Achieve...*  
 16 DARTTS CROSSROAD  
 SPENCER, NY 14883  
 October Newsletter



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# Spencer - Van Etten Central School District

October 2019  
 Newsletter

*Together We Achieve Excellence Beyond Expectations*

Dear Spencer-Van Etten Community,

We are off to a busy start at Spencer-Van Etten this school year. I would like to start by thanking the community for your support over the past several weeks. I assure you that S-VE places a high level of importance on the mental health and wellbeing of our staff, students and community. One of our district goals is that "S-VE will invest in and support social-emotional well-being, academic growth, and community through meaningful connections." One focus this year is our Mental Health Initiative. This initiative encompasses district-wide Mindful Mondays, self-care and professional development for staff and the creation of a community Mental Health Task Force. Volunteers from the community and our school will work together as a task force to assess the mental health needs of our district, brainstorm ideas on how to meet those needs, and determine what tools we have and what tools we need to successfully meet the needs of our school community. If you have not seen previous communications regarding the Mental Health Task Force and would like to partner with us, please call the District Office at 589-7100.

In addition to the Mental Health Initiative, I have created a Superintendent Student Leadership Council at the high school to allow our S-VE student voice an avenue to be heard in improving our district. Starting in November, the council, comprised of students in grades 9-12 and in good academic standing, will meet with me monthly to discuss items pertinent to the student body. I look forward to hearing the student voice and adding their ideas to those I've gained from my listening tour of classrooms, community and attending various meetings, such as the Elementary PTO, to improve our school district. I welcome invitations to various events, as I continue to learn about our community.

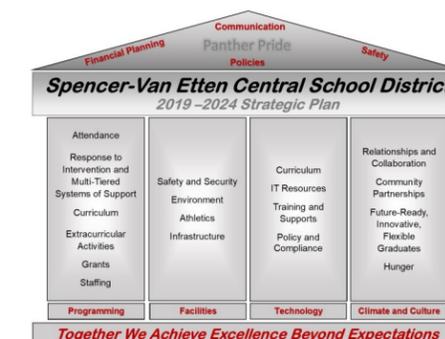
As we continue to strive to be the best district we can be, we are reviewing and updating our policies and procedures. Currently, the Board of Education and the Administrative Team have been working on a deep evaluation of our district policies, which includes reviewing and updating each policy. This is a mountain of work but valuable conversation which ensures our district is in compliance with state regulations and guidelines.

Safety continues to be a focus for our district and we are excited to partner with Tioga County Sherriff's Department and welcome our new School Resource Officer (SRO), Rob Blaasch to our district. Rob is a community member and his children attended S-VE schools, so he is versed in our school and community culture and has already become a visible presence in our halls, cafeteria and bus stops. You will learn more about Rob and the role of the SRO in this newsletter. We have also partnered with a company called Navigate Prepared, which is an electronic platform that provides first responders access to important elements regarding the school in case of an emergency. This platform houses our safety plans, connects our student management system for ease of attendance taking during evacuations, etc and streamlines communication systems. Administration is becoming versed in the program, then it will be rolled out to staff and first responders.

Along with our present policy work, throughout last school year and continuing into the future, the district and Board of Education worked in partnership with the community to establish a 5-year Strategic Plan. This data-driven process included hours of reviewing our current needs and creating goals that project into the future. The pillars of our plan focus on programming, facilities, technology, and climate and culture with the overarching mindfulness of financial planning, policies, safety and communication. Over the summer, the Administrative Team and staff members worked on the specific action steps that will allow the district to successfully accomplish the goals of the Strategic Plan. I will update you in the next newsletter of our progress, as we continue to roll out the Strategic Plan.

Thank you for your continued support of our district.

*Diahann Hesler*, Superintendent



## Spencer-Van Etten Central School District



### New Panther Staff

Many new staff have joined our school this year and we will be introducing them to our community through social media this fall! Stay connected through Twitter @SpencerVanEtten to virtually meet our new Panthers!

