

Upcoming Events:

Dairy Parade:

Tuesday, June 6

Senior BBQ:

Thursday, June 8

Senior Trip:

Friday, June 9

Regents Begin:

Tuesday, June 13

BOE Meetings Dates

Tuesday, June 6 and Tuesday,
June 27

Graduation Rehearsal:

Thursday, June 22 @ SUNY
Cortland

Graduation:

Friday, June 23 @ SUNY
Cortland

June Newsletter: Graduation Thank You

The road to graduation is quite a journey - eighteen years of someone's life, everything our students have accomplished, everything they have been through from year to year, is leading them towards this moment. Elementary school, junior high school, high school; it must feel like it happens in a flash. Twelve years of school, eighteen years of life - and just one day to graduate. While most of us think as graduation as an experience for only high school seniors, we at Cortland believe that graduation can be interpreted at each grade level as some version of advancement/promotion to the next grade level. It takes so many people to guide one student through their educational career. Everyone plays such an important role in shaping and molding our students as they move through our school system.

We, at the Cortland junior High School, would like to thank everyone in community for the part they played or play in helping our students. Graduation is both a student and community celebration. Thank you so much for everything you do!



(The view from the stage on the night of our graduation)

Our summer newsletter will be sent out on July 28, 2017

For the June Regents and Final exam schedule, please go to the Junior Senior High School website (<http://www.cortlandschools.org/highschool>) and look under "Helpful Links".

Thank you for your continued support!

Joseph Mack
Secondary Education Coordinator
jcmack@cortlandschools.org

Junior High School News:

Below is a list of upcoming Junior High events:

- **Friday June 2 – Team 2 Awards Periods 1 and 2 and Trip to “The Most”**
- **Friday June 2 – Team 1 Awards Periods 3 and 4 and Trip to J.M. McDonald Center**
- **Saturday June 3 – Junior High Dance 6pm-8pm**
- **June 5 – 9 Junior High Spirit Week**
- **Monday June 5 – Written Part of the 8th Grade Science Assessment**
- **Monday June 5 – Team 4 Awards Periods 8 and 9**
- **Friday June 9 – Team 3 Awards Periods 4 and 5**
- **Friday June 9 – Junior High Tailgate**
- **Friday June 9 – Battle of the 8th Grade Periods 8 and 9**
- **Monday June 12 – Hershey Park 8th Grade**
- **Wednesday June 21 – 6th Grade Visit**

For more information about these events, please contact the Junior High office at (607) 758-4190

Instructional Highlights: Science, English, Physical Education and Music

Science:

In April, the Science Department was able to bring the Physics Bus from Ithaca for two days of hands-on, experience based learning for the 8th grade and Physics students. This summer we are sending 13 students to either the Biological Research Station at Cranberry Lake or the Cornell 4-H camp in Riverhead on Long Island. Students have the opportunity to earn half a science credit. Through daily field excursions, laboratory and field exercises, and presentations, students will develop a better understanding of ecological concepts while working with students from the central NY area. For students who are working towards earning college credit, we are continuing to offer Honors Physics and Chemistry, AP Biology and Physics, and Astronomy. We have several science electives for students with medical or law enforcement interests.

English:

The Common Core English Regents exam takes place on Wednesday, June 14th, at 8:00 am, and there are a number of ways that students can prepare for it. The English Department offers review classes, led by Mr. Bush, who will be conducting review sessions in his classroom on June 5, 6, 7, 8, and 12 from 3:00-4:00. Students who feel they need extra help in English can also attend Academic Tables on Mondays from 3:00 to 4:00. Furthermore, a good on-line resource to help prepare for the Common Core English Regents can be found at Regentsreviewny.net. This website describes each of the sections on the exam and provides sample questions with answers and explanations.

Finally, there will be some new faces in the English department next year. Ms. Balfour, Mrs. Passeri-Densmore and Mr. Marks will be retiring and will be replaced by new teachers. In addition, there will be a new department head next year - best of luck to Mr. Porter as he assumes that position.

Physical Education:

The Physical Education staff are hoping to gain feedback from students with a survey to help improve our instruction starting in the fall of 2017. Student feedback is important too and we want to relate more to our students at Cortland. As a result, our staff came up with a questionnaire to survey the students and gather information to use and improve our physical education curriculum.

Music:

The music department is continuing its spring concerts. Mr. Eleck's final band concert will be on June 1 before he retires after 31 years of service to Cortland Jr/Sr High School. The first Cortland Jamfest will feature 15 student bands from the Modern Band Program at Homer Center for the Arts on June 2 at 7:30. Additionally, come out to the Dairy Parade on June 6 to see the Marching Band!

