

November
2023



LOOK at
US!



From the Superintendent's Den

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great honor and excitement that I enter into the Superintendent of Schools role at Vestal CSD. This brings with it an opportunity to build collaborative and trusting relationships throughout our school community. I come with a dedication and focus centered on leading by example and by listening to the needs of our staff, students, and families. You will see me in all of our buildings. Please feel free to invite me to a special, or even a not-so-special, event in your classroom, school, or department.

I have lived in Vestal for 27 years now. My wife, Debbie, and I chose to live in Vestal and raise our three children, Alicia, Sarah, and Julia, here. Although all three had different strengths, interests, and ambitions while attending our K-12 schools, they all flourished and excelled academically, socially, and emotionally. Special thanks to our amazing faculty and staff! I am sure you'll agree with me that we all want the same for every child attending our amazing school district. Together, we can focus on continuous improvement, as excellence is an ever-moving target. I often hear how school districts in our

Continued on page 2



Published for the staff of the Vestal Central School District



SAVE THE DATE!

VTA's annual
Holiday Craft Fair
is scheduled for
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sunday, December 3,
at Vestal HS.

From The Superintendent's Den (cont.)

region and across the state want to become the “District of Choice” or “Destination District” in their region. I honestly believe that Vestal is, and has been, the school district that families seek when moving or relocating within the Southern Tier of NYS. This is because of our never-ending pursuit of excellence.

Being a “District of Choice” requires dedication and hard work on behalf of our staff and community. With this in mind, I want to recognize the supreme dedication and hard work each and every one of you exhibit every day. I truly appreciate your willingness to go the extra mile to ensure Vestal students have the very best opportunity for high academic achievement, along with meeting their social and emotional needs. While not all of our 650+ staff members work directly with students, each individual’s contribution to our district is vitally important. Your hard work is noticed and appreciated, and I want to say “Thank you!”

As I enter my new role here at Vestal CSD, some of you may not be aware of my professional-educator pathway. I have two Associate Degrees from SUNY Broome in Electrical Engineering Technology and Computer Technology. While attending SUNