

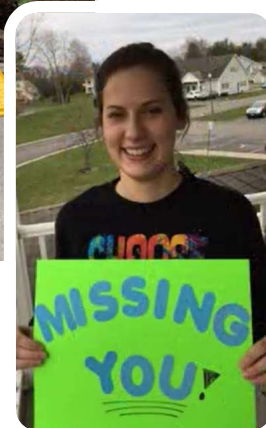
Our districts lead during this extraordinary time



Our MCSBA districts continue to serve their communities even though their doors are closed. Some of their efforts are featured in this issue—but many, many more activities than those described here are helping students and families remain connected to education services and their wider communities. All of these initiatives demonstrate the willingness of our staff members to adapt and find new ways to meet the needs of their students while coping with pandemic issues.



This issue of *News Scope* is dedicated to celebrating the extraordinary work being done by our member districts at this time.



LEFT: Hilton teacher with a message for her students.
BELOW LEFT: Greece Transportation Staff delivering meals to families in need.
BELOW RIGHT: Rush-Henrietta celebrating its senior class.

TOP: Hilton school with a message for its families.

ABOVE: Webster staff members helping families acquire assigned computers.



News Scope

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From our president:

Rising to the occasion

As I sit quarantined in my home with my husband and my parents I am struck by how much our world has changed in two months. To see the abrupt end of our school year, the devastation of our economy, and the losses so many of our families are experiencing is overwhelming and unprecedented. As we watch the effects of the pandemic unfold I have had moments where I have been horrified by the images we see on news every day.

However, I am also encouraged by the dedication of our first responders and essential workers who care for so many of us and keep us going. Staff in our districts have been a strong support to our communities. The quick adaptation to online learning, meals to feed and nourish our families, the parades and signs for our seniors are the bright spots in these difficult times. Social media keeps us connected to our school families in new and innovative ways.

As we move forward, Board members will be having difficult conversations regarding our budgets and the fiscal strain we must all manage. We will need to be creative and forward thinking as we face new challenges. The plans we develop to prepare for the reopening of schools will look different from what we are used to. Keeping our academic programs and extracurricular activities coupled with new constraints to our health care and budgets will lead to new and innovative decisions.

We must continue our advocacy. To quote our governor, “don't pass the buck without the bucks.” We should leverage the anticipated cuts to include releasing us from mandates and outdated regulations. Let our local districts make local decisions. Board members, Superintendents and administrative staff are best at making local decisions that meet the needs of our students and communities.

This is not the first challenge we've faced. We have always risen to occasion and figured it out. This may be more difficult, but we will overcome this pandemic as well.

Please continue to advocate, think outside the box, stay positive and wash your hands!



Kathleen Dillon

Kathleen Dillon

From our executive director:

LOOK WHAT YOU DID!

Dear Members,

The news has been awful and incessant.

No one can tell us when or how this will end and we all long for things to get back to some semblance of normal, even if we aren't sure what that now means. For education, the sudden need to switch to remote learning and to lead from a distance has been and continues to be, challenging.



Sherry Johnson

But, there have also been many efforts to triumph over these challenges. For our member school districts, those who have been directly involved in supporting children and families have worked to focus on the good when it seemed there wasn't anything worthy of a smile or a cheer.

And, that is what this issue is about! We reached out to your communication directors and invited them to send along some of the positive things that your districts have been doing during this crisis so that we can highlight these amazing and uplifting efforts. We had a terrific response and therefore, we are going to continue these submissions through the month of May in order to give every one of them their due space.

In my opinion, this crisis has reinforced the very important role that public education plays in our society. The critical work of instructing the next generation of productive citizens—making sure that all students can reach their potential, as well as understanding that each of them has talents to tap, gifts to give and a special spirit waiting to soar—is encompassed in the goals that our districts boards, superintendents, teachers and support staff work to accomplish on a daily basis.

Please enjoy this issue and remember that together we can find creative and innovative ways to meet this challenge just as we have met so many challenges before. Because our work is on behalf of children—their future and our own—we know that failing is not an option. Stay safe, stay strong, stay connected and as always, thank you for what you do!

