2019 VALEDICTORIAN – SYDNEY LEVISON

Sydney Levison, the daughter of Ted and Lisa Levison, of Norwood, NY is the valedictorian of Norwood-Norfolk Central School District class of 2019 with an average of 96.61. Sydney is a bright young lady who will be graduating with an Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors. She has taken honors courses including A.P. American History, Precalculus, A.P. Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, A.P. Biology, English Compositions 101 and a variety of electives.

Sydney is involved in many activities and sports. She has run Cross Country, Indoor Track and Spring Track all four years. She has placed at Cross country states 5th and 8th in 2016 and 2017, respectively. In 2017 she placed 5th at the Steeple Chase. She has been the Captain of the Track Team all four years and Cross Country Captain her senior year.

Sydney has been selected as Section 10 Cross Country MVP, Van Dusen Spring Track Invitational Outstanding Female Runner, WWNY Athlete of The Week, and recognized by section 10 for sportsmanship. She is the Section X Representative on the New York State Public High School Athletic Advisory Committee.

Sydney has been in Varsity Club all four years serving as Treasurer for her sophomore and junior years, Whiz quiz for three years, Drama club for all four years performing in the musicals each year, a member of chorus as well as Bel Aires select chorus, and has been in yearbook the last two years, serving as editor this year. Sydney has also served as Vice President of the class of 2019 since her freshman year.

Sydney has been the recipient of many awards including High Honor Roll for every quarter of high school, Academic All Northern for all three seasons since her sophomore year. She has been selected for Student of the month for each year during high school and is a member of National Honor Society. Sydney was the recipient of the Indoor Track Official Jon Hazen Award.

Sydney will be attending Siena College in Albany, NY next year to study Biology or Environmental Science and she will continue to run cross country and track there.

2019 SALUTATORIAN – COURTNEY DELOSH

Courtney Delosh, daughter of Joseph Delosh of Potsdam and Marie Barkley of Norfolk, NY is the salutatorian of Norwood-Norfolk Central School District class of 2019 with an average of 95.50. Courtney is a bright young lady who will be graduating with an Advanced Regents Diploma with honors. She has accelerated her program and is graduating a year early. She has been enrolled in honors classes and has taken Chemistry, A.P. American History and Statistics.

Courtney has been involved in many activities and sports. She has played soccer all three years of high school and played softball during her
sophomore year. She is in chorus and a member of the Bel Aires select chorus. She is a member of Varsity club.

Courtney has been the recipient of many awards including Student of the Month, Academic All Northern, High Honor Roll for every quarter while she was in high school, and is a member of National Honor Society.

Courtney also works at McDonalds after school hours.

Next year, Courtney plans to go to college to study Psychology. She will continue to work while she is not in school.

2019 GRADUATES WITH HIGH HONORS

We’re very proud of the leaders in this year’s senior class. Students graduating with a GPA of 90 or higher include Sydney Levison, Courtney Delosh, Anneke Chudzinski, Grace Furnace, Isabelle Phippen, Blake Richards, and Alyssia Simons.

GREEN & GOLD PRIDE

Our recent Varsity Club Spirit Week culminated with a pep rally & green & gold night. What fun!

Our seniors who have participated in three seasons of sports, all four years of high school.

Shannyn St. Andrews
Maisie Voss
Sydney Levison

Flyer Pride

Embrace the Power of Working Together
School-Family-Community
PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for our primary is taking place now. If you have (or know of) a child who will be four, five, or six years old before December 1st and they are not enrolled in school, then please have their parents call the elementary office.

A STANDARDIZED TEST DOES NOT MEASURE...

We all know that it’s important for schools to have their students participate in standardized assessments. That’s how we know where our schools and instructional deficiencies are. But we want our students to know that there’s a lot that a standardized assessment does not measure. With support from student teacher Melinda Putney, Mrs. Bisceglia’s 6th grade students created a bulletin board stating all the things that a test can’t measure. Treasured attributes, such as creativity, humor, athletic or artistic ability are all important…and isn’t measured by these exams. Standardized assessments are important, but they don’t tell the whole story about our kids. The students really took this project to heart and were amazed at seeing how very little these important tests measure. There is nothing “high stakes” about them….and our kids know that.

Lockdown Drill

This past week we conducted our third lockdown drill of the year. This was the second drill conducted after implementing suggestions from state, county, and local police agencies. Once the drill commenced, it took mere seconds for all students to be out of sight and hearing. Within a few minutes, administrators and support personnel had verified all classrooms were secured. The entire drill completed, after each door was physically unlocked, in about 25 minutes. We appreciate the understanding from the community as we ensure the safety of our children. There will be one final lockdown drill this year at an undisclosed date.
7th GRADERS – CALL OF THE WILD PERFORMANCE & BOOK

The 7th grade will be attending a live performance of *Call of the Wild: Illustrated Edition*, on March 25th in Snell Theatre on SUNY Potsdam campus. The students just completed reading the novel this week, and we’re very excited the students have been provided this opportunity to attend a live performance at SUNY Potsdam.

Each 7th grade student received their own copy of *The Call of the Wild and White Fang* through a grant provided by a visiting professor at SUNY Potsdam. Thanks to Mrs. Pandel for organizing this wonderful opportunity for our children. Keep them reading!

SNOW DAY GIVE BACKS

Our students are mandated to have a 180 day school year. The current school year was created with 187 days, thus allowing us seven emergency closure days...also known as snow days. This year NNCS utilized three snow days, therefore, at this time we have four left.

The Board of Education voted to “give back” these four days. So, the students will not have to attend school on the following days:

- June 26, 2019 – Regents Rating Day
- May 24, 2019 – Day before Memorial Day weekend
- April 22, 2019 – Day after Spring Break
- April 12, 2019 – Day before Spring Break.

