

# Minerva Central School

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Candice L. Husson, Superintendent

## December 2025 Irish Times

### School Board and Budget Meeting

Budget Thursday, December 11 at 6:00 pm  
Board Thursday, December 11 to follow

### Picture Re-Take Day

Tuesday, December 16

### Superintendent's Coffee Hour

Tuesday, December 16 at 9:30 am

### Holiday Concert

Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 pm

### Holiday Recess

December 22 to January 2

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# A Note from Mrs. Husson:

## Athletics

Basketball and Nordic are in full swing. Teams are practicing hard and games will begin this month! The first home game is listed below. Please see the website for more game information.

**Dec. 12- BM/BV vs Wells @ MCS 5pm**

## Student Achievement

We have made it through the first marking period of the year. Student performance at the elementary level was very good and about 40 percent of our secondary students achieved at the merit, honor or emerald level. We have another handful of students whose performance did not miss the mark by much, so we are all hopeful that these students will push a little harder over the next couple of months so we can recognize their efforts and achievements at our next awards ceremony. We have 13 of our elementary students and 8 secondary students with perfect attendance for the first marking period. We celebrated our secondary student success at our Awards Ceremony and Honors Breakfast on November 21st. Students were recognized for their academic achievements and perfect attendance. We also recognized two students of the quarter. Parker Jenks was the Student of the Quarter for grades 7-8. Landyn Jenks was the Student of the Quarter for grades 9-12.

I want to remind all of our parents that you are welcome and encouraged to request a conference at any time of the year – not just on the regularly-scheduled date at the mid-year point. If you would prefer not to schedule a full conference, you can always contact your child's teacher(s) by email, or by calling the school and leaving a message. I have asked teachers to reach out to parents if they have specific concerns about student performance that were not included in the grade report.

**Warmest Wishes to you all during the Holiday Season from The Husson Family!**

## Important Dates to Remember:

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Dec. 5</b>         | <b>Christmas Bazaar 4-7pm</b>   |
| <b>Dec. 11</b>        | <b>Budget Workshop 6:00pm</b><br><b>Board of Education Mtg 6:30p</b>          |
| <b>Dec. 15-19</b>     | <b>Fa La La La Spirit Week</b>  |
| <b>Dec. 16</b>        | <b>Superintendent's Coffee Hour 9:30 am</b><br><b>Christmas Concert @ 6pm</b> |
| <b>Dec. 22- Jan 2</b> | <b>Holiday Break</b>  |
| <b>Jan. 5</b>         | <b>Back to School</b>   |



## **Academic Honor Roll Awards**

### **Emerald List (95 average and above)**

Claudia Halloran-Donaldson  
Anna Okamoto  
Michelle Ordway  
Liakai Secor  
Caitlin Wamsley