Sherry Johnson

District staffs provide online learning.

Faculty and staff devised new ways to offer instruction and maintain ties with students

Teachers and counselors have been experimenting with methods of electronic instruction and consulting with one another to learn how best to involve students in online learning.



Webster distributed computers for online learning.

To support on-line learning, Webster staff quickly and safely distributed iPads and Chromebooks to K-5 students from school driveways (right). Plus, Webster staff members scheduled opportunities for 8-12 students' Chromebooks to receive any needed repairs (left).

Pictures courtesy of Jenifer Calus, Communications Aide, Webster CSD.



Pittsford hosted a virtual art show

On April 1, 2020, Pittsford Schools hosted a Virtual Art Show on Facebook. Students of all ages submitted over 200 pieces of artwork in a variety of mediums. The online community event drew several hundred positive comments from Pittsford families and community members who admired students' talents as virtual art show guests! Shown below are examples of student work from the art show.

Pictures courtesy of Nancy Wayman, Community Relations, Pittsford CSD.



Hilton principal sends daily messages.



Hilton Middle School/High School Principal Susan Cory records a daily message for students in grades 7-12 and posts it through Schoology, their online learning system.

Courtesy of Beth Nash, Communications Specialist, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES.

Rush-Henrietta band practices online

Members of the Senior High School Symphonic Band have been continuing to practice at home. Director Scott Cannan put together the montage of some of the band members, several of whom are shown at the right playing a piece they were working on prior to the closure.

Heather Campo, Office of Community Relations, Rush-Henrietta CSD.



District staff members provide food service.

Hilton staff members help feed their community.

The Hilton Food Service Department hit the ground running when schools closed. Breakfasts and lunches were being distributed at several locations the first day. As of April 10, 19,000 meals have been provided to Hilton students. Seen at the right are staff members ready to distribute.



Courtesy of Beth Nash, Communications Specialist, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES.



Hilton fundraiser supports front line workers.

To thank people providing essential services and putting themselves at risk, Merton Williams Middle School Principal Tracie Czebatol organized a fundraiser that raised close to \$1,300 to provide food to Unity Hospital staff. One hundred meals were purchased from Jose Joe's and 150 cookies from Paradise Sugar Shoppe, picked up by the administrators and dropped off at Unity. Plus, Jose Joe's owners Annamaria and Tom Ban matched the donation with \$10 gift certificates taped to each of the meals and offered free delivery to the hospital.

Spencerport provides dinners to the community.

On March 23, Spencerport Central School District began working with the Spencerport Education Foundation and area restaurant owners on a "#SpencerportTogether" dinner subsidy initiative for families financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The reduced-cost dinners fill a need beyond the student grab-and-go breakfast and lunch distribution plan also in place. In its first three weeks, the program raised more than \$32,500 and served 3,985 meals, due to the generous donations from community members and businesses, along with the partnership of participating restaurants.

Superintendent Dan Milgate, who brainstormed the idea of #SpencerportTogether, added, "We cannot thank enough all the donors, restaurants, and community partners who, without any hesitation, have stepped up to help. It has been so humbling for me to witness the strength and kindness shown through #SpencerportTogether, and I am just grateful to be part of it."

Milgate also extended his gratitude to the Spencerport Education Foundation, Ogden Police Department, and Spencerport Fire District for their invaluable support in offering this program.

Story and picture courtesy of Lanette Cypher, Communication Specialist, Spencerport CSD.



Superintendent challenges inspire responses

Superintendent's Challenge Unites Rush-Henrietta Students

As teachers and students made the challenging transition to home learning, schools statewide sought ways to keep their community connected. While classroom lessons could continue in this new virtual format, many students were feeling a loss of their larger school family. Teachers and staff of Rush-Henrietta schools quickly put together video messages to students and coordinated activities that could be done from home in order to maintain a feeling of connection for the students. At the right is the challenge logo featuring a likeness of Superintendent Bo Wright.



To keep the entire district connected, the Superintendent's Challenge was initiated. Posted to Facebook each week, these challenges are designed to appeal to students in all grades and offer a chance for the entire district to participate in the same activity. Some challenges are more academic, and provide additional learning opportunities for those who want them. For example, for the week of April 14 students were encouraged to conduct a safe science experiment - with their parents' permission - using grade-specific examples provided by the district's director of science and technology. Contact information for guidance about age appropriate activities was provided. For the week of April 21, students were invited to help create a virtual art gallery. Shown at the right is one artistic submission. Other challenges are meant to promote district pride, such as posting a picture of themselves wearing R-H clothing or colors. Participants are asked to comment on the post with how they handled the challenge or a picture. Some of the students received personalized certificates from the superintendent mailed to their homes. The reaction to the Superintendent's Challenge has been extremely positive.



Heather Campo, Office of Community Relations, Rush-Henrietta CSD.

Greece Superintendent's Challenge involves community.



We colored some sidewalks today to brighten our neighborhood
@GCSDsuper @GreeceCentral



Brought some Jackson's Bakery items to some of our elderly friends. Checking in on neighbors and family. Connections Matter. ❤️
#kindnesschallenge
@GreeceCentral



I had so much fun delivering treats to my rockstars that have been working hard at home. I miss their faces and it was great to see smiles through doors and windows. @GreeceCentral @LongridgeGCSD #distancelearning



Greece Central School District Superintendent Kathleen Graupman (seen above) issued a [video challenge](#) for the entire Greece community to share the unique ways they are staying connected and being kind even though we can't be together right now. Dozens of people accepted the challenge and shared videos and social media posts showing how they are connecting with their Greece school family and remaining positive. A few of the responses are shown here.

Images courtesy of Laurel Heiden, Community Relations Manager, Greece CSD.

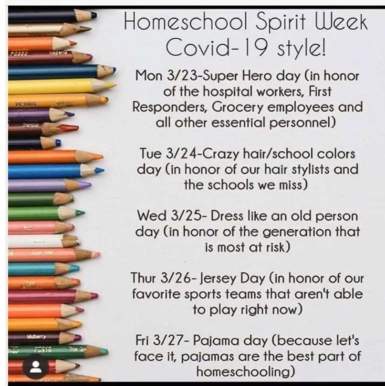
Districts celebrated Spirit Week online.

Several MCSBA districts celebrated Spirit Week with daily themes. A few examples are shown below.

Greece Homeschool Spirit Week

Below are the calendar of Spirit Week themes in Greece as well as a few participants, two students and a teacher.

Images courtesy of Laurel Heiden, Community Relations Manager, Greece CSD



Rush-Henrietta Virtual Spirit Week

Leary Elementary School (RH) held a Virtual Spirit Week during the week of April 13. Leary Student Council representatives met using Google Classroom to brainstorm fun ideas for the week. They decided on pajama day, crazy hair day, crazy sock day, new skill day, and Leary pride day! Seen are two photos submitted by parents of their students celebrating the week.



Heather Campo, Office of Community Relations, Rush-Henrietta CSD.

Kendall Spirit Week

Below and right are the calendar of Spirit Week themes in Kendall as well as images of participants shared by parents and teachers.

Images courtesy of Beth Nash, Communications Specialist, Monroe 2 - Orleans BOCES.



KENDALL SPIRIT WEEK

Themed days:

