

POSITIVE POINTS
BOARD MEETING – JAN 16, 2019

High School

1. Best news ever – NHS graduation rate for the 2018 school year is 88% - congratulations to students, faculty and staff for making this a reality!
2. We continue to make progress on our LINKS goals. We are in the planning stages of implementing our digital citizenship curriculum. With the help of library media specialist, Lorry Chwazik and 11th and 12 grade social studies teachers, all NHS students will receive instruction in digital citizenry this year. Our Academic Center continues to thrive as an alternative environment where students can achieve success!
3. Congratulations to Norwich High School junior Aria Maholchic, who will attend the “Dynamic Acting for Young Actors – Shakespeare” course at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London this summer.
4. Norwich Wrestling! 2019 Section IV Qualifier B Champions! 3 years running! Congratulations gentlemen! Congratulations to Michael Squires and Dante Geislinger for their 1st place wins at sectionals in wrestling! They will now continue their journey at states! In addition, at another recent competition, Michael not only won the individual Class B Championship at 152lb but was also being awarded the Most Outstanding Wrestler by a vote from all the participating coaches.
5. The Norwich High School Adventure Club got a taste of the video-game scene from back in the day with a December 9 trip to Binghamton. The club visited Robot City Games – the largest vintage video game arcade and store on the East Coast – for a Retro-Gaming Experience featuring the likes of PAC-MAN, Galaga, Frogger and way too many others to list here. As always, hats off the RHett Genung for organizing these amazing trips!
6. Norwich High School’s Digital Media and Coding Club is giving students a chance to acquire 21st-century skills in a structured after-school setting. Launched in November of 2018, the DMACC allows Norwich students to engage with the ever-expanding digital world of computer programming. Participants power up their school Chromebooks at the start of each session and learn how to code using a combination of Codecademy and App Academy. The second part of DMACC sessions focuses on team building through eSports, which is a growing industry. NHS is the first high school eSports team in the Southern Tier. DMACC officers are President Steven King, Vice President Cullen Sherrick, Secretary Michael Funaro and Treasurer Tyler Shimer. Mr. Beckman, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Schaffer and Mr. Genung serve as advisors.
7. Congratulations to our regional DECA winners Ryan Sanford and Kegan Wright, who secured a first place finish in Financial Services at the DECA regional competition. They now advance to compete at states in Rochester during the month of March. Keep up the great work and good luck at states!
8. Mark your calendars! NHS will host Sweethearts and Heroes on February 28 from 6-7pm in the NHS auditorium for a community performance. This is a program of hope and action that has been shown to be the addictive message in kindness and character. The presenters will share information about technology, cyber bullying, adolescent brain science and best parenting practices. Don’t miss out!
9. Yearbooks are on sale in the main office – order yours now!

Middle School

1. Nineteen students competed for 8 rounds before reaching the final word of the competition. As students moved on from one round to the next, the difficulty level of the words increased. By the end of the round 4, there were 6 students still in the competition. It was in the eighth round that just 2 spellers remained, 8th grader Donovan Gillen and 7th grader Leona Tyler. The word missed in the... final attempt was “martyr”. To win the competition, Leona had to spell the word “diminutive”, and she was successful. Leona was named the 2019 Spelling Bee Champion! She is also a repeat winner and our champion from the 2018 Spelling Bee. Leona will advance to the next level at The Daily Star Regional Spelling Bee on March 2 at SUNY Oneonta’s Goodrich Theater. At the regional contest, she will compete against finalists from 35 other schools in the DCMO and ONC BOCES areas for a chance to go to Washington D.C. for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Good luck to Leona, and congratulations to all of our spellers!
2. Regional Coordinator for the Salvation Army, Sam Reeder, will be presenting a \$100 voucher to each school Thursday February 14. NMS will be using the voucher to stock the shelves of our food pantry to support our learners.
3. NMS will be hosting a State qualifier readiness archery tourney on March 2 at NHS. Shooters from across the state have been invited. All proceeds will be used to support a run at the national tournament.
4. In conjunction with NYSED Office of Assessments, NMS will be conducting two separate ELA and Math Computer-Based Assessment simulations on February 26 and March 5 to measure its readiness.