### **Honor List (90-94 average)**

Jacobie Bentley  
Landyn Jenks  
Parker Jenks  
Michael Smith II

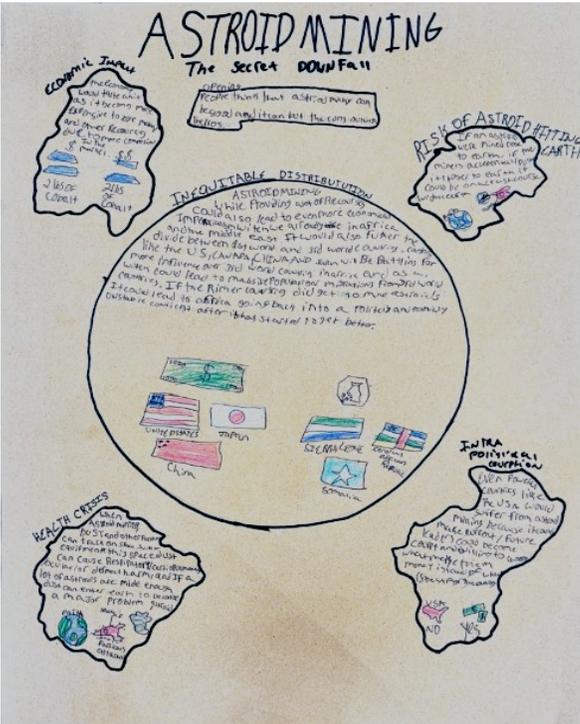
### **Merits List (85-89 average)**

Xavier Cole  
Claire Fish  
Sofie Gereau  
Tianna Green-Proctor  
Blake Hayes  
Jonathan Hodges  
Carter Pratt  
Macaylin Taylor  
Killian Vanderwarker  
Luke West



# SCIENCE HAPPENINGS

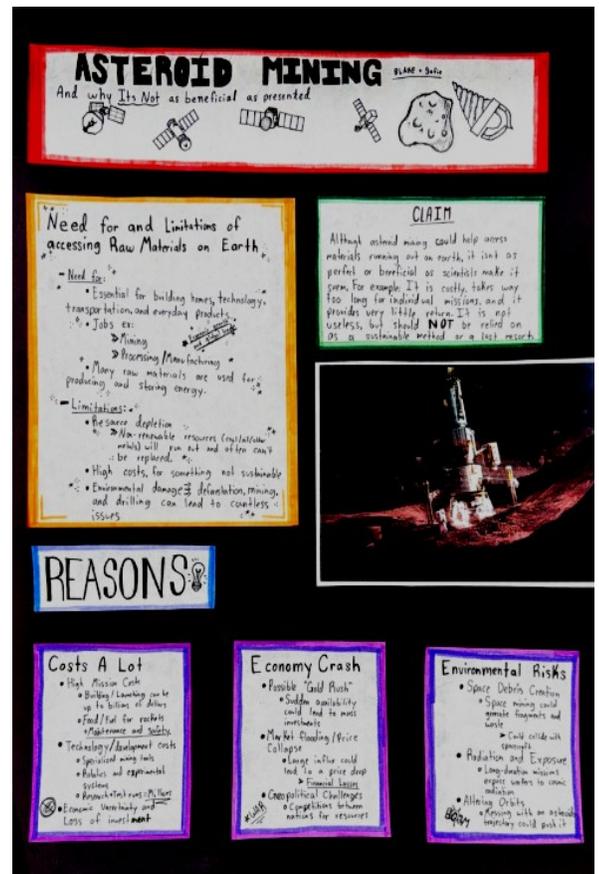
Students have been busy in science class, having good discussions and performing engaging activities to help them visualize concepts. This is part of the ongoing standards shift in NYS where the lecture style is being replaced with students leading their own discoveries under the facilitation of their teacher.



7th grade science students are learning to think like engineers in their current MRE unit, determining criteria and constraints for a new MRE heater build. They recently spent a few class periods collecting data on four different chemical reactions to see which would be most successful in reaching the target temperature while being cost-effective. Thinking of how people have recently experienced natural disasters and are potentially lacking electricity has been inspiring them in their pursuit of a more efficient flameless heater.

Earth and space science students wrapped up their space units, where they learned about how stars gener-

ate energy and how Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion explain the behaviors of orbiting celestial objects. They finished up presenting their projects on the benefits and drawbacks of asteroid mining, mainly discussing if the resources available are worth the cost/ethical implications. Considering the need for resources versus the human impact is an ongoing theme for this year and important for students to consider in general.



Ask your students what they're up to in science class- they'd really like the opportunity to share with you.

-Ms. Viele



# Test Taking Tips

Take a deep breath and relax.

Read all of the directions carefully.

Read the questions carefully.

Make sure that you understand what is being asked.

Look at all of the choices before you answer.

