

# HOOSICK FALLS CENTRAL

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Mr. Kenneth A. Facin*

*Superintendent of Schools*

### Mission Statement:

*Hoosick Falls Central School will develop responsible citizens who possess the knowledge, skills and values to be successful participants in a global society.*

#### **Superintendent Message:**

The cooler summer days are generating a sense of excitement; another school year is to begin shortly. As we look forward to the new school year, it is important to reflect upon the past school year's accomplishments. The 2009-2010 school year was successful for our students and faculty. We began the year working collectively to attain the following ambitious student results

1. 90% passing and 30% reaching mastery on all NY State and standardized assessments.
2. a 90% graduation rate
3. 9 out of 10 students reading at grade level at the completion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade
4. 90% of students participating in one or more extracurricular activities
5. K-11 grade classes engaging in one meaningful community service event each year. Seniors engaging in twenty hours of meaningful community service each year.

By structuring our resources to include grade-level and department-level coordinators, we were able to focus our collective energies on these ambitious student result goals. Faculty and students accomplished much:

1. 87% regents passing rate  
36% regents mastery rate
2. 84% graduation rate
3. 77% of sixth grader read-

ing at grade level

4. 70-80% participation in extra curricular activities
5. 100% of seniors completing community service (as well as most grade levels)

Congratulations on the commendable performance of our students! As we put our efforts together towards improving our student's educational experiences, it is satisfying to observe how far we have come in such a short time (regents passing rate has gone from 72% to 88% in three years). Each day the faculty, staff and students at HFCS put forth great efforts to be successful. I am expressing my gratitude and appreciation for all that you do as parents to support the educational process. Thank you!

Our 3-8 ELA and math scores were recalibrated during July. Based on last year's cut score (level 3 passing margin), our results were on track. The new scaled scores seem to indicate that we have not moved forward. Let me explain this situation. The new education commissioner has determined that these tests were not rigorous enough, he decided to raise the passing level on the tests that he had already deemed flawed. This has caused a major regression across the state in terms of student proficiency on the 3-8 ELA and math assessments. We will be working with students and parents throughout the school year to ensure success on the new state assessments.

We have hired several new staff

for the upcoming year. Our new high school art department includes Megan Connor and Heather White. Laura Edick will now assume K-6 AIS math duties. Jessica Balch is our new high school guidance counselor. Marcia Keefe is our teacher of the deaf/sign language and we have added Sabrina Graham to a new social studies position. Several faculty will be on leave as we begin the school year. Darlene Barry will be back with us to fill a leave. Welcome Tiffany Stratton, Jesse Braverman and Kari Berg.

Congratulation to Paul Baker, our new Supervisor of Building and Grounds. We welcome Harold Hoffman as our new bus mechanic.

The HFCS capital project is now complete; the campus looks wonderful. Our bathrooms have been refurbished and most rooms have been repainted. The auditorium has a new sound system and LCD. We will be installing a new school sign and the parking lot will be resurfaced and painted.

Enjoy these wonderful warm August days.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Facin Superintendent of Schools

Volume 1, Issue 1

August, 2010

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Principal's Message

#### **Important Telephone Numbers**

Superintendent 686-7012

High School 686-7321

Elementary 686-9492

Special Education 686-0197

Bus Garage 686-9663

#### **Special Points of interest:**

- Elementary Breakfast Program
- K-2 Morning Program
- New Junior/Senior High School Administration
- Title IX
- Section 504
- (NCLB) Highly Qualified



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*Mr. Kenneth A. Facin*

*Superintendent of Schools*



### K-6 Principal Message

We hope you and your family have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. As a district, we are continuing to move forward by making a number of positive changes to help prepare for the upcoming school year. The final pieces of the building project have been complete, including the entrance to the elementary building which has been redesigned to mirror our entrance to the high school. Everyone entering the building after the start of the school day must use the door on the far right. Sign-in and then be cleared to enter by the office staff. This system greatly increases the security of the building. We have also increased our technological capabilities adding two SMART Boards at every grade level, installing a closed-circuit television station, building a new computer lab for students in grades five and six, as well as creating a computerized reading lab for the entire elementary.