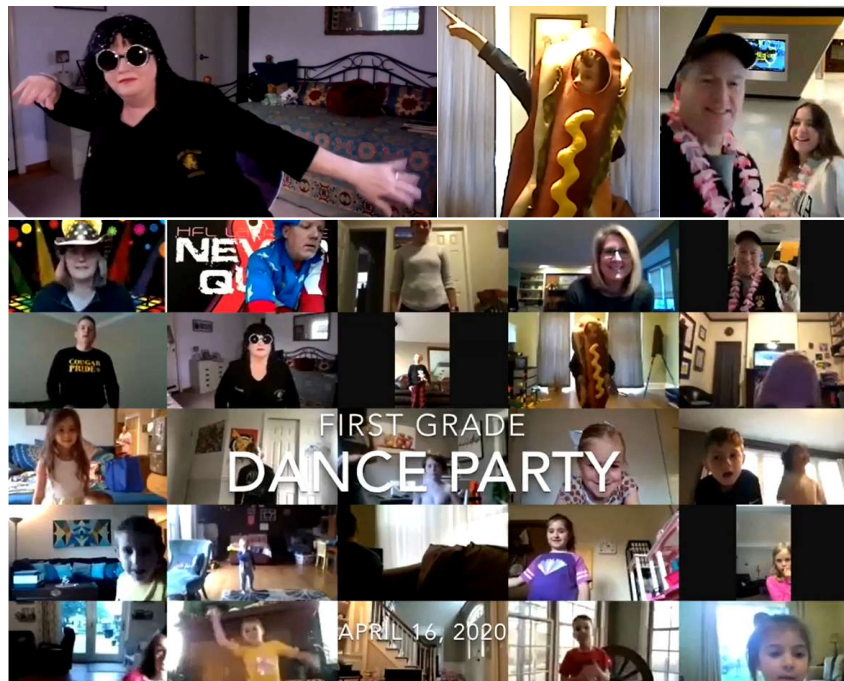
- 3/23 - Wear Kendall Blue
- 3/24 - PJ Day
- 3/25 - Outdoor Adventure
- 3/26 - Reading Day
- 3/27 - Dance Party



Teachers and Staff are working hard to retain connections to students and families.

Honeoye Falls-Lima events

Images courtesy of Leah Sheppard, Community Relations, Honeoye Falls-Lima CSD.



Hilton teachers post greetings.

Northwood School posted a video of teachers to promote connections with students.

Images courtesy of Grace Scism, Director of Communications, Hilton CSD.



Holley staged a car parade.

Holley CSD teachers of all grade levels paraded in their cars to some key district neighborhoods so students and teachers could see and wave to one another while maintaining social distancing. (Several other districts have organized similar events.)



Images courtesy of Beth Nash, Communications Specialist, Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES.

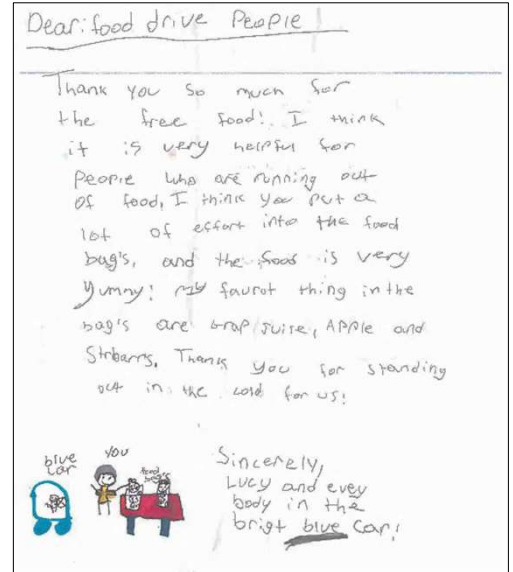
Parents & students express appreciation.

Parents and students have expressed their appreciation for the support and resources teachers and staff provided for online at-home learning and meals.



Webster Food service workers receive thankyou notes from students (left and right).

Images courtesy of Jenifer Calus, Communications Aide for Webster CSD.



Greece parent shared the photo to the left.

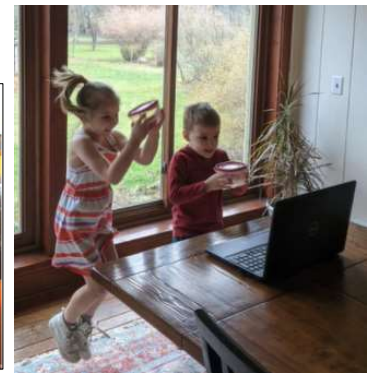
Courtesy of Laurel Heiden, Community Relations Manager, Greece CSD.