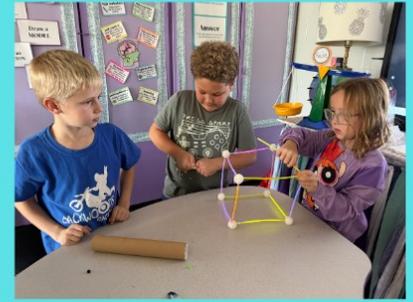
Paraphrase the question.

Eliminate the answers you know are wrong.

Stop and think carefully.

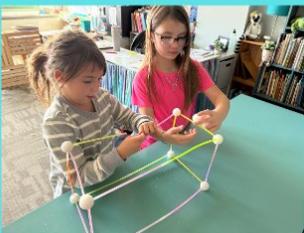
Check your work for accuracy.

And always do your best!



**CRAZY 8'S IS A RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL AFTER-SCHOOL MATH CLUB FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-6, DESIGNED TO SPARK EXCITEMENT ABOUT APPLYING MATHEMATICAL SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. OUR GOAL IS TO CULTIVATE A LOVE FOR MATH AND DEMONSTRATE THAT MATH IS PRESENT IN EVERYDAY LIFE, WHILE ALSO ENHANCING STUDENTS' PROBLEM SOLVING AND TEAMWORK SKILLS. EACH CRAZY 8'S SESSION INCLUDES A TAKE-HOME EXTENSION ACTIVITY AND MATERIALS, ALLOWING STUDENTS TO CONTINUE EXPLORING THE MATH SKILLS THEY ENGAGED WITH DURING THE CLUB, ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES.**

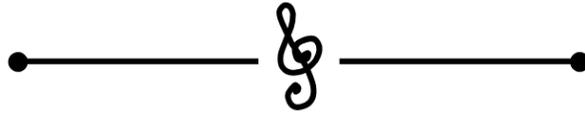
**BE ON THE LOOKOUT! SESSION 2 WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY!**



**MISS FULLER (K-2) AND MRS. GOSSELIN (3-6)**



# Music Room News



This year is flying by, and the music department has been busy with many exciting opportunities!

## September

We kicked off the year by welcoming *Seagle Festival* for their performance of *Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers*. Students learned what opera is, explored several famous operas, and identified high/low pitches as well as soprano and bass voices. After the performance, students chose to write either a review of the opera or a creative sequel.

## October – Silent Film Experience

On October 1st, we traveled to Tannery Pond to watch the silent film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, accompanied by a live score performed by harpist-composer Leslie McMichael and her sister, violist Barbara McMichael. Leading up to the trip, students learned about the harp, the viola, and expressive intent in music. They then created their own short silent films, which will be released as soon as the final editing is complete.

## Waterways to Freedom: The Paradox and The Promise – John Brown Lives!

Later in October, students in grades 4–6 participated in a week-long residency with Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner of the folk duo *Magpie*.

This residency was a collaboration between the Minerva Historical Society and John Brown Lives!, made possible through generous support from the Lake Champlain Basin Program’s 2025 CVNHP Artist in Residence Grant.

Students chose to write a song about Solomon Northup. Prior to the residency, they visited the Minerva Historical Marker, the Old Fort House in Fort Edward, and viewed Wesley Wofford’s sculpture *Hope Out of Darkness*. They also experienced a live portrayal of Solomon Northup performed by Clifford Oliver Mealy. The experience gave students meaningful inspiration for their original composition, “**Rivers of Justice**.” Read more about the residency here: <https://suncommunitynews.com/news/121982/folk-singers-magpie-inspired-music-at-minerva-central-school/>

## November – CASMA Fall Festival

On November 15th, seven students participated in the CASMA Fall Festival at Warrensburg Junior/Senior High School.

- **Elementary Band:** Ava Burke, Elizabeth Smith
- **Junior Chorus:** Claudia Halloran-Donaldson, Harmony Burke, Michael Smith, Piper Badgley
- **Senior Chorus:** Michelle Ordway

Students rehearsed from 9:00 AM–1:30 PM and performed a wonderful concert at 2:00 PM.

