



The Bagpiper

Argyle Central School Newsletter

Superintendent's Message

February/March 2024 Issue

Dear Argyle School Community:

On February 12th our elementary students celebrated the 100th day of school which means that more than half of the school year has already come and gone! It is hard to believe we have a little over 15 weeks of school left. As we look forward to the next few months and the arrival of spring, my thoughts turn to Grades 3-8 State testing. This year the window for testing has been expanded. The following are the testing dates for this year:

April 10-11, 2024: Grades 3-8 NYS ELA

April 24, 2024: Grades 5 & 8 Science

May 8-9, 2024: Grades 3-8 NYS Math

These tests are important for our students as they measure their skill level and educational growth for the school year. The tests are also utilized to measure the effectiveness and strength of our educational programs. I encourage you not to opt your children out of these exams and to make sure that they get plenty of rest the night before the exam dates. More information about the exams will be forthcoming as we get closer to these dates.

At our most recent Board of Education meeting, we adopted the 2024-2025 school calendar. Overall the calendar is similar to previous year calendars except for one change. Next year's calendar has four 2-hour late arrival days for students. These late arrival dates will be used for professional development for our teachers. Giving teachers these blocks of time allows for grade level and department meetings so that they can work on curriculum, look at testing data and to collaborate and meet with colleagues and administration. These eight hours will be invaluable in helping teachers make adjustments to their teaching to be more responsive to students' needs throughout the school year. The 2024-2025 school calendar can be found on the school website. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation as we utilize these dates throughout next school year.

We are in the midst of the 2024-2025 school budget planning process. As you have probably heard, Governor Hochul has cut aid to many schools in our region in her executive budget proposal and Argyle is no exception. We are working with our local elected officials and WSWHE BOCES to appeal this sudden and unexpected cut to our state aid. I am hopeful that the outcry from our region and all regions of the state will force the governor to restore the aid that has been cut. We will wait until April to see the final budget proposal from the governor. On our website there is a link to a letter that you can send to our elected officials to urge them to help restore our aid.

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued support of the Argyle Central School District. If you have any questions or concerns I urge you to contact the school at (518) 638-8243. Good communication between home and school is vital to the success of our school district.

Sincerely,
James Bennefield
Superintendent of Schools



Argyle's New Music Production Room Opens Doors to Creativity

Argyle Central School has opened a new music production room, providing students access to professional-grade audio equipment and software.

Envisioned and built by Junior/Senior High Music teacher Stephen Lightner, the room includes instruments like keyboards and guitars, microphones, audio interfaces, MIDI controllers, and leading digital audio workstation software Studio One.

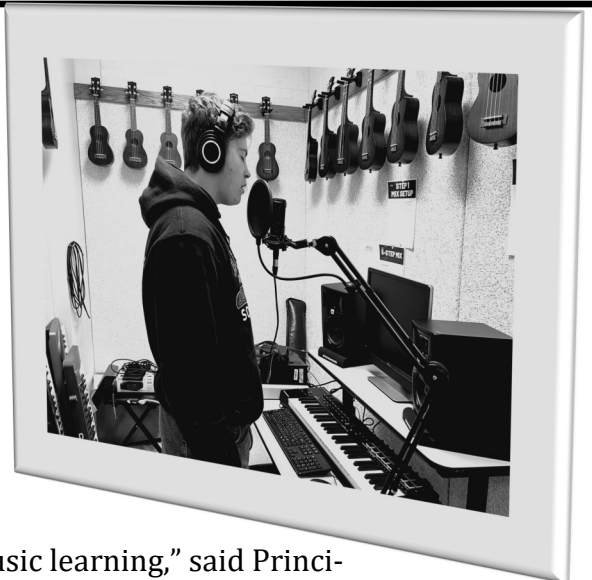
The school administration hopes the new studio will allow more students to explore music creation, production, and engineering.

"We're thrilled to offer our students this type of hands-on music learning," said Principal John Galarneau. "The music production room introduces them to industry-standard tools and engages their creativity."

One student who has already benefited from the new room is senior Ben Randles. Ben, an aspiring music producer, used the production room equipment and software to create his first song, "Remedies." He released the track on Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube.

"Having access to real recording gear helped me learn so much," said Ben, "I was able to bring my song fully to life."

Ben plans to continue honing his skills in the production room and release more songs this year. He is planning to study music business when he starts college next year.



"It has been a joy to see students utilize this studio to create and learn new skills in another area of music. I've had the pleasure of teaching students about producing, mixing, and mastering their music, and I hope the work students are doing in the studio encourages other music students to try it out," said Mr. Lightner.

Students in grades 11 and 12 who are in any music class and have a grade of 95 or above in that class may use the studio. Before using the studio, students must first take an orientation with Mr. Lightner.

Scan the QR code to listen to Ben's original song "Remedies."



Elementary Agriculture Club Plants Knowledge



Students in grades 2-5 at Argyle Elementary can learn about local agriculture through the school's new Agriculture Enrichment Club. Run by advisors Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Roberson, the club meets twice a month to explore different aspects of the agriculture industry in our area.

"We want to spark a lifelong interest and appreciation for agriculture's important role in their daily lives," said Mrs. Bailey.

The club focuses on a different agriculture topic or local ag business at each meeting. So far this year, students have learned about poultry farms, vegetable, fruit, and flower production, Christmas tree farming, and bees and beekeeping.



"The kids have loved visiting real farms and meeting the farmers," said Mrs. Roberson. "And they get very excited when we have samples to taste like custard made from the eggs from Sunset Farms or smoothies from the berries and kale from Gardenworks." Upcoming field trips include the Sperry Family Farm to learn about goats and Fullerton Farms, a dairy farm, both in Argyle.

In addition to field trips, club meetings incorporate hands-on activities, demonstrations, and guest speakers from the agriculture industry.

"Agriculture is so important for our economy and community," said Elementary Principal Dawn Wood, "This club is teaching kids essential knowledge they'll carry with them."

Students sign up monthly by theme, with 30-35 students each month. To learn more, contact Mrs. Bailey at bailey_j@argylecsd.org or Mrs. Roberson at roberson_m@argylecsd.org.



Argyle Central School
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Pre-Kindergarten And Kindergarten Registration Information

Kindergarten

In early April, a registration packet will be going out to all children who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2024.

Pre-Kindergarten

This full day program will consist of a 5-hour day (8:15-1:15) and run for the entire 180 day school year. Parents will be responsible for transporting their child to and from school. This program is for children four years old on or before December 1, 2024. A registration packet will be sent out in early April.

In order to enhance communication with you, please go to our website (www.argylecsd.org) and fill out the pre-registration information on your child (ren).

Argyle Central School Drama Club Presents



March 15th and 16th
Showtime: 6:30 p.m.
ACS Cafetorium

TICKET PRICES
Adults \$10

Senior Citizens & Students \$8

Adopt an Actor \$15
(includes your \$10 admission and put your name or your actor's name on a star that will go on our Wall of Fame.)