

FRONTIER NEWS

Fall 2019

HAMBURG, NY 14075



Nathan Hoellig hands Ellie Rokes a wrap from the Frontier Food Truck. The senior culinary students are planning menus for the truck.

Frontier Food Truck: A Classroom on Wheels

More than just a concession stand on wheels, the Frontier Food Truck represents one more innovative way educators at Frontier Central School are coming up with creative solutions and opportunities for students to learn.

The Frontier Board of Education approved the purchase of the food truck in August as a mobile replacement for the school's aging concession stand. The unconventional option saved money and will also act as a classroom on wheels, providing hands-on experience to culinary arts students. Those students



The Frontier Food Truck was delivered in time for the homecoming game.

will work with Food Service Director Jason Whipple to learn the business and culinary sides to design seasonal menus. The food truck will also enable the concession stand to hit the road, heading to different schools in the district and even away games.

The truck was built by JP Food Trucks, whose president, PJ Azzarella, is a proud Frontier district resident, with design help from FHS student J Christie, who brought the Frontier Food Truck to life with the bold blue, black and white design. The school is one of the first in the area to operate a food truck. The truck was delivered in time for the Falcon's homecoming game and will be seen at several upcoming school events.

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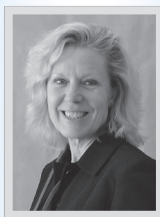
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www.facebook.com/FrontierCSD.org

Frontier Welcomes New Administration



Linda Dansa
Director of Pathways, Innovation and Assessment



Deanne Lester
Blasdell Elementary Principal



Danielle Kalinski
Middle School Assistant Principal



Shannon Thurston
High School Assistant Principal



Colleen Schaefer
Assistant Director of Pupil Services

Message from the Superintendent

Hello to all our Falcons and families!

It's hard to believe the school year is more than a quarter over with the holiday season almost upon us. From the summer through the start of the year, our Falcons have been incredibly busy. Our wonderful teachers and administrators constantly come up with ideas to help our students learn and to help them find their passions. There is simply not enough space in this newsletter to highlight them all. Being able to share all the great stories is a huge reason we updated our website and created a Facebook page. The Facebook page was also an idea shared by those community members that completed the exit survey during the May budget vote. With so much going on, my task was to pick an area that is impacting all of our schools. That would be STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math).

STEAM started as an idea from many of our teachers, administrators and community as a way to connect learning to real-world applications. STEAM also has been a prevalent theme in our ThoughtExchange surveys. For the 2018-19 year, we were fortunate to get the assistance of Renee Sossong-Brady from Erie 1 BOCES to work with each of our elementary buildings to build STEAM activities and experiences. All their work led to the creation of a STEAM Space in each of our elementary schools this Fall. The response from the students and teachers has been tremendous. The ideas continue to flow from our library media specialists, art teachers and so many others so that the STEAM Spaces continue to evolve and grow.

STEAM is also happening at the middle school and high school. The challenge has been to connect so many of the ideas happening all around our buildings. Thanks to the leadership of Colleen Duggan and our principals, the idea of creating a STEAM coordinator came forth. After a search, Sandra George took on the role in the other half of her day when not teaching college physics. For anyone that has been able to take a class with Mrs. George, you already know how creative she can be. She has used that creativity and passion for all things STEAM to grow our program in a short time. On November 8, she was recognized with the Dr. Rod Doran STEM Educator Award from WNY STEM Hub for her passion and leadership with Renee Sossong-Brady as an honorable mention. Mrs. George, with our partners from Erie 1 BOCES, Erie 2 BOCES and Buffalo City Schools, along with many of our Falcons will bring the first annual WNY Maker Expo and RoboRAVE to Frontier. This will be a day filled with STEAM activities focused on students and what they create. Stay tuned to our website and social media to learn more.

As I stated earlier, this is merely one of the many exciting stories involving our Falcons. And this is only the beginning as our teachers, staff, administrators and community have so many great ideas. We can't do it all, and it certainly won't happen overnight but there is no doubt our Frontier community is "Working Together for Excellence."

Yours in Blue,

Richard J. Hughes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Richard J. Hughes

Nominate an Alumnus for the Alumni Spotlight

The Frontier Central School District created the Alumni Spotlight to highlight the achievements of our accomplished alumni. If you would like to be featured on the Frontier website or would like to nominate an alumnus, please fill out the form referenced at www.frontiercsd.org/AlumniSpotlight.