## Looking Ahead

The rest of November and December will be devoted to learning about *The Nutcracker* and preparing for our **Holiday Concert**, which will be held on **Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 PM**.

We hope to see you there!



## Local Veterans Visit MCS

Throughout the month of November, Minerva Central School has been focusing on our character trait of the month: **gratitude**. As part of this schoolwide emphasis, we were honored to welcome **three local veterans** to speak with our high school students about their experiences serving our nation.

During their visit, the veterans shared powerful stories, answered thoughtful student questions, and helped our young people gain a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by those in uniform. Their conversations not only enriched our students' learning, but also reinforced the importance of appreciating the men and women who protect our freedoms.

To express our heartfelt thanks, the veterans were presented with **handmade thank-you cards** created by our elementary students. These cards were filled with messages of appreciation, artwork, and kindness—serving as a meaningful reminder of how even small gestures can make a big impact.

We are grateful to our visiting veterans for giving their time, for inspiring our students, and for their service to our country. Their presence helped bring our November theme to life and reminded our school community of the importance of recognizing and honoring others.

Mike Kelly- Navy, Deb Taylor- Marines, Ed Brannon- Air Force



# Annual Fa-La-La-La Week

**MONDAY 12/15**

**HOLIDAY SHIRT OR  
HOLIDAY SOCKS**

**ACTIVITY: ORNAMENT  
DECORATING**

**TUESDAY 12/16**

**HOLIDAY HEADGEAR  
WINTER CONCERT DRESS  
REHEARSAL**

**ACTIVITY: NURSING  
HOME HOLIDAY CARDS**

**WEDNESDAY 12/17**

**DRESS LIKE YOUR FAVORITE  
HOLIDAY SONG**

**ACTIVITY: STARLAB  
ACTIVITY: SANTA'S WORKSHOP  
ACTIVITY: SINGING AT THE  
NURSING HOME**

**THURSDAY 12/18**

**FLANNEL OR UGLY SWEATER**

**ACTIVITY: K-9 UNIT  
PRESENTATION**

**ACTIVITY: SANTA'S WORKSHOP  
ACTIVITY: STORY AND  
DECORATING HOLIDAY COOKIES**

**FRIDAY 12/19**

**HOLIDAY PAJAMAS OR  
HOLIDAY ATTIRE**

**FACULTY VS HIGH SCHOOL  
VOLLEYBALL  
ACTIVITY: HOLIDAY MOVIE**

# Minerva Central School **Seeking Substitutes**



## Bus Drivers

Do you have your CDL? Looking for some extra work? Want to help out your local school?

Contact us about being a substitute driver!!!

For more information call Lynn Green, Superintendent Secretary or Fill out an application, you can find on the school website.

-  518-251-2000
-  [www.minervasd.org](http://www.minervasd.org)
-  [greenl@minervasd.org](mailto:greenl@minervasd.org)



FUNDRAISER FOR  
MINERVA CENTRAL  
SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2027

DEADLINE:  
DECEMBER  
8

# HOFFMAN CARWASH

## CAR WASH VOUCHERS

**EXTERIOR • \$14**

Exterior Cleaning ONLY  
Available at all Locations

**FULL SERVICE • \$44**

Exterior Cleaning  
Interior Cleaning  
Available at ONLY Full Service Locations



### BUY CAR WASH VOUCHERS:

- MEMBER OF CLASS 2027
- CALLING THE SCHOOL
- ORDERING ONLINE
- QR CODE
- [HTTPS://WWW.HOFFMANHELPING HANDS.COM/FUNDRAISERS/MCSC LASSOF2027](https://www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/fundraisers/mcsclassof2027)