Perry Browne

1. Literacy specialists completed their mid-year benchmark assessment and an overall average of **2.4 growth in reading level** has been shown for students receiving Tier III services.
2. Mrs. Jutting and Mrs. Roger's Fourth Grade band and orchestra groups displayed their hard-earned talent in their first concert of the year on January 30; Mrs. Pomares' chorus group had their concert on January 17.
3. **Mrs. Salerno and Mrs. Stafford's Leadership Club** students collected and donated canned goods for the annual "Souper Bowl" food drive event, **donating over 500 food items**.
4. Mrs. Davis' Art Club is in its fourth section and has 12 students who have created excellent paintings to decorate the display case in the school.
5. **120 students** have given up their time in **Mrs. Gyles and Mrs. Peet's Friendship Club** to interact with the elderly, playing games and making crafts at Chenango Valley Residential Home and the Valley View Nursing Home.
6. **Mr. Williams' Robotics Club** is in its second round and students are excited about the connections they can make between science and mathematics.
7. Mrs. J. Smith's Writing Club students are preparing google slides that share their goals, dreams, and academic aspirations. They have been researching colleges, careers, so they may leave Perry Browne with the insight into how education can impact their quality of life.
8. The **Liberty Partnerships Program** worked with the **Cornell Cooperative Extension** who presented "Eat Smart NY" to both the Middle School and Perry Browne students during after-school program on January 14.
9. 38 students were recognized in front of their peers and families for displaying leadership traits at our Highly Effective Awards Assembly/Ceremony, with 24 fifth grade students receiving certificates for participation in the Safety Squad.
10. Bill Loomis, our new Director of School Transportation made arrangements on the coldest day of the year to transport all students who would normally walk in the afternoon of 1/31/19.

Gibson

1. Mrs. Voss and Mrs. Monroe's class just finished learning about leaders who fought for important causes in our history, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They did a neat demonstration using a brown egg and a white egg to show that although they are different colors on the outside, they are the same on the inside. Students also wrote "I have a dream..." sentences about what they hope to have someday, for instance, no homework and kindness towards everyone!
2. The **speech therapists** wanted to share that after completing all 10 weeks of Kindergarten Language Practice, 94% of the students (of approximately 101 students across 6 classrooms) increased their post-test scores for age-appropriate language concepts (antonyms, phonological awareness, plural nouns, spatial understanding and rhyme). In other words, **only 6** students' scores were unchanged from the pre-test to the post-test.
3. **All Gibson students**, Pre-K through 2nd grade were sent home with **dental kits** that included toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss and toothbrush covers. In some classrooms, students started daily tooth brushing in their classrooms; Pre-k Class – Mrs. Wenzel, Kindergarten – Ms. Yanowack and Ms. McDaniels, First Grade – Ms. Bollen and Second Grade – Ms. Challan.
4. The first grade students have had time each morning to explore with lego's and blocks and we have seen tremendous growth in their ability to build detailed buildings and extended the project to include a writing piece. When finished they will go down and read the piece to the pre-k students who are doing a similar project.
5. The **Reading Team** has been progress monitoring and are seeing some **great gains with our Tier 2 and 3 children!** We are continuing to have discussions about our students and helping each other with ideas when needed. Our reading team works very closely together.
6. We have 30 students having their artwork presented at the SAME expo.
7. Six students received their PE STAR awards.
8. District staff assisted in student drop off on the coldest winter morning so far. Thank you to Amber Oliver, Gerard O'Sullivan, Katie Hansen, and Bill Loomis for helping keep our staff warm.
9. **Emily Koval** continues to support teachers and provide professional development aligned with our **LINKS Plan** and the **District Tech Team**