NEW TEACHERS

Welcome New Teachers

Big Tree Elementary



From left to right, Third Grade Teacher Brittany Schranz, Math Specialist Ann Forney, First Grade Teacher Melanie Grandits, First Grade Teacher Karen McCann, Speech Therapist Lisa LaRusso, Fifth Grade Teacher Sara Suranyi, Classroom Aide Kathy Fregelette, Special Education Teacher Nicole MacDonald and Classroom Aide JoAnn MacNeil.

Blasdell Elementary



Standing from left: Principal Deanne Lester, Teacher Assistant Amy Redmond, First Grade Teacher Kim Jacobs, Cleaner Beth Caligiuri, Building Substitute Claire Dunwoodie, Regular Substitute In Second Grade Marc Smaldino. Seated: Social Worker Tracie Van Epps, 4-5 Multiage Teacher Kristen Laforge, Art Teacher Nicolette Juron, First Grade Teacher Natashia Bueme.

High School



Sitting: Computer Aide Diane Morris and REACH Program Teacher Amber Chandler. Standing: Science Teacher Michael Delmont and Transition Coordinator Stacey Davis. Not pictured is Special Education Teacher Michele Clarke.

Cloverbank Elementary



Pictured Left to right: Social Worker Danielle McDonald, LCSW, CSSW; School Psychologist Andrea Wereski; Fourth Grade Teacher Jennifer Battista; and Special Education Teacher Megan Comerford. Not Pictured: second Grade Teacher Katie Grogan and Counselor Kelly Stewart.

Middle School



Standing left to right: Counselor Kelly Stewart, Math AIS teacher Melissa Parezo, Special Education Teacher Addie Sausner, Science Teacher Renee Kazukiewicz, Special Education Teacher Tracy Peron, Spanish Teacher Rebecca Galanti, Sixth Grade Teacher Trisha Bean, School Nurse Amy Piniewski and English Language Arts Teacher Carina Fabozzi. Kneeling: Assistant Principal Danielle Kalinski.

Character Council Virtues



October

Responsibility vs Irresponsibility

Responsibility is knowing what is necessary to meet obligations.

December

Compassion vs Insensitivity

Compassion is caring for ourselves and others and supporting people in times of need.

November

Gratitude vs Ungratefulness

Gratitude is expressing thanks and appreciation for the people, places and things in life.

Big Tree



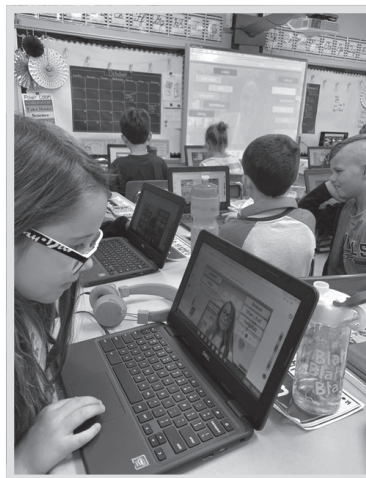
Mrs. Vail and Mrs. Tomaka's first grade class collected travel-sized toiletries to create hygiene bags for the Buffalo City Mission, Haiti and others. They will do this twice a year and are still accepting donations.



Students discover "Where in the world are we?" with a hands-on activity.



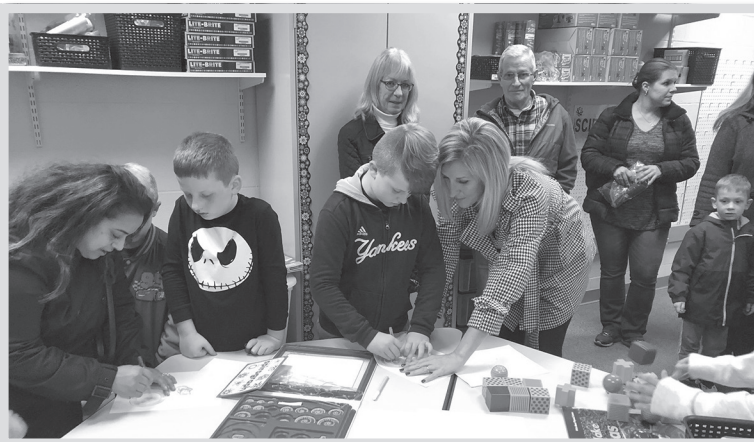
Kindergartener Lucas Czora dressed as a scientist at Big Tree's Halloween Bash.



Mrs. Ferrara is using Seesaw to make character traits engaging and exciting for her third-grade students.