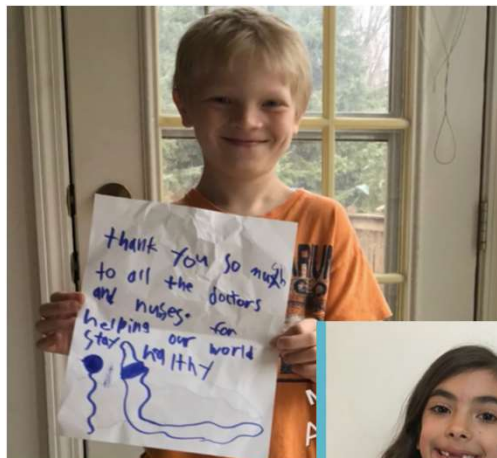
Hilton parents express gratitude and share photos of their children learning at home.

Images courtesy of Grace Scism, Hilton CSD.

We have been grateful for all of the resources provided for these last two weeks of home learning.



Ary has been loving learning at home. It has certainly been an adjustment for all of us, but her teachers have given us everything we need for some wonderful, productive learning time.



Webster Students make thankyou notes for healthcare workers.

Pictures courtesy of Jenifer Calus, Communications Aide, Webster CSD.



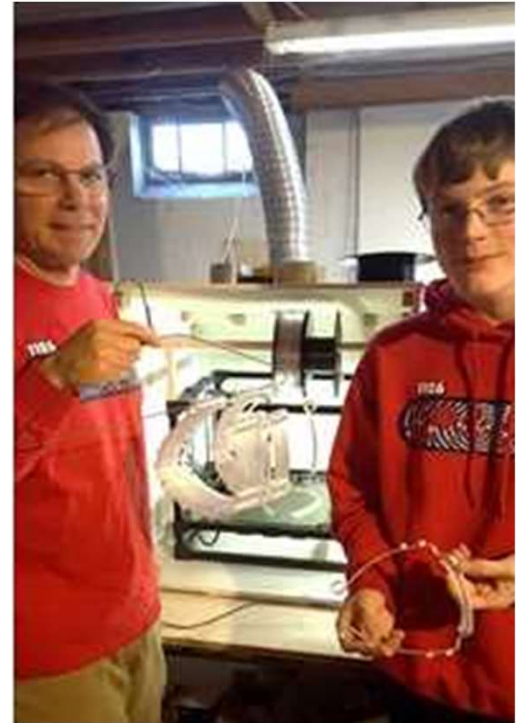
Adults & students support communities.



Spencerport students create masks.

Shown at the left are Spencerport students, Liana Gross, sixth grade, and her sister, Yana, fifth grade, spent countless hours making masks for Unity Hospital.

Story and picture courtesy of Lanette Cypher, Communication Specialist, Spencerport CSD.



Webster father and son make face shields.

A father and son, seen at the right, who are part of Webster's SparX robotics team are using their tech knowledge and a 3-D printer to make face shields for medical workers.

Picture courtesy of Jenifer Calus, Communications Aide for Webster CSD.



Spencerport nurses providing support.

Spencerport Central School District nurses responded to the Monroe County Health Department's request for trained healthcare professionals and have been providing support when needed.

Story and picture courtesy of Lanette Cypher, Communication Specialist, Spencerport CSD.

**Generous Community:
Call for Donations
for Families in Need Answered
with \$30,000 in 24 Hours**



**PITTSFORD
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**



Some Pittsford School District families were struggling to put food on the table as a result of the pandemic. PCSD put a call out to their community asking them to consider helping. In a very small window of time, the PCSD community donated approximately \$30,000 for families in need. Their choice to contribute has not only put food on the tables for families who otherwise would not have eaten, but reinforced a tremendous sense of communal compassion through giving. By May 1, 100% of the donations made to the Pittsford Education Foundation will go to PCSD families/individuals who need support in the form of sustenance.

