

## Upcoming Events:

**Teacher Appreciation Week:**  
Monday, May 1 – Friday, May, 5

**Senior Breakfast and Prom:**  
Friday, May 5

**District Orchestra/Spring  
Concert:**  
Thursday, May 18

**BOE Meetings Dates**  
Tuesday, May 9 (@HS)  
Tuesday, May 16 (BOE Election  
and Budget Vote)

**Senior High Choirs Concert**  
Wednesday, May 24

**Academic Awards Night:**  
**Grades 9,10, 11**  
Thursday, May 25

**Senior Banquet and Awards:**  
Friday, May 26

**Memorial Day:**  
No school Monday, May 29

## Cortland Junior Senior High School May Newsletter

In last month's newsletter, we explained how we are working to improve the way we deliver instruction to our students in order to engage them more in their learning. As you know, there is more to it than that.

We have also spoken quite a bit about the importance of social and emotional learning for our students. As you know, establishing positive relationships with our students directly impacts their learning. It is important that we work to foster positive relationships with all of our students and colleagues. One of the steps we will be taking to accomplish this goal is called "The First Five Minutes."

The "FFM" is a simple thing that any teacher or staff member can do. We have asked all the adults to take those first few minutes of class or between classes to engage students in casual conversation and ask them about their day. Talk to them about gaming, music, television shows, sports, movies, and anything else they want to discuss.

Research indicates that students with a more positive relationship with their teachers display towards their peers, on average, 18% more prosocial behavior (and 10% more up to two years later), and up to 38% less aggressive behavior (and 9% less up to four years later), over students who felt ambivalent or negative toward their teachers.

Our goals are simple. By creating better relationships with our students, we would like to:

1. Encourage Academic Success with Positive Student-Teacher Relationships
2. Avoid Behavior Problems through Healthy Student-Teacher Relationships
3. Help Develop Self-Worth and Improved Student Mental Health

Clearly, there are many important benefits of positive student-teacher relationships. When students feel a sense of classroom pride and teachers are able to effectively communicate with their class, engagement occurs. A classroom in which students and teachers can focus on education rather than turmoil is one in which they both can flourish.

Thank you for your continued support!

Joseph Mack  
Secondary Education Coordinator  
[jcmack@cortlandschools.org](mailto:jcmack@cortlandschools.org)

## Junior High School News



High School Here We Come!

Cortland Jr. High & Sr. High School counselors invite you to an information night for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents in preparation for the transition to high school.

- Meet your high school counselor
- Learn about the differences between Jr. High and Sr. High
  - Learn about graduation requirements
  - Meet the high school principals
  - Meet teachers from each department
  - Learn about CHS course offerings
- **Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Jr. Sr. High School Auditorium**

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### **NYSED Math Assessment: Tuesday May 2, Wednesday May 3, and Thursday May 4**

Attention Junior High Students and families: As you prepare for the upcoming math assessments, please think of the following:

- Getting a good night's rest before each testing session.
- Eating a healthy breakfast on the morning of the testing session.
- Having confidence in the preparation, which has gone into students doing their personal best!

## Instructional Highlights: Social Studies and Business

### Business:

We are excited to have new course offerings next year in the Business Department. Mrs. West will be teaching Sports Management, a basic foundation exploratory class in the field. Mrs. Norman will be teaching Computer Essentials, which will give students the ability to successfully use laptops and mobile devices throughout their junior and senior high education. We will also be offering an exciting course, Career Essentials to meet the evolving competencies our students need for college and career readiness. Check out these and other exciting course offerings in the Course Catalog.

### Social Studies:

#### The Regents exams are going to change.

In June, 2018 the first new Global exam will be given. The old test covers two years' worth of curriculum from Global History and Geography I & II. The new test focuses on only Global II, the world from 1750 to the present. So, the new exam will test content identified in the new common core SS Framework with less recall multiple-choice questions and more "stimulus-based" multiple choice. These types of questions start with a stimulus like primary source based reading, an image, or a chart, then ask students three to five questions about that text. Students will need to have sharp analytical skills and bring in background information to answer the questions correctly. The essay format will also be changing. In the old test there were two essays, one Document Based and one Thematic. On the new test the DBQ will stay though the focus will be argumentative writing, and that the thematic essay is likely on the way out in favor of testing items that assess.

The United States History exam will also change in June, 2019, however, the board of regents has yet to release information on what these changes will look like.

#### Holocaust Field Trip to D.C.

Every year, CHS students have the opportunity to attend a field trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. On April 7, 2017, 50 students visited the Museum, along with other notable monuments throughout the city. For many students, this was their first time in Washington D.C. For others, this was their second time on this field trip.