Ms. Smith and Mrs. DiCesare's fourth grade class work on a STEAM activity involving QR Research on Monsters and the Bone Tower of Terror where they designed and constructed a tower with cotton swabs.



Students and parents enjoyed a tour of the new STEAM lab at Big Tree Elementary.



Student uses Osmo for a math activity in the Big Tree STEAM Space.

Blas dell



Blas dell Elementary School participates in student banking with Southern Erie Federal Credit Union. The Mobile branch visited Blas dell and all of our student bankers were able to make their deposit. They received a t-shirt as a prize for continuing to save for their future.



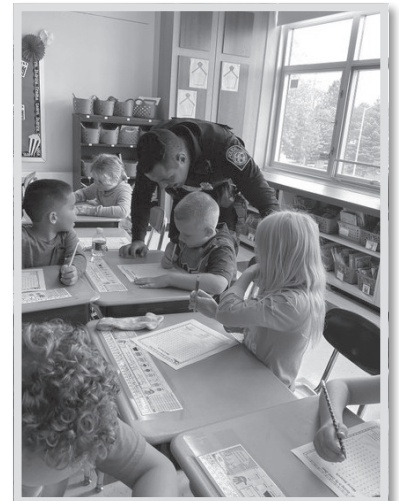
Students participate in the first Beehive of the school year.



Kindergartner reads in Mrs. Shea's class.



October is Fire Safety Month. Blas dell Firefighter Mr. Gill taught Blas dell students about what to do in case of a fire and gave them a tour of the fire truck.



Mrs. Haertel's second grade class had some help from Blas dell's finest!



Mrs. Haertel's third grade class headed from Blas dell Elementary to the Theatre of Youth to see "Pete the Cat".

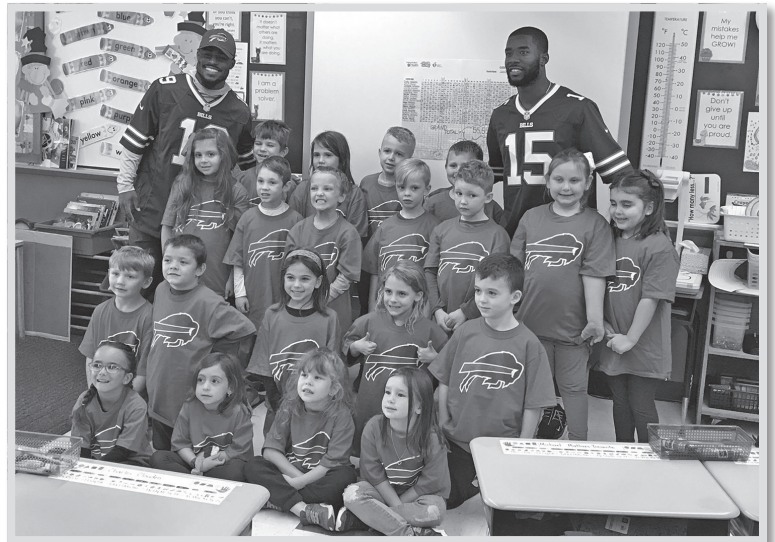


Jonathan Sawulak, Braeden Shea use gears in a STEAM activity in the Blas dell Library.