### Stay Informed Via Social Media

Be sure to follow us on Facebook at Spencer-Van Etten Central School District. Weekly events will be posted at the beginning of each week on Facebook to help keep the community informed! Highlights captured from the week will be posted at the end of each week. New this year, follow us on Instagram @sveschooldistrict! And, look up our district hashtags: #SVEPantherPride #SVETogetherWeAchieve #SVEHighSchool #SVEMiddleSchool #SVEElementarySchool

### Graduate of Distinction

The community is welcome to join the Spencer-Van Etten Central School District in recognizing Jean Alve as the 2019 inductee into the S-VE Graduates of Distinction. The induction ceremony will take place during the National Honor Society induction ceremony on Wednesday, December 4th at 8:15am in the Spencer-Van Etten High School Auditorium.



## School Resource Officer



New this year, S-VE partnered with the Tioga County Sherriff's Office to provide a School Resource Officer, improving our District Initiative of Safety. The Tioga County Sherriff's Office has assigned Deputy Sherriff, Rob Blaasch, as the Spencer-Van Etten Central School District School Resource Officer (SRO).

After 26 years with the Tioga County Sherriff's Office, Rob retired as a Road Patrol Sergeant, yet remained on staff part-time. As S-VE Superintendent Hesler and the administrative team began to work with the Sherriff to figure out the details and process of hiring an SRO, Rob immediately came to mind.

Spencer-Van Etten is the first school district that the Tioga County Sherriff's Office has partnered with to provide a School

Resource Officer. As stated in the SRO contract, "the primary role of the school resource officer [is] to provide improved public safety and/or security on school grounds." Some of Officer Rob's other duties may include and enforcing policies and administrative procedures related to school safety, assisting in trainings, proposing and implementing prevention, response and recovery effort strategies, as well as providing educational and mentoring services to students.

Officer Rob has already been a part of the safety drills in each building. He will continually review the safety procedures and provide feedback with areas of improvement. Another benefit to having an SRO on site is that Officer Rob can answer questions regarding student issues and provide resources and preventative guidance.

For the first couple of days, Officer Rob dressed in full uniform to allow students and parents to easily identify him, pictured above. You can now find Officer Rob in more approachable attire, as he works to connect with students.



Students and staff have welcomed Officer Rob into their classrooms to discuss his role and learn more about how he can help us foster a safe district. Also pictured, Officer Rob presented his role as our SRO to a third grade classroom and answered all of their questions. Students asked questions such as, "what do you need to know to be a police officer", "what do you do if you need back-up", "what commands do you use", "what tools do you use", and "how can we help you"? Officer Rob reviewed safety protocols with the students and ended his discussion by urging students to pay attention in school, behave, let a teacher know if they see something of concern and to look out for each other. Office Rob also encouraged the students to greet him if they see him out in the community.

We are very appreciative to the Tioga County Sherriff and our community with supporting our SRO. If you have Twitter, follow Officer Rob for safety tips and tweets @SVESRO. Together We Achieve a Safe School.

## District Vision

Together We Achieve Excellence Beyond Expectations

## District Mission

We Promote Pride, Inspire Growth, and Foster Innovation

## District Goals

- S-VE will increase awareness, interest and involvement by encouraging collaborative efforts to develop school spirit and community pride.
- S-VE will cultivate creative, problem solving and future ready citizens through rich experiences and positive relationships.
- S-VE will invest in and support social-emotional well-being, academic growth and community through meaningful connections

## Board of Education Meeting & Workshop Schedule

Date:	Time:	Place:
October 23	6:30pm	Tour of ES Cafeteria then HS Cafeteria; 7:00pm Workshop @ High School Cafeteria
November 14	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library
December 12	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library
January 9	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library
January 23	6:30pm	Tour of Transportation; 7:00pm Workshop @ Elementary School Library
February 13	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library
March 12	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library
March 26	6:30pm	Tour of Elementary School; 7:00pm Workshop @ Elementary School Library
April 9	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library
April 22	6:30pm	Tour of High School; 7:00pm Workshop @ High School Library
May 7	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library
May 28	6:30pm	Tour of Middle School; 7:00pm Workshop @ Middle School Library
June 11	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library
July 2	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library
August 13	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library
August 27	7:00pm	Business Meeting @ Middle School Library

### Board of Education Members

Don Johnson, President  
 Sean Vallely, Vice President  
 Matt Connor  
 Peter Johanns  
 Karen Johnson  
 Donna Mistler  
 Rick Rogers

### Student Liaisons

Samantha Deppe  
 Alex Decker

For more information, go to [www.svecsd.org/board.cfm](http://www.svecsd.org/board.cfm)