Pictures courtesy of Nancy Wayman, Community Relations, Pittsford CSD.

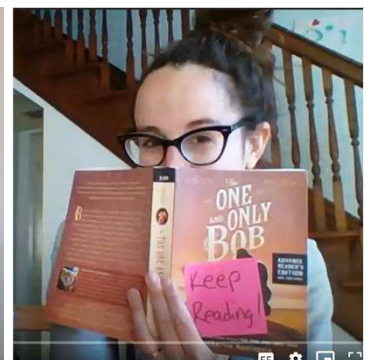
Our staff members share positive messages.

Hilton teachers share positive messages.

Images from a video by Village Elementary School show teachers with positive messages for their students.



Images provided by courtesy of Grace Seism, Director of Communications, Hilton CSD.



Churchville-Chili features Bright Spots.

Churchville Chili CSD has created a Google Site for parents that includes **Bright Spots** across the district. The site includes a Spirit days video, teacher parades and other videos to connect and inspire students, tributes to 2020 Seniors and pictures sent by parents. Seen here are two sample Bright Spots.



ABOVE: Elementary school teacher Ms. Mroczek drops off surprises to her class on April 9. RIGHT: Student had been working on an assignment/contest to win a visit from the Red Wings' mascot Spikes for her second grade class. Since school was closed, Spikes visited her, from a safe distance!

Examples of Bright Spots courtesy of Amanda Puleo, Communication Coordinator and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Churchville-Chili CSD

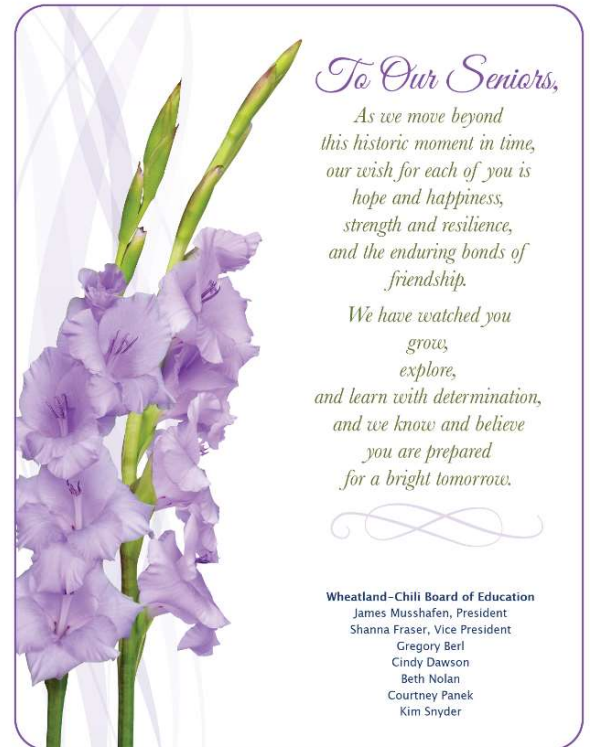
Districts support and celebrate their seniors.

Churchville-Chili features seniors on website.

Tributes to 2020 seniors, including baby pictures and senior portraits sent by parents, are part of the **Bright Spots** page of the Churchville-Chili website. In addition, the district provided lawn signs acknowledging members of the senior class. Seen below are sample senior pictures and lawn signs.



Pictures courtesy of Amanda Puleo, Communication Coordinator and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Churchville-Chili CSD



Wheatland-Chili Board puts message to seniors in yearbook.

Courtesy of Jackie Finn, Communication Specialist
 Wheatland-Chili Central School District

Rush-Henrietta provides lawn signs for seniors and their families.

Hundreds of Rush-Henrietta seniors and their families stopped by the Senior High School to pick-up their 'senior' yard signs on April 28. They were greeted with cheers and waves by many well-wishers, including Superintendent Bo Wright, staff members and booster club members. Card My Yard donated a great sign for families to display. And 13 WHAM covered the event.



Heather Campo Office of Community Relations, Rush-Henrietta Central School District