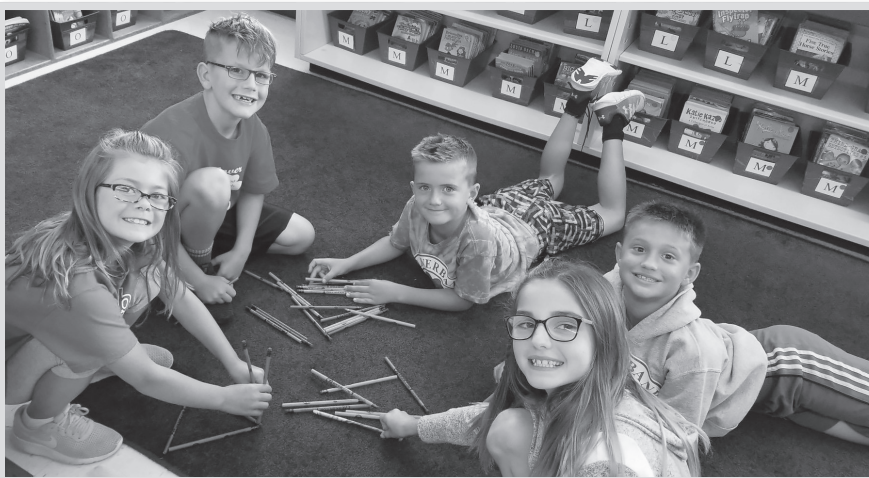
Cloverbank



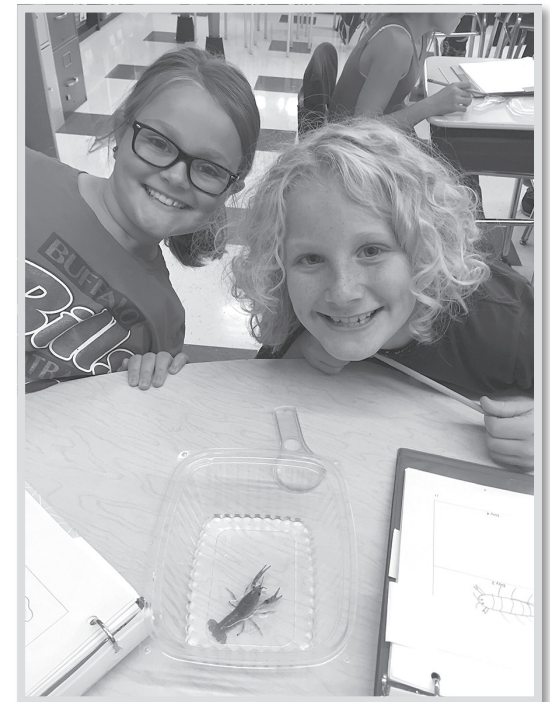
Fourth grade students visited to Old Fort Niagara.



Cloverbank Elementary students hung out with Buffalo Bills players as a reward for all their hard work in the PLAY 60 Challenge.



Third graders at Cloverbank got creative to complete STEAM challenges.



Fourth graders in Ms. Hall's class examined the external structures of their crayfish and tried to determine their functions.

Returning Cloverbank Elementary Student Council members mentored incoming representatives for the 2019-2020 school year.

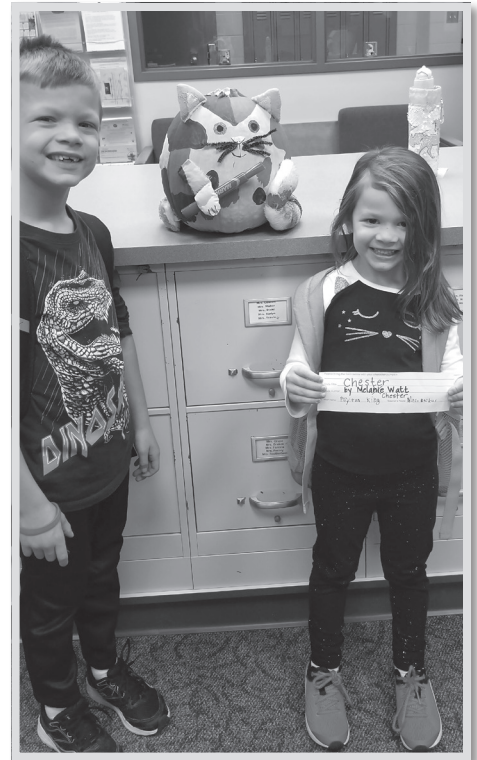
Pinehurst



Second graders read a "Jack and the Beanstalk" story where Jack used a pulley system, then they made their own.



Kindergarten and first grade students learned about fall, trees and leaves in the library.



One hundred forty Pinehurst Elementary students participated in a voluntary Pumpkin Book Character Contest. Students were to choose a book of their choice and create a pumpkin based on one of the characters. First grader Peyton King and her brother David created a Chester (the Cat) pumpkin.



Pinehurst third graders learned about magnets in the STEAM Lab.



Mrs. Stamer's and Mrs. Kolacki's kindergarten class at Pinehurst Elementary took advantage of the nice fall weather during physical education class with Mr. Dreyer and Mrs. Lester.

Middle School



Dinosaurs squared off at the FMS Halloween dance. Nearly 400 students were doing the monster mash!



Seventh and eighth graders in French Club practiced the art of découpage as they made decorative pumpkin boxes. Pictured are Andy Pepper, Haileigh Zwelling, Jaydn Clark, Nolan Hill, Logan Laskey and Ismet Lilic Jr..



Seventh grade students recently took a trip to Old Fort Niagara where they saw its history, were told stories of old battles, how gun powder was made and different ranks of command.