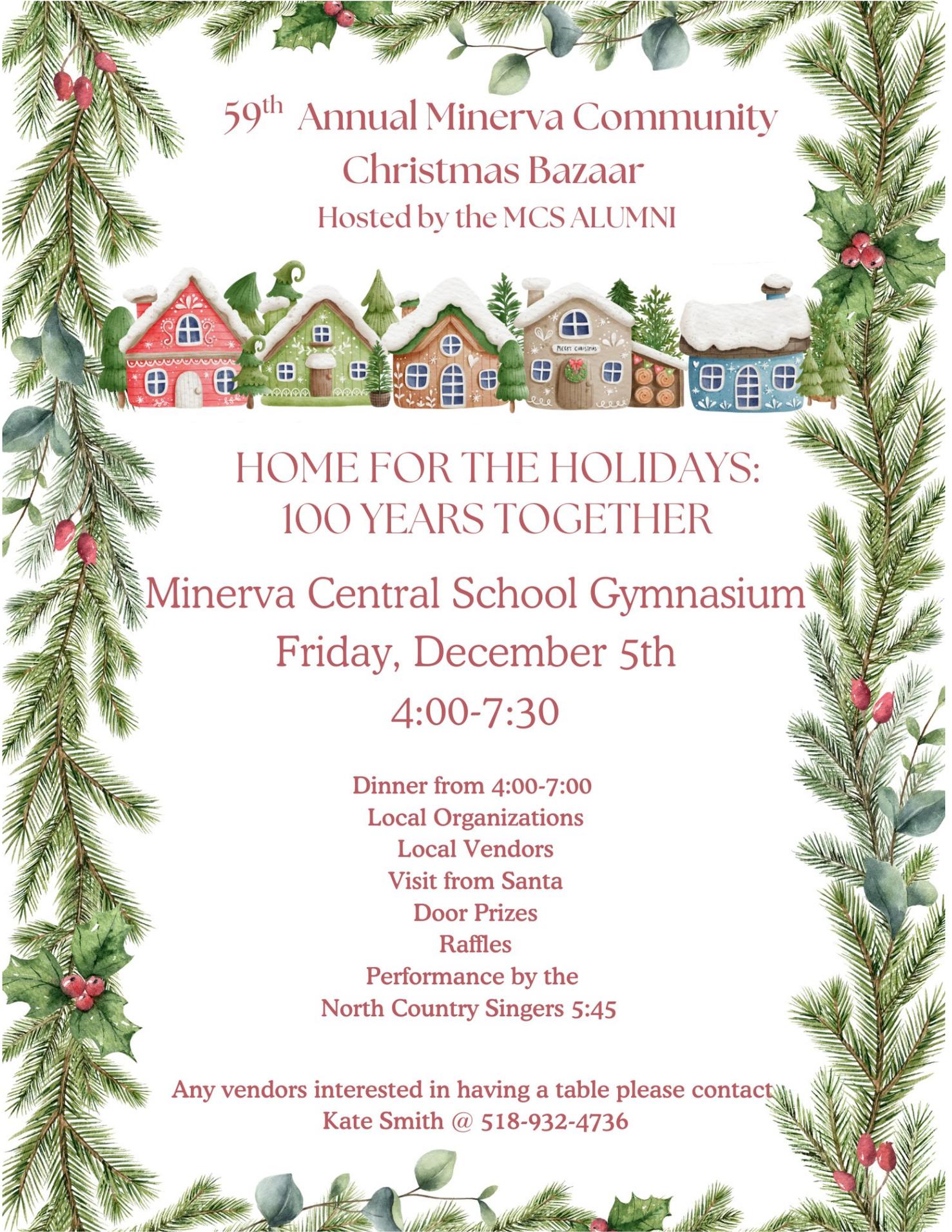
**CLASS ADVISOR:**

**MOLLY RASCOE**

**518 - 251 - 2000**

**MRASCOE@MINERVASD.ORG**





59<sup>th</sup> Annual Minerva Community  
Christmas Bazaar  
Hosted by the MCS ALUMNI



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS:  
100 YEARS TOGETHER

Minerva Central School Gymnasium  
Friday, December 5th  
4:00-7:30

Dinner from 4:00-7:00  
Local Organizations  
Local Vendors  
Visit from Santa  
Door Prizes  
Raffles  
Performance by the  
North Country Singers 5:45

Any vendors interested in having a table please contact  
Kate Smith @ 518-932-4736



HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM THE  
**MINERVA**  
**PTO**

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT PURCHASED FROM  
OUR CITRUS FUNDRAISER! CONGRATS TO THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
CLASS ON WINNING AN ICE CREAM PARTY!