Other Instructional News and Notes:

- Comic Book Day at the CJSJS Library was a phenomenal success! Students poured in from all over the school to join us for the event, and we were excited to see both regular and new faces! Activities that we had planned for the day included Dungeons and Dragons, a Drawing Group, and a Wii Tournament. We would like to thank Noel Passeri for joining us and adding his expertise to the members of our drawing group. The students enjoyed learning from him. We would also like to give a shout out to Alyssa Harvey from the Cortland Free Library for providing support and the Wii for our tournament. She also shared all of the great things that are available for teens at our local library, including their Teen Advisory Board, and their *Read It, See it* events that are held once a month. A local community member, Michael Delage, served as our Dungeon Master, and the response to the game was overwhelming! There were students from all grade levels engaging with one another positively and working as a team. Finally, we would also like to thank Diamond Publishing and OCM BOCES, who provided all of our tenth graders with a free comic book, and we were able to provide additional copies for many other students as well.

As a result of the enthusiasm over our Dungeons and Dragons activity, we have invited students who wish to do so, to stop in on their lunch or study hall breaks, and begin an impromptu game. We are also hoping to purchase our own Dungeons and Dragons supplies over the summer, and begin a more formal group in the next school year. We are excited to provide students with the opportunity to build their math, teamwork, character building, and leadership skills.

The interest in drawing Manga characters or engaging with others about comic books also drew large crowds of interested students. Our collection of graphic novels continues to grow, as a result of student interest, and we hope in the next

school year to collaborate with the Cortland Free Library to bring a comic book group to our school or start one of our own. Graphic Novels provide students with visual literacy skills, and expose students to unique and varied vocabulary.

- Seventh grade Spanish students began working on their autobiographies as a part of their final exam review. They will be producing a small book, done entirely in Spanish describing themselves, their school, family, house, favorite foods and sports.
- On Monday, May 22nd physics and math students traveled to Darien Lake to see the real-life application of the material they have been learning all year. As a culminating experience, students got to ride roller coasters and then synthesize everything they have learned and apply it to rides such as the ride of steel and mind-eraser. As an extension, students came back to class and built their own roller-coasters.

Newsletter Feedback Needed: Reminder

As we begin to prepare for our summer edition, it's a perfect time to start thinking about the content of next year's newsletters. We give a lot of thought to the way we communicate here at the Cortland Junior Senior High School, and we're committed to providing content that is informative, useful and interesting. On occasion we spend too much time discussing what content would best serve you, while forgetting we can use our tools to ask you directly. So before September rolls around, we want to hear from you. Please fill out this brief survey about our newsletters. The information we get will help us build future editions. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JSHSNEWSLETTER>

Celebrations:

- We are pleased to announce that Marcus Linde's editorial is an honorable mention in this year's [New York Times Editorial Contest](#). This means that his submission placed in the top 70 entries (out of 7,895 entries submitted worldwide). If you see Marcus, please congratulate him on this tremendous accomplishment!
- Congratulations to the ELA grade level award winners. Grace Morgan received the Kay Anthony Award for being the senior who scored the highest on the Regents exam from the previous year. Eleventh graders recognized for their achievements in English are Julia Birdsall, Mackenzie Brackett, Connor Canfield, Taylor Oaks, Sayphon Sitoulad, Jack Snyder, Caleb Sorrell, Kathleen Starr, and Tristan Stevens. The tenth grade recipients are Meredith Brafman, Nick Cody, Tess Engst-Mansilla, Daniel Ruggiero, Morgan Tabel, and Jacob Vollers. The ninth grade award winners are Grace Call, Hunter Davenport, Seamus Gailor, Lillian Quick, Abby Ricottilli, Jenna Saltsman, Lark Stevens, Amanda Parzynski, and Morgan Zimmer.
- We would like to recognize all the student athletes who were named Athlete of the Week throughout this school year for their performances in Varsity Athletics. The following student-athletes were an Athlete of the Week.....Tori Cruz, Logan Chase, Tyler Zacek, Joycelin Wodi, Lauren Phetteplace, James Lane, Alex Babcock, Aaron Kelchner, Taylor Cullip, Trevor Jubran, Lyndsie Babcock, Sheridan Crane, Kayci Olson, Dakoatah Miller, Hayley Tasselmyer, Kathleen Starr, Kacie Hubbard, Paige Potter, Cady Walts and Jenicah Brown.
- The foreign language trip over spring break was a huge success. A mix of French and Spanish students (12 in total) and 3 teachers traveled to Quebec and Costa Rica for 10 days. There were some amazing cultural and educational experiences that the kids enjoyed very much. Everyone had a chance to practice their language skills in a variety of settings.

JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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- Congratulations to the following students for being awarded, based on their scholastic achievement, the Scholarship for Academic Excellence from the NYSED: **William Pace, Cobi O'Connell, Meaghan Kendall, Zachery Osbeck, and Gavin Tabel.**
- The life skills students participated in the Regional Special Olympics on May 18th at Cicero/North Syracuse high school.
- Bailey Bradshaw, Paige Potter, Ana Chavez Villalon, and Lacie Carmon were all nominated for the Cortland County Youth of the Year Award along with 18 other students from around the county. The overall winner for 2017 was Lacie Carmon! That makes two years in a row that a Cortland HS student received the overall award as Brian Barnes took home the honor last year.
- **Update: College bound:** Cameron Aldrich: **Oswego**, Michael and Nicholas Anecelle: **University of Rochester**, Alex Babcock: **TC3**, Isabel Benitez: **TC3**, Kiegan Brown: **Alfred State**, Ronda Brown: **OCC**, Taylor Burdick: **SUNY Delhi**, Chloe Bush: **Cayuga CC**, Kristin Bush: **University of Scranton**, Logan Chase: **St John Fisher**, John Cody: **SUNY Geneseo**, Noah Cole: **SUNY Cortland**, Katherine Couture: **Wells**, Sheridan Crane: **SUNY Morrisville**, Rhianna Eleck: **University of Rhode Island**, Zachary Fiene: **SUNY Cortland**
- Congratulations to Charles Canestaro for earning his Master's Degree from SUNY Cortland recently. Mr. Canestaro's 4th period class threw him a surprise party to help celebrate his accomplishment.
- Congratulations to Logan Chase for receiving a scholarship from the Breakfast Rotary Club recently.
- Mrs. Passeri-Densmore's Team 3 English students tied for first place in the 8th grade category of the 2017 NASA Space Settlement Contest. There were more than 1,500 submissions from over 6,000 students in the entire 7th - 12th grade contest. In this international competition, students must research the latest space technology and create detailed plans for an orbital space settlement in one or more locations of the solar system. Mrs. Passeri-Densmore's students created QUAD (Quadruple United Allied Destinations), a federation of four sites, one in Near Earth Orbit, another in wide Earth orbit in the LaGrange 4 location between the Earth and moon, one revolving around Mars, and a final one traveling from Mars to the outer planets to mine helium 3, a fuel for nuclear fusion energy. All QUAD locations used only resources found on asteroids, planets, or moons in our solar system. Mrs. Passeri-Densmore will display Team 3 students' entry with related visual materials at the [International Space Development Conference \(ISDC\)](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 25-29, 2017.

Athletics:

Congratulations to our Scholar Athlete Teams! This year we had twenty out of twenty-four varsity teams earning an overall average of a 90 or better.

Congratulations to Will Pace and Logan Chase for being nominated as the Section 3 Senior Scholar Athletes to represent the Cortland Enlarged School District on June 12th at OCC.

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For updated practice and game information go to our Athletic website:

<http://www.cortlandschools.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1981>

E-Mail Notification of Game Changes - You can "Subscribe to team updates" in Schedule Galaxy and receive an e-mail every time there is a game change whether due to inclement weather or the need to reschedule a game for any reason. Sign up today for this great feature and be notified of all changes to a team's schedule. You can also sign up on the district's home page under the "District News - ED Emailer" for e-mail notifications from the Athletic Department or any school events, happenings, etc. What better way to stay informed and up to date with news from your child's school.

Interested in playing a sport? *Some important information you should know:* For any athlete intending to play a sport, it is necessary to complete and have on file in the nurse's office the following: Pre-Participation Evaluation Form, Health History Form and Concussion Management Form. You must also have a current physical (less than one year old) on file in order to obtain a stamped white card (emergency info card) that is required before any athlete plays a sport or participates in cheerleading. See the school nurse for all the necessary paperwork and to schedule a physical.

List of physical dates: ~~May 10, May 24,~~ and June 14

Note: To sign up to receive eNews communications from CECSD, visit our website at www.cortlandschools.org.

Or receive via *Remind*, [visit the website](#)