NEST, or Nurturing Every Student's Talent, is a new program this year that gives students time to catch up on their work, interact with teachers, read and get active and take part in recess.



Students from Mrs. Muldowney's class wore red today to support drug awareness as part of Red Ribbon Week. They are posing in front of their decorated "We Cut Out Drugs" classroom door.



Students in Living & Functional Skills class created "The Grind," a functional coffee shop that provides students with valuable skills while providing staff members with an awesome service each week.

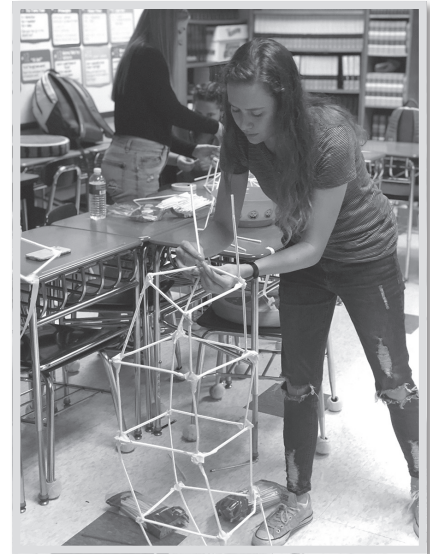


Students in Mr. Maher's technology class created a wooden flag during NEST period and donated it to the middle school.

High School



Principal Charland stops by the Ecology Club table at Open House.



The Literacy Club took on a team challenge to create the tallest free-standing structure using straws.



The High School German club celebrated Oktoberfest. Mrs. Carlson prepared some delicious German Food amongst German scenery.



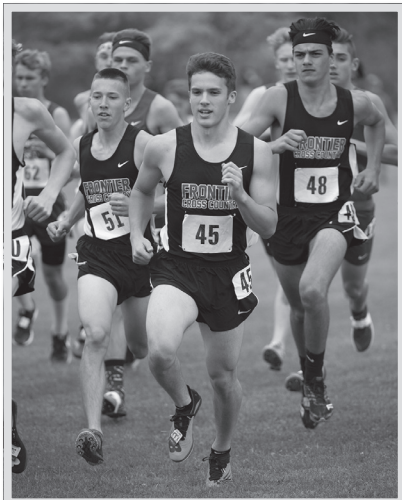
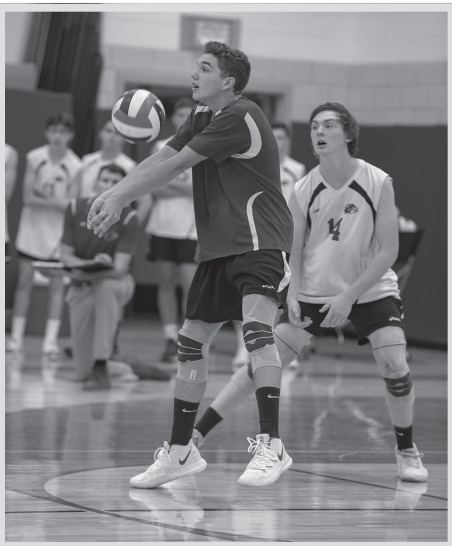
Frontier High School Spanish mentors Sarah, Sadie and Lea (not pictured) headed to Ms. Hall's fourth grade class at Cloverbank. They taught the students how to introduce themselves to each other with their new Spanish names.



Students gathered on Dietz Field for the announcement of \$150,000 to fund a new scoreboard by New York State Senator Chris Jacobs.

Fall Sports

Photos contributed by Nick LoVerde, Hermann Studio, 716-632-0473, 246 Meyer Road, Amherst, NY 14226.



Making Space for STEAM

This fall a new STEAM Spaces opened in each of the elementary schools in the Frontier School District. This accomplishment represents an ongoing commitment to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) education that will follow students through their school careers and beyond.

Starting last school year, the district repurposed materials on hand and utilized a grant for STEAM materials to equip the spaces with more technology and hands-on learning activities. All materials align to the updated New York State Science Learning Standards.

“The biggest shift in the New York State Science Learning Standards is the pedagogy from direct instruction to encouraging students to figure out the solution. An activity available in the STEAM Space will build students’ knowledge that will then apply to the instruction a teacher gives,” Renee Sossong-Brady explained.

The STEAM Spaces were also designed to be flexible to teachers’ needs. STEAM education doesn’t just happen in the STEAM space, so teachers can borrow materials to incorporate into everyday classroom instruction or they can reserve the STEAM Space.

