



Tusker Nation

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
FOR SCSD FAMILIES

Important Updates

- Board of Education meeting: November 13, SMS Library 7 p.m.
 - November 12 - No school, Veterans Day
 - November 21 - Half day, Thanksgiving Recess
 - Coming Soon! Tusker Talk - a podcast highlighting all the great happenings in the Somers Schools.
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High School Awarded National Blue Ribbon



Somers High School is proud to announce that the school has been named a National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education. The distinction as an Exemplary High Performing School is one of the most prestigious awards in education.

"The Blue Ribbon award is recognition of the value we place on student achievement and our efforts to ensure that all students can find success," says Somers High School Principal Mark Bayer. "It's not just about some kids performing well, it's about all students realizing their potential and reaching their academic goals."

As one of only 19 public schools in New York nominated to apply for this award, the high school was required to submit detailed information including demographics, test scores, available programs, curriculum, leadership, and how the school engages families. Students, like junior Greta Candreva, are excited about their school's achievement.

"Somers High School is an amazing environment that provides a wide variety of academic opportunities with terrific teachers and counselors who support learning and excelling at all levels," says Candreva.

National Blue Ribbon Schools include public and non-public elementary, middle, and high schools that are producing outstanding results for all students. They have demonstrated consistent excellence and made progress in closing gaps in student achievement.

"We couldn't be prouder of our entire high school community," says Superintendent Dr. Raymond H. Blanch. "This award reaffirms our focus on the whole child and ensuring every student finds his or her place in Somers."

On November 7th, Principal Mark Bayer and a teacher from the high school will attend a ceremony in Washington, D.C. to accept the award.

Snapping to the Golden Rule



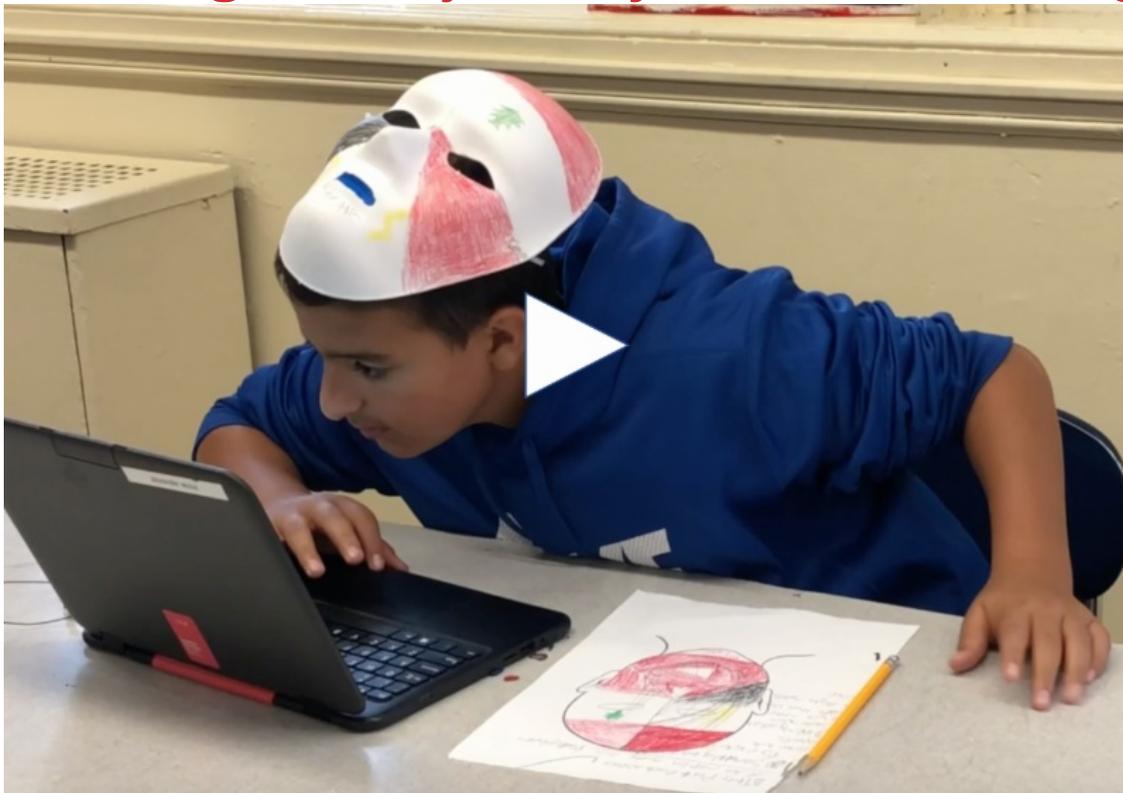
Watch musical performers Beth and Scott at Primrose Elementary School.

A row of eight Primrose Elementary students stood on the stage laughing and singing about washing laundry. Their classmates sat on the floor below them, pantomiming and singing along. The Beth and Scott and Friends musical assembly is always a big hit with the younger grades.

"We learned that you should treat others the way we want to be treated," says first-grader Gianna Villardale. "When you help other people it makes the world a better place."

Beth and Scott visit Primrose every three years, so each student experiences the assembly once during their time at the school. This year they performed The Golden Rule Show, which embeds important messages in interactive songs. Some of the lessons the students sang about included "When we are good listeners we learn", "When everybody helps the job is easy", and "Sharing makes your school and home a beautiful place to be."

'Masking' Identity in Project-Based Learning



What is project-based learning? Students explore real-world challenges and problems through engaging projects. In this video, 7th-graders designed masks representing themselves in English Language Arts class. After examining their own identity and different sides, or layers, the students will study the different layers of characters in literature. **Watch** the video.

Somers Special Olympics Goes Extra Mile



The Somers Special Olympic team and friends at the Miles for Medals Walk/Run.

The Somers Special Olympics team participated in the Hudson Valley's "Miles for Medals" Walk/Run on October 13th at FDR park in Yorktown. Students from the Special Olympics team, family members, the Leos Group and the high school cross country team attended. With more than 70 members, the Somers team was the largest group at the event. Group members raised close to \$1,000, and were the leaders of fundraising for the 50th anniversary of the New York Special Olympics.

High School Musicians Hit High Note



Winners of the Westchester County School Music Association area all-state competition.

Congratulations to our talented high school musicians. Violinist Jaewon Yeo (not pictured) was named conference all-state, the highest honor given by the New York State School Music Association. Winners of area all-state positions were (left to right) Brooke Vogel - soprano, Thomas DalCeredo - tenor, Raghav Nathan - bass, Sara Chuang - violin, Katie Taylor - bassoon, Faith Gold - horn in F, Athena Traver - harp.

Fall Fun with SEPTA



The Somers Special Education Parent Teacher Association Social Skills Committee organized a fun-filled outing to Stuart's Fruit Farm while schools were closed for a professional learning day. Many families came out to pick apples, race through the corn maze, and enjoy apple cider doughnuts and apple cider. Stay tuned for details of the committee's next event planned for November 27 at Rockin Jump. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped plan and make this day a success.

Spotlight on Somers: Safety and Security



Watch Superintendent Dr. Raymond Blanch and Altaris Group security expert John LaPlaca discuss improvements in safety and security in Somers Schools, as well as plans for the future.



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