Over the past two months we have developed new curricula to maintain our current momentum and sustained academic growth. A new writing program, Writers' Workshop, will be implemented at every grade level addressing the needs of students and dovetailing with our reading program. Work has also been completed in mathematics to analyze the achievements of our students and focus our efforts for the coming year. We will implement research projects in the upper grades, align the general music curriculum, and standardize reading assessments in grades K-2. Significant time and energy has been exerted by HFCS teachers throughout the last year. We are working to make sure we continue on our positive and successful paths.

A new and improved drop-off system is in effect for elementary students at the school. The walking lanes are moved and four new drop-off spaces are located at the south end of the parking lot/sidewalk. Arrows on the pavement will denote the path that vehicles must follow when entering, leaving and dropping off students at school.

We will begin the new school year by holding the Kindergarten and First Grade Open House on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. The first day of school begins for the children on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. On Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> Open House for Grades 2-3 runs from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. On Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> Open House for grades 4-6 runs from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m..

We look forward to seeing and welcoming all of the children in the coming weeks. Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we strive to better serve our students, parents and community. Please call 686-9492 if you have any questions or concerns. We will be glad to meet with you and hear your input on any issues.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Dailey  
Elementary Principal

Elementary

### 7-12 Principal Message

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to the 2010-2011 school year. After reviewing the district's 2009-2010 New York State Assessments results, I am so impressed by the exceptional gains our students have made on Regents Exams. I am pleased to be part of an outstanding staff and school community. We are working diligently as a staff to ensure that each student is provided an opportunity to shine under the watchful eyes of dedicated and caring educators. Our goal is to provide an outstanding climate for all of our students to learn, grow, and achieve!

The Hoosick Falls Junior and Senior High School Staff is committed to providing your student(s) with the 21st century skills that will enable each student to achieve success, and in so develop doing necessary skills such as problem solving, critical thinking and collaboration. As a staff, we are demonstrating our commitment to life-long learning. We engage in various professional and staff development activities over the sum-

mer to enhance our capacities to deliver an instructional program of excellence. We are continuously working to serve as role models to our students and school community, while communicating the value we place on learning and teaching.

To further develop and enhance our abilities to articulate the importance of learning to our students, we will partner with parents and community members. I ask that you reinforce and continue to instill the love of learning by serving as role models at home and in the community. One of the most important and vital partnerships that we can develop is between us here at HFCS and the homes and community of our students.

The staff and I look forward to another outstanding year. Please know just how much I appreciate the opportunity to work with and lead our wonderful school community. We are in a great place! We look forward to working together with you and your child during the 2010-2011 school year. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at extension 1506.

Sincerely,

Stacy A. Vadney,  
Secondary Principal

Secondary

**First Day For Students K-12 is  
Tuesday, September 7, 2010.**

## Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972:

The Hoosick Falls Central School district does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, or national origin in the employment and educational opportunities it offers. The designated Title IX Officer is Patrick Dailey, Elementary Principal.

## Section 504 of the Rehabilitation

### Act of 1973:

The Hoosick Falls Central School District prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The designated Section 504 K-6 Officer is Amy Netti, Assistant Elementary Principal. The designated Section 504 7-12 Officer is Brett Lamy, Assistant High School Principal.

## No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

### Highly Qualified

The federal law, *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*, requires that all teachers meet a specific, legal definition of “highly qualified” in order to teach in schools receiving federal funding. Our school receives federal funds to support programs we offer your children. **All of our teaching staff and teaching assistants are highly qualified as defined by federal law.** Please contact the Superintendent’s office if you would like further information.

[Welcome Back!](#)

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## *MISSION STATEMENT*

*“The mission of the Hoosick Falls Central School District is to develop responsible citizens who possess the knowledge, skills and values to be successful participants in a global society.”*

### *2010—2011 Student Result Targets \**

- *90% passing and 40% reaching mastery on all NY State and standardized assessments*
- *a 90% graduation rate*
- *90% of 6th grade students reading at grade level with 40% reading at least two grade-levels above*
- *90% of students participating in one or more extracurricular activities*
- *K-10 grade classes engaging in one meaningful community service event each year. Junior and Senior levels engaging in twenty hours of meaningful community service each year*