Christmas Bazaar - Raffling a Ninja Creami,  
Afghan, and Water Fountain

Cooking Club in December  
12/1/25 - 4th -12th, Holiday Bark  
12/8/25 - PRE-K-3rd, Holiday Bark  
Make sure to turn in your permission slips!

Santa's Workshop 12/17/25 -12/18/25  
More information to follow

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

# December 2025

## Events Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
This Month's Character Trait: Empathy	1 4-12 Cooking Club	2	3 Quiz Bowl	4	5 Spirit Day  Christmas Bazaar 4-7:30 pm	6
7	8 Pre-K-3 Cooking Club	9	10	11 Budget Meeting 6:00 pm Board Meeting to follow	12	13
Fa-La-La-La Week See flyer on page 9 for events						
14	15	16 Picture Retake  Superintendent's Coffee Hour 9:30 am  Holiday Concert 6 pm	17 Santa's Workshop	18 CTE Works Field Trip  Santa's Workshop	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
No School—Holiday Recess						
28	29	30	31			
No School—Holiday Recess						

# December 2025

## Breakfast / Lunch Menu

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1 Danish and cheese stick  Pineapple teriyaki chicken, fried rice, dumplings, broccoli, carrots and hummus	2 French toast sticks, sausage and syrup  Beef and bean chili, cheese, sour cream, cornbread muffin, yogurt and veggie cup	3 Breakfast bowl: scrambled eggs, potatoes, cheese and bacon  Chicken tinga quesadilla, salsa, sour cream, guacamole, olives, jalapenos, pepper sticks, mango peach applesauce	4 Ham, egg and cheese on an English muffin  Corndog nuggets, baked chips, fresh broccoli and ranch, chocolate chip cookie	5 Bagels, cream cheese, peanut butter and jelly  Cheese pizza, steamed veggies, mango peach applesauce
8 Pancakes and syrup  Popcorn chicken bites, mozzarella sticks, marinara sauce, crinkle fries, fresh veggies w/ dip	9 Bacon, egg and cheese on an English muffin  Soft tacos (beef or turkey), salsa, sour cream, tortilla chips with bean dip, yellow corn	10 Waffle sticks, bacon and syrup  Crispy chicken sandwich, special sauce, pickles, season fries, crunchy kale salad	11 Donut and yogurt  Potato and cheddar pierogis, kielbasa bites, peas and carrots, fresh grape tomatoes	12 Scrambled eggs and toast  Cheese pizza, steamed mix veggies, vanilla emoji grahams
15 Pop Tart and boiled egg  Pizza crunchers, roasted broccoli, yogurt cup, fresh veggies and hummus	16 Bagels, cream cheese, peanut butter and jelly  Bistro burger (plain, cheese or bacon), NY breaded onion rings, fresh veggies w/dip, mini rice crispy treat	17 French toast, bacon and syrup  Meatball sub, cheesy garlic mashed potatoes, peas and carrots	18 Fruit parfait and granola  Crispy chicken patty, sweet potato fries, fresh grape tomatoes, rainbow pepper sticks	19 Ham, egg and cheese on a croissant  Cheese pizza, steamed mixed veggies, cinnamon applesauce cup
22	23	24	25 	26
No School—Holiday Recess				
29	30	31		
No School—Holiday Recess				

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Organization  
PERMIT #2  
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# Box Holder or Rural Route