Coinciding with student learning is also the goal to help teachers grow through a STEAM lens. Through training with Renee Sossong-Brady and Brian Blaszak, the district is giving teachers those opportunities to learn and grow.

Plans for the middle school and high school STEAM Spaces are underway. The District STEAM Committee is thoughtfully exploring options that will build on skills learned in lower grade levels and carve pathways for future success for students as they enter the real world.

“Most jobs students will get outside of high school will include some component of STEAM. That exposure is what employers are looking for. So that learning is very important for students at Frontier to be college and career ready,” science teacher and STEAM Director Sandra George said.

For more information on STEAM at Frontier, follow the Twitter account @FrontierSteam or email FrontierSTEAM@frontiercsd.org with any questions.



Renee Sossong-Brady and Sandra George lead STEAM efforts in the district.

Frontier Teacher Receives STEM Award

Frontier High School science teacher Sandra George is the recipient of the Dr. Rod Doran STEM Educator Award. The award is given in memory of UB professor emeritus Dr. Rod Doran to honor a STEM educator who creates experiences that ripple beyond their own world, knows how to inspire learners and mobilize colleagues and whose talent, optimistic spirit and positive energy makes them luminary.

Mrs. George has taught science at Frontier High School for 19 years. She is on the STANYS Executive Board as the Association Treasurer, a member of NSTA and is a Master Teacher. She was nominated for the award by WNY STEM Hub and was further supported by Frontier Central Schools administration.

“I have known Sandra for many years in her role as Frontier High School science teacher, but I have worked most extensively with her in the past several months in her new roles as both the District STEAM Leader and part-time teacher on special assignment for STEAM. Knowledgeable, passionate and a Life-Long Learner are words I would use to describe Sandra. It is an understatement to say how fortunate our district is to have her as part of the Frontier family. We value and appreciate her expertise,” Colleen Duggan, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Curriculum, said.

In her new role Mrs. George will be focusing her efforts on middle and high school STEAM. She will be organizing a STEAM after school club for middle and high school students, is co-chair the District STEAM Committee and is in charge of the pre-planning and follow-through of the Quality Partner Program through WNY STEM Hub.

Also receiving an honorable mention for the award was Erie 1 BOCES Professional Development Coordinator Renee Sossong-Brady, who has also worked extensively with the district to integrate STEAM learning into the curriculum. Recipients were honored at a luncheon on November 8.



Frontier Central District News

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Frontier News, a publication of the Board of Education, will be published for distribution in May and July. In November, January and March the newsletter will be available electronically on the district website at www.frontier.wnyric.org.



The newsletters are designated to disseminate information, as well as to celebrate the success of individuals and programs that support the District's mission goals.

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DISTRICT RESIDENT

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

My Stop App

Gone will be the days of waiting in the snow, wondering when the school bus will turn the corner. Frontier Central School District has partnered with Versatrans My Stop to provide real-time tracking of your child's bus right on your mobile device.

My Stop is a free mobile application, now available to all Frontier Central School District parents to access live bus GPS information using a smartphone, tablet or computer that allows parents to securely view the current location of their child's bus on routes. The system also provides the school bus's estimated time of arrival at your child's bus stop and offers push notification options.

The new My Stop tracking software is integrated with the District's computerized bus routing system and the GPS devices installed on every school bus used in the Frontier Central School District. Data integration takes the student's bus route information and overlays it onto a map that tracks the actual location of a student's school bus to the designated pick-up/drop-off point. A parent can only view information related to their child(ren) using a secure login (student name, example: First.Last) and password (date of birth, example: 10312019).

"Our initial rollout at Pinehurst Elementary was not without its bumps in the road, but we have worked out the issues and continued the rollout to all of our schools," Transportation Supervisor Timothy Blevins said. "It is our hope that this new technology will empower students to know when their bus will arrive and assure parents that their children got on and off the bus safely."

Any questions about the My Stop app can be directed to the transportation office at 926-1705.

Early Dismissal Plan

Snow season is approaching. In order to minimize bus delays in the afternoon, the District may opt to implement the following early dismissal plan as needed. A robo call would be issued to notify parents.

- High School – 1 hour early release
- Middle School – ½ hour early release
- Elementary Schools – on time release

After School Program – Early Dismissal

What happens if there is an early dismissal at the Elementary level?

The After School Program will remain open for all families currently enrolled and scheduled for that day.

To ensure everyone gets home safely, please plan on picking up your children as early as possible. Read more at www.frontiecsd.org/BeforeAndAfter.