

RIDER REPORT



Superintendent's Corner

It has been a challenging year to say the least for students, teachers and administrators throughout the district, and throughout the nation. Most recently, the world watched yet another tragedy occur in the education setting, this time at the Robb Elementary School in Texas' Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District. There are no words that can adequately express the profound grief and sadness that I am feeling. As I noted in my [letter to the community](#), Robb Elementary and Uvalde are far away geographically, but something like this hits close to home for every family with school-age children. Please know that we are committed to adhering to strict safety protocols and procedures, and that we have a strong partnership with the Sheriff's Office and the New York State Troopers.



I would like to share some resources that you may find valuable:

- [Tips for Teachers, Parents, and Caregivers from the National Association of School Psychologists](#)
- [Resources from the Coalition to Support Grieving Students](#)
- [NY Project Hope Website](#) and Emotional Support Helpline: 1-844-863-9314
- [Resources for Coping with Mass Violence from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)

I also want to let parents know about a free upcoming online/social media safety webinar on Tuesday, June 7, that is being offered by our district partner, Questar III BOCES: "Social Media Awareness, Digital Citizenship & Cyberbullying." Parents and guardians play an important role in providing support and guidance during critical periods of growth. A snapshot of current trends and concerning apps will be provided to

help equip and inform you. You can register for this free webinar at <https://tinyurl.com/2pz7yrmy>.

Additionally, as of July 1, the district will be partnering with Needham Risk Management as a consultant. The district has worked closely with the Questar III BOCES Safety Consultants for many years, however, following the retirement of our designated health and safety specialist, we have decided to partner with Needham. They come highly recommended, having more than 20 years of experience in the field. This will provide a new set of eyes on our protocols and plans, as we remain committed to making the safety of our students and staff our highest priority.

Despite the many adversities our student body has faced, there have been amazing accomplishments in the classroom and on the athletic fields.

Our students are dedicated and resilient. Look no further than the graduation rate for the Class of 2021, which came in at 96 percent. Our students and wonderful staff of teachers accomplished this despite facing a global pandemic for two years.

Students are wrapping up the district-wide, year-long theme of unity. May's theme was friendship. Kindergarten is when many students begin to form their first lifelong friendships. Those bonds will grow throughout their school careers and many memories will be made in our classrooms and auditoriums, and during sports practices and games. Closing out the school year, the theme for June will be Kindness. I can't wait to see all of the great work being done around this theme!

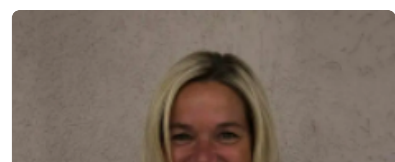
As we enter the final month of the 2021-22 school year, I encourage you all to enjoy the moment. Some of those moments are life milestones, such as graduations and moving up ceremonies. At this time of year, students are going to prom or attending award ceremonies. Athletic teams are competing in the postseason. Spring concerts wrap up year-long efforts and artwork is being displayed and judged. Field trips are taking place again, and class trips are happening. Whether your student is wrapping up their first or last year of school, please take the time to enjoy their successes, no matter how big or small.

Also in this issue...

- Nurse Warner Honored by the Times Union
- Graduation Rate
- Students Earn Seal of Biliteracy
- Capital Project Completion Expected This Summer
- And More

Michelle Warner Honored by Times Union

Ichabod Crane is very proud to announce that the district's High School Nurse, Michelle Warner, was named one of only 10 winners of the 2022 *Times Union Salute to Nurses*



This annual tradition by the *Times Union* is now in its seventh year and honors Capital Region nurses who go above and beyond. A few months ago, Ms. Warner was submitted as a nominee by her colleagues at Ichabod Crane High School for the incredible work she always does and in particular since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The district was thrilled to hear when Ms. Warner was selected as one of the ten well-deserving winners from 600+ nominees!



Read more [here](#).

Graduation Rate

The graduation rate for the Class of 2021 remained steady from the year prior at 96%. The district's graduation rate continues to outpace the state's average of 86% and ranks at the top of the list of school districts in Columbia County.



Seal of Biliteracy

SEAL OF BILITERACY



CRISTAL CRUZ



AIDAN CAIRNS



NICOLE LABATT



DANIEL CHEN



OLIVIA DUMONT



VALERIA ESPINOZA



TOBY GREER

Seven seniors earned the 2022 New York State Seal of Biliteracy. Awardees include Aidan Cairns (Spanish and English), Daniel Chen (Spanish and English), Cristal Cruz (Spanish and English), Olivia Dumont (French and English), Valeria Espinoza (Spanish and English), Toby Greer (Spanish and English), and Nicole LaBatt (Spanish and English).

Students awarded the Seal conducted research in both their target language and English, and presented a culminating project in their target language and/or English. Students were guided in this process by a self-selected advisor.

Awardees exhibited a high level of literacy and fluency interpretively, interpersonally and presentationally in their World Language and English. Candidates presented their research findings to select members of the ICC NYS Biliteracy Committee. Members of the ICC NYS Seal of Biliteracy Committee are: Craig Shull, (Principal and NYSSB Committee Co-Chair), Marcella Sanchez (Assistant Principal), Lisa Duffek (World Language Department Chair and Advisor), Megan Yeats (English teacher ICHS and Advisor), Jennifer Salo-Two-Axe (ICHS Librarian and Advisor), Nick Spanswick (ICMS Spanish teacher and Spanish/French rater), Tania Yearwood (ICHS Counseling Center and Spanish rater), and Theresa Longhi (ICHS ENL Teacher, NYSSB Committee Co-Chair). Additionally, Mr. Stafiej (ICHS French teacher/ rater) and Mrs. Warner (ICHS Spanish teacher/rater) were a great help in the Culminating Project scoring.

