



Postal Patron Local

S-VE Graduates of Distinction

Congratulations to our newest Graduates of Distinction inductees: Dr. Donald Parks, Class of 1967 (pictured on left) and Mr. Don Brock, Class of 1975 (pictured on right). Donald Parks is an award-winning, internationally collected artist, who donates his time and proceeds to help stimulate art programs and competition in schools across the nation. Don Brock has distinguished himself in the S-VE community as a self-employed tree farm owner, employing over 125 young individuals and volunteering for decades with athletic youth programs and needs in the community. The 2018 Graduates of Distinction Induction Ceremony took place during the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony to inspire and encourage our high school students to excel beyond expectations. To read more about our Graduates of Distinction, please go to our website www.svecsd.org/GraduateofDistinction.cfm.



Upcoming Events

The concert and winter athletic seasons are upon us. The community is encouraged to attend Board of Education meetings and sign up to be a part of the Budget Advisory Committee. Please check our **Website, District Calendar** or **Sign** in front of the high school for further information and a calendar of upcoming events. www.svecsd.org



SPENCER - VAN ETTEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Together We Achieve...

Nov/Dec 2018
Newsletter

Dear Spencer-Van Etten Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members,

It has been 4 months since I became a Panther! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Spencer-Van Etten's Board of Education, staff, students and community members as I attend various district events. I have worked in various educational institutions and have never worked with a finer group of educators. On the opening day of school this year, we recognized our staff's years of service to our district and a common thread appeared. We have a very large number of staff who live in S-VE and graduated from the S-VE school district, many of whom have worked for our district for 15 years or more. Another large group of staff choose to commute from 30 minutes or more to their job at the S-VE school because they value what S-VE stands for. The S-VE District represents a group of educators with over 2,401 years of experience that believes the student is the focus of all we do. Our staff goes above and beyond for their students and I see this represented over and over again as I attend various school functions and visit classrooms. I hope that you are as proud to say your child is being educated at S-VE as I am to say I work for one of the finest educational institutions around!



Welcome and Listening Tour: I have spent the last four months on a "listening tour" getting to know the employees of our district, their positions and responsibilities. I have been meeting with staff and students to learn about our school and what it is that people value within our district, as well as what we could do better. I have also had the pleasure to meet the Inspire Board, eat breakfast with the Breakfast Club, attend a PIE meeting, join the Lions Club for dinner and attend the Spencer Picnic. I am looking forward to meeting other residents and leaders within our community, please reach out so that I can make these valued connections.

Vision and Mission: The district's administrative team, along with some teacher leaders, worked very hard this summer to streamline all the good work that was happening across the district into a commonality for our school under one district wide umbrella using our newly created **vision** statement of **Together We Achieve...Excellence Beyond Expectations**. S-VE's **mission** statement is: **We promote pride, inspire growth and foster innovation**. What's the difference between the two, you might ask? Our vision is our **FUTURE** focus and our **MISSION** is our daily work towards our vision. It is very important to our staff that we focus the district through a collective vision and mission which will guide us in our future direction and goal setting. In the past, each building had its own set of goals and now the goals are consistent and aligned to the vision. Our **GOALS** are to: increase awareness, interest and involvement by encouraging collaborative efforts to develop school spirit and community pride; to cultivate creative, problem solving and future ready citizens through rich experiences and positive relationships; to invest in and support social-emotional well-being, academic growth and community through meaningful connections. We are proud of our work towards this focused approach.

One of the most consistent themes I have noticed across the district is the family approach to education. Our school is the hub for our community and our staff care for our students and each other. It is apparent each and every day. Another common thread I have learned is that the community values the school and all the school does for our children. This is a powerful connection, one that can change lives and impact student learning. I have worked in several schools in my 30 plus years in education and it is rare to see such a powerful connection between school and community. I truly believe that Together We **can** Achieve... pretty much anything! Thanks for welcoming me to this amazing school and community. Here's to many wonderful years together!