If we need to close school due to inclement weather, then April 12th would turn back to a school day. If we need to use an additional closure due to inclement weather, then April 22nd would turn back to a school day.

GREAT NEWS! GRANT NOTIFICATION

Our North Country regional schools have combatted homelessness for many years. The stereotypical homeless person isn’t usually seen in the cold North Country. However, many families and individuals struggle with adequate and consistent housing. For many years our District has participated in a regional grant to support our temporarily housed students and families. Our liaison to this grant, Danielle Peterson, has worked diligently to provide support for our many families who find themselves in difficult situations.

We recently received notification that a new round of the McKinney-Vento Grant (to support families experiencing housing difficulties) has been awarded to our regional schools once again. This means that we’ll be able to continue with our efforts through the year 2022. A big thanks to the folks at SLL BOCES who have been consistent in their efforts to provide support for our families.
2019-2020 BUDGET

As reported recently in North Country Now, we have had discussions about adding a SRO back into the budget for next school year. However, this is dependent upon necessary increases in state aid. Not reported by North Country Now is the high priority of adding an additional counselor or social worker to help with student crisis, something we’ve seen a significant increase in during the past several years. We have also placed a priority on increasing our ½ time librarian to full time. These three positions are all dependent upon increases in state aid.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION: Upcoming Community Forums

Community members are invited to participate in an open discussion facilitated by Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization to gather input on barriers and gaps in the community for opioid treatment access, recovery, and prevention in rural St. Lawrence County. The information will be used to develop strategies to improve services in our community.

Adults (18 years or older) who live or work in St. Lawrence County, including: community members, law enforcement officers, health care professionals, government officials, faith- and community-based organizations, school personnel, individuals in recovery, affected families, and others.

Individuals are encouraged to attend 1 of 2 sessions and registration is required. RSVPs are required, and registration information will soon be available at fdrhpo.org/forums. Questions? Contact pfontana@fdrhpo.org.

May 7th at Massena Community Center, 3:30 – 5:30, or
May 16th at BOCES in Canton, 3:30 – 5:30

HYPNOTIST EVENT – FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by the NNCS Class of 2019 All Night Graduation Party parents, this event promises to be a lot of fun. Join the Comedy Hypnotist Night with Don Swan and help our parents keep our children safe at graduation. This fun event will be on Tuesday, April 9th at 6:30 PM in the NNCS Auditorium. The cost is $10 per ticket and you can purchase a pre-sale ticket at the high school Guidance Office.

GRADES 3-8 NYS EXAMS

In a few weeks, the New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests will be administered to students. Last year, the number of test sessions for these annual assessments was reduced from three to two; that change remains in effect this year. This means that students will take each subject test over only two testing days instead of three as in past years. Additionally, the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will continue to be untimed.

The ELA exam will be given on two consecutive school days in the beginning of April and the math exam will be given on two consecutive school days in the beginning of May. This year all our students will be taking the Computer Based Testing offered by the state.
Below you will find a summary of the changes that were made to the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests over the past several years.

- **Fewer testing sessions.** Last year, the Grades 3–8 ELA and Math Tests were reduced from three test sessions per subject to only two sessions per subject, meaning each subject will have two days of testing instead of three. With fewer test sessions, each test will have fewer questions than in past years, lessening test fatigue for students and better enabling them to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.

- **The tests continue to be untimed so students who are still working on their exams will be allowed to continue to work, within the confines of the regular school day.** Students who finish may be permitted to hand in their test materials (or submit the test if testing on computer) and leave the room. If so, students should exit quietly so they do not disturb any students still working.

- **Test questions reviewed and written by New York State Teachers.** Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms.

**Teacher and Principal Evaluation/APPR**

- **Student performance on the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests will have no employment-related consequences for teacher and principal evaluations.** This means no teachers or principals in New York State public schools will be affected by the results of the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests.

**Release of Test Questions and Instructional Reports**

- **Test questions and instructional reports will be released before the end of the school year.** Like the past several years, the State Education Department will release 75-percent of questions from the 2019 tests and the instructional reports for educators on or around June 1. You can view 2018 test questions on EngageNY. (https://www.engageny.org/3-8)

**Computer-Based Testing**

- **Computer-based State assessments.** NNCS will administer the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests on the computer. The computer-based test will have the same questions as the paper version but students will take the test on a computer, tablet, or Chromebook.

- **Stronger instructional tools.** The State Education Department is helping districts begin to transition to computer-based testing (CBT), which has the potential to make the assessments stronger instructional tools and will make it possible to get test results back sooner.

- **The move to CBT.** The State plans to have additional districts utilize CBT next year. The long-term plan is to have all districts using CBT for annual state tests.

You can find more information about the State tests on the State Education Department’s website. (http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html)

Additional information is attached to this email.
OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

On Sunday, April 7th, the Clarkson Society of Women Engineers invites high school girls to a brunch to learn about STEM college majors and careers. The brunch will be held in the Student Center with an 11:30-2:30 time frame. A flyer detailing this opportunity is attached to this email. This event is a wonderful opportunity for a connection between a student and a top-rated local university. I would encourage all high school girls to consider attending.

CALLING ALL FLYER ALUMNI

Combined Class Reunion 2019! There is a class reunion THIS SUMMER for all NNCS graduating classes. If you’re interested in helping to organize or represent your class, then contact Chuck Morse, ’77 at morsechuck10@gmail.com. Let’s get out and show your Flyer Pride!

FACEBOOK

Celebrate our children! Follow our middle school on Facebook page by clicking "Norwood-Norfolk Middle School Moments". Our elementary has also joined with a Facebook page, called “Norwood-Norfolk Elementary School.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Grades 3-8 NYS Exams

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Flyer Pride
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