Last year, the first year that ICC awarded the Seal, there were four awardees. The 2021 awardees were Klent Rectazo, Kent Rectazo, Sam Boscan Ramos and Mayra Morales. 2021 awardees Klent and Ken Rectazo earned the Seal in their native language, Bisaya, and English. Sam Boscan Ramos and Mayra Morales earned the Seal in Spanish and English.

A reception for both the 2021 and 2022 awardees will begin in the High School Auditorium on June 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

May's K-12 Unity Theme: Friendship

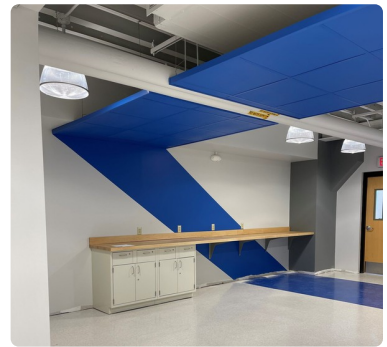
May's district-wide unity theme is Friendship! To celebrate this theme, photo booths were placed in all three buildings for students and staff members to capture memories of their new and long-time friendships.





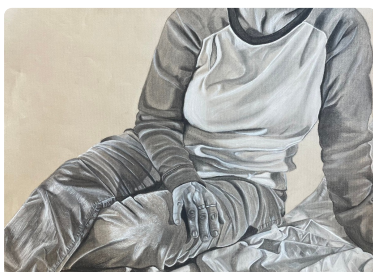
Capital Project Update

The Capital Project, which was voted on and was approved by district residents in 2018, is scheduled to be completed early this summer. Two of the major projects included in the referendum that have recently made major progress are the Middle School gymnasium and the Steam Wing (pictured below). For more information regarding the Capital Project, [click here](#).



Rachel Pozzi Claims 2nd at Questar HS Art Invitational

Senior Rachel Pozzi placed second for her piece "Figure it Out" at the 33rd annual Questar III BOCES High School Invitational Art Exhibition. Additionally, sophomore Amiya Howard received Honorable Mention for her drawing titled "Metamorphosis."





May Was Mental Health Awareness Month

In recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, we wanted to share a quick reminder of the mental, emotional and academic supports available to all Ichabod Crane K-12 students and highlight the National Alliance of Mental Health (NAMI). For more information on Mental Health Awareness Month, [click here](#).

Mental and emotional health has long been a priority in the Ichabod Crane Central School District and recent years only made its importance clearer. The district can give these areas the attention they deserve thanks to its committed K-12 Counseling Department. Year-round they ensure Ichabod students have the resources they need for mental/emotional health, finding professional/career interests and succeeding academically both in the K-12 school environment, as well as higher education.

Ichabod Crane School Counselors and Psychologists are always available to any of our students or their parents/guardians who need to speak with them. Additionally, our Counseling Department [has its own website](#) that is frequently updated with mental health and emotional support resources.



Athletics Update

- The Varsity Softball team is ranked No. 1 in Class B in New York State. During the regular season, the team outscored opponents 325-9 to lock up the No. 1 seed in the Section 2, Class B tournament. The team cruised through the Section 2 tournament, winning its fourth straight championship with a 12-0 victory over Glens Falls in the title game. IC advances to the state tournament, facing the Section VII champion on Thursday, June 2.
- The Varsity Baseball team secured the No. 3 seed in the Section 2, Class B tournament. The Riders defeated No. 14 Ravena in the opening round, No. 11 Coxsackie-Athens in the quarterfinals, and No. 7 Fonda in the semifinals. In the championship game, IC fell to No. 2 Schuylerville 1-0.
- Varsity Tennis was the No. 1 seed in sectionals and placed second in the tournament. Fan Lantzy was seeded No. 5 in Individual Sectionals and advanced to

the quarterfinals.

- Boys Track & Field competed in the Colonial Council championships and had 6 medalists.
- Girls Track & Field had 14 medalists at the Colonial Council championships.
- The New York State Public High School Athletic Association Inc. (NYSPHSAA) announced its Spring 2022 scholar-athlete teams. Congratulations to the following teams: Baseball, Boys Outdoor Track & Field, Boy Tennis, Girls Outdoor Track & Field, and Softball.



Summer Enrichment Program Returns

The K-12 Summer Enrichment Program is returning! Summer Enrichment begins in early-July and runs through mid-August. Sign-ups are still open and can be found [here](#).

This year the district is excited to work with an additional 12 teachers, all from the ICC instructional staff. Course offerings run the gamut from Chinese Calligraphy, to Intro to Weightlifting, and College prep.

"We are so excited to offer a wide range of enrichment programming this summer," Assistant Superintendent Lucas Christensen said. "In addition to our artist in residence, Tom Lee, who brings with him years of experience at Yale University and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC, we have 12 Ichabod Crane teachers on staff who will share their time and talents with students from grades K-12."

Who Do I Contact For...

We have created a document to help you find the correct person to contact for a variety of concerns that may come up throughout the year, as well as a directory of district staff. [You can find this contact guide on our website.](#)



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Website ›