

POSITIVE POINTS
BOARD MEETING – JAN 16, 2019

High School

1. We continue to improve in our knowledge, understanding and use of **restorative principles**. More circles are happening and we are focusing on relationship building.
2. December brought about some fun with faculty, staff and students with ugly sweater contests, door decorating and a kindness challenge. This month we are focusing on commitment as a character trait.
3. **Senator Fred Akshar presented to our senior class**. He discussed his journey and his role in NYS government before conducting a question-and-answer session. Akshar shared honest answers and encouraged our students to discuss issues with respect and dignity. He closed by telling our students to dream big and have the courage to pursue their dreams. We always appreciate the senator's visits and words of encouragement!
4. **The junior class took part in a panel discussion** last Thursday with **NHS graduates Ellie O'Neill, Alexis Race, Megan Burke and Caitlyn Brown**. These 4 graduates shared **tips and strategies for navigating senior year and selecting the college that's the right fit for you**. We appreciate them sharing their insight with our students - it is always great to welcome our graduates back!
5. Congratulations to **Michael Squires** and **Emma Larsen** for achieving the **highest scores** on the **PSAT test!**
6. Congratulations to NHS cheerleaders Mya Loughren, Amber Tierney and Katie Doliver for being chosen to represent NHS in London with the UCA Cheerleaders. Thank you to their coach Marie Desarro for all you do to encourage our students and inspire greatness within them. They were excellent representatives of Purple Pride while on their trip.
7. Kegan Wright and Ryan Sanford have qualified to move on to state level competition through our DECA Club (Distributive Education Club of America). DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe and is run by Ben Truesdail.
8. In the world of music: **Senior Kayla Farrell** had an inspiring experience at the **NYSSMA Conference**. All-State Mixed Chorus and has been accepted to the All-Eastern Mixed Chorus at the National Convention. 36 String and Band students have auditioned for and been accepted to the Broome All County ensembles in grades 5-12. 69 students in grades 6-12 have been accepted to Chenango All-county music groups. Rehearsals are underway for the HS Musical Footloose - Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 5-6th!
9. Our **indoor track teams** continues to shatter records. This past weekend, both the **girls and boys 4 X 200 teams broke our school records**. Congratulations to Katie Gawronski, Lucie Martin, Angela Carlson, Riley Marsh, Gabe Gawronski, David Berger, Eric Conant and Nic Barber!
10. Congratulations to Eric Conant who earned an honorable mention on the New York State Sportswriter's Association's Class B All State Football Team!
11. This year's **basketball program** was recently dedicated to **Dr. Cleveland** in honor of his legacy of commitment to the Norwich City School District. His children attended and Mr. Ryan delivered a fitting dedication to Dr. Cleveland.

Middle School

1. Grade 6 Social Studies **Mystery Skype Sessions** are done in conjunction with **Lorry Chwazik**. They have interacted with students from Canada, Morocco, Argentina and the US. They have even made friends/ pen pals with a school in Wisconsin and are in the process of exchanging items that are local to NYS, Chenango County and Norwich.
2. **Mr. Manchester's advanced Math class** contributed nearly **70 food items** as part of the student ambassador's food drive.
3. Congratulations to Norwich Middle School students **Jacob Phillips** and **Grayson Boyer**, who recently received recognition from the Norwich Family **YMCA** for their **volunteer work!**
4. More than **30 coats and various hats, scarves and mittens** were presented to Norwich Middle School today following a holiday coat drive held at **Benedict Corporation** Subaru GMC. NMS student ambassadors accepted this great act of generosity and are committed to finding a home for each piece.
5. Our English department will be gathering student nominations for our first recognition ceremony in February, which will reflect the character traits that we have revealed "organically" through the characters and people we have read about in class. Being able to approach our character education in this manner has been less contrived and has felt much more natural to both students and teachers.
6. **30 Norwich Middle school students** will be attending a **Binghamton Devil's ice hockey** game on January 25. Students were selected by their teachers based on **academics and behavior**. Individuals receive one free ticket to the Devils Game on January 25; students are recognized on video board for their achievement with other winners from their school and then take a group picture with Devils mascot; pizza party at school with Devils mascot; pizza provided by Binghamton Devils; Certificate of Recognition.

Perry Browne

1. Almost 400 positive Leader Alert Post Cards have been sent home to students.
2. National School Counseling Week is February 4th-8th this year. PB School Guidance Counselors, Liz Pizzuto and Katlyn Carnachan, will be showing the staff their appreciation for all of the collaboration and teamwork they receive every single day!
3. Liberty Partnership Program was visited by "Eat Smart NY" out of Cornell Cooperative Extension who taught healthy decision making regarding nutrition, along with proper kitchen utensil use, and measurements to our students. They enjoyed some delicious Mexican food!
4. Julie Salerno received a \$5,000 Stem to Success grant from Lowes Toolbox for Education to bring Math and Movement to Perry Browne! This grant will help improve student test scores by implementing the comprehensive Math & Movement program this year and for at least 10 years. Children will benefit immediately, rapidly increasing their skills and their confidence in being able to learn.

Gibson

1. We would like to point out what a positive presence our custodial staff is here at Gibson. They do so much more than keep our building clean and safe. They are always ready to do whatever children need, whatever teachers need, whatever administration and staff need. This even includes wearing silly hats and being decorated as a snowstorm! One example of this extraordinary flexibility and kindness occurred this week. Bo Moret works at Gibson on the evening shift and has agreed to become a mentor for students as an incentive. We are so very grateful to work with people who put children first, who see where they can help and jump right in, where giving support and kindness are unwritten parts of the job description here at Gibson.
2. Mrs. Lund's class had visitors join them for Gingerbread House fun. We had 14/18 students with a visitor and everyone had a great time. They were all polite and bucket fillers with visitors present and we even had a few "candy breaks" which they loved.
3. Winter Wonderland was a huge success. We had over 100 volunteers here at Gibson and about 400 people in attendance. This was truly a magical event, thank you so much to PTCT for all of your efforts!
4. Santa and Mrs. Claus came to visit Gibson bringing a special classroom book for each class.
5. Session 2 of Art and Music club will run for the 5 Thursdays in January- from Jan 3 to Jan 31. There are 20 participating students. Thank you to Ms. Fetzco and Miss Richards for organizing this!
6. Gibson students that receive a PRIDE Award get to have a special lunch and treat with Principal Oliver. So far, we have had 105 students!
7. Emily Koval has presented on our technology initiatives to teachers and will continue to offer professional development twice a month moving forward.
8. A HUGE thank you to Jennifer Yaniowak and Diane Hait who will be providing resources and support to teachers with the "Help for Billy" book they received.
9. TCIS was successfully completed with 6 employees earning their certificates.
10. January 17th Dental Task Force is coming to school during lunch times to provide 473 students with dental kits to take home and demonstrate teeth brushing.
11. Jen Y, Jen Bollen and Deidre Challan have offered to pilot Teeth Brushing in the classroom. We are going to meet on Jan 15 at 11:15 (come if you can) to talk about rolling out in their classrooms. 57 students will participate in that pilot program.