Diahann Hesler
Superintendent of Schools
Spencer Van Etten Central School District

Spencer-Van Etten Central School District Initiatives



Attendance

According to *Attendance Works*, “Every day a student is absent is a lost opportunity for learning. Too many absences not only can affect achievement for the absent student but also can disrupt learning for the entire class.” Research also shows that “showing up for class matters. Students can’t benefit from investments in high quality instruction and more engaging, rigorous curriculum unless they are in their classroom.” We encourage families, when planning their vacations, to arrange a minimal loss of instructional time to ensure your child is getting the most out of their educational experience. “As early as the first month of school, chronic absence (missing 10 percent or more of school days) can be an early warning sign of academic trouble, whether a student is in kindergarten or high school. Children who miss too much school in kindergarten and first grade often struggle to read proficiently by the end of third grade. By sixth grade it becomes a key predictor that a student will drop out of high school.” For further information, visit www.attendanceworks.org.



Digital Citizenship

Digital citizenship is emphasized in all S-VE classrooms. “Whether you realize it or not, every time you go online you leave behind ‘footprints’, the traces of where you have been and what you have done” according to the GST BOCES Digital Citizen News - November issue. To read more about “Understanding Your Digital Footprint”, go to our website: www.svecsd.org/technology.cfm.

PBIS

The middle school is piloting PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) this year with the intent to expand it to the elementary and high schools next year. This program highlights expected behaviors, such as pride, respect, ownership, willingness and leadership, and the appropriate use of these behaviors in each area of the school. The PBIS team has incorporated these expectations during assemblies and events, as well as instituted a recognition system to honor students who demonstrate appropriate behaviors.



Response to Intervention (RtI) & “Whatever I Need” (WIN)

RtI (and WIN) is designed for every student to receive extra support to specifically address focus areas. Students in need of extra assistance are placed in tiered levels of interventions. As they advance, the intervention either continues deeper into the focus area or students are released from the extra support and placed in an enrichment opportunity.

The middle school RtI TAC (Teacher Assistance Center) team works with Dr. Seth Aldrich from Buffalo State and is one of the ten school districts in New York State participating in a refined approach to RtI. The team recently attended workshops for *Visible Learning for Literacy* in Albany. Staff members from the elementary and high schools are connected to the middle school RtI group to achieve the district goal: to have a clear, research-based approach to address all needs of all S-VE students.

Safety

Spencer-Van Etten is committed to safety for all students and staff. The administrative team continually reviews safety protocols within all three buildings and departments to streamline the process and ensure consistent safety language. Regulations continue to change, most recently requiring increased practice. We follow the **SHELL** model, specifically, Shelter-In-Place, Hold-In-Place, Evacuate, Lockout and Lockdown, in partnership with local emergency responders. The more we practice, the more comfortable our students and staff will be with the process.

Additionally, our district will be using monies set aside by the Smart Schools Bond Act to address security and technology beginning July 2019. These funds will be used to improve all three school entries, including updating our camera and door access systems.

Schoolology



Our teachers and students in grades 3 - 12 are using a new digital platform called Schoolology. This learning management system allows all lessons to be in one place that students can access from school and home. S-VE classrooms are in the process of transitioning to paper-free, digital classrooms. Currently, students in grades 3 - 10 have 1-to-1 devices with all other grade levels having access to multiple forms of technology, such as computers and iPads. We plan to integrate 1-to-1 devices district-wide by September 2019.



Spirit and Pride Days



This year we have established consistent student and staff pride theme days throughout our district. On the last Friday of each month, all students and staff are encouraged to show their pride and respect for our district by wearing red, black and silver for Panthers or purple for Eagles!

Sustainability

We are composting district-wide again! The BOE just approved a Green Team Coordinator, Brenda Anderson, to



oversee the district wide composting initiative. The district composting site has been moved “on-site” to the opposite side of Darts Crossroad from the High School! The new solar farm project across route 34 from the high school donated four truckloads of woodchips to our district to assist with the composting process. Volunteer and BOE member, Rick Rogers, continues to donate hours of his time and energy into this initiative, along with the



assistance from the facilities department and many staff and students making sure the waste goes into the appropriate bins. Keep up the great work!