After an early morning departure from CHS, our bus arrived at the National Mall around 11 am. As a group, we traveled from the Washington Monument to the World War II and Korean Memorials. Next, we traveled to the Lincoln Memorial, where students had an opportunity to tour the Memorial and take pictures of the view. Following this, we stopped by the Vietnam Memorial and then headed to the White House. Despite barriers and security, we were able to get a close view of the front of the White House. After lunch we then headed to the Holocaust Memorial Museum. Many of the students have taken, or are currently taking, Ms. Caselle's Holocaust and Human Rights Elective. Therefore, this tour of the Museum provided students with an extended learning opportunity. Inside the Museum, students were exposed to the historical background of the Holocaust, as well as the many atrocities committed during this time period. The last exhibits of the Museum offer insight into the aftermath of the Holocaust and current human rights abuses. The wealth of information at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum guaranteed students walked away with new knowledge of what constitutes human rights and how these rights have been, and can be, abused.

#### Other Instructional News and Notes:

- Juniors should be looking to register for a Spring ACT or SAT. Registration material is available in the counseling office along with some helpful preparation booklets.
- 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. We will be sharing more details with the district in the upcoming weeks.

- The research-based *Too Good for Drugs* is researched based curriculum that prepares students with the skills they need for academic, social, and life success. Interactive games and activities that are grade level appropriate provide practical guidance on building healthy relationships, decision making skills and refusing negative peer influence. Lessons foster analysis and discussion of the effects of ATOD use as well as prescription and OTC drug use and various nicotine delivery devices. The Too Good For curriculum is being used in grade 7 Home and Career Skills, grade 8 health and High School health courses.
- Family and Consumer Science students have the opportunity to be certified in American Red Cross Babysitting as a part of the Working with Children unit in FACS classes. This certification does not expire and is an excellent employability skill for students especially as they begin to babysit, work summer camps, and become more independent and responsible.

## Newsletter Feedback Needed

As we begin to prepare for our June 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 serves 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

Congratulations to Pam West! She is the recipient of the *Lavona Schneider Rotary Teacher of the Year Award*. Pam will be treated to a luncheon at the Cortland Elks next month where she will receive a certificate and a \$50 stipend to spend on her classroom!

Mckenzie Morey competed at a state level competition through the New Visions program a few weeks ago. Through a series of written tests and skill assessments in the field of Physical Therapy, Mckenzie place 3rd in New York State!

A special shout out goes to three of our sophomores who attend BOCES. Benjamin Bushnell - Automotive Collision, Melany LaFlair - Early Childhood Occupations, Jonathon Nelson- Automotive Collision, who will all be inducted into the Vocational Honor Society this week along with fifteen upper classmen.

College News: Allison Holl - SUNY Potsdam, Kathryn Jones - Arcadia University, Austen Gardner Broome Community College, Matt Maniaci - Tompkins Cortland Community College, Kyle Green - Erie Community College, Emily Kruger - Tompkins Cortland Community College, Taylor Burdick - SUNY Delhi, Elizabeth Minnard - Medaille College, Natalie Moore - SUNY Oswego, McKenzie Morgan - Tompkins Cortland Community College, Corrine Quail - SUNY Cortland and McKenzie Morey will be attending Temple University

Charlotte Rowe was awarded a 100 on her level 6 cello solo

The Link Crew hosted an end of the year awards luncheon for the 7th graders on April 13th, honoring them for a successful transition to CHS. They recognized several students in each of their homerooms who demonstrated the characteristics we value

**JUNIOR SENIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**CORTLAND**  
ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**CORTLAND PRIDE:** PROFESSIONALISM 🐾 RESPECT 🐾 INTEGRITY 🐾 DILIGENCE 🐾 EXCELLENCE & EQUITY

at CHS. Each student also received a goody bag that symbolized the importance of finishing the year strong academically and socially/emotionally.



## Athletics

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](http://www.cortlandschools.org).

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

## Cortland Enlarged City School District



### Budget Vote & Board of Education Election

**May 16, 2017**  
**12:00 Noon to 9:00 p.m.**

#### Polling Locations

**Voters must vote at their designated polling location**

##### CITY OF CORTLAND

All RESIDENTS WARDS 1 – 8  
Vote at The Kaufman Center  
(District Offices Adjacent to the Bus Garage)  
1 Valley View Drive

##### CORTLANDVILLE

CORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS  
Vote at Cortlandville Town Hall  
Terrace Road

##### HARFORD, LAPEER AND VIRGIL

CORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS  
Vote at the Virgil Town Hall

#### **ALL VOTERS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS**

1. 18 Years of Age
2. Citizen of the U.S.
3. Resident of the State for the past year
4. Resident of County for past four months
5. Resident of City School District for 30 days preceding election

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON MAY 16!**

Visit: [www.cortlandschools.org](http://www.cortlandschools.org) for  
2017-18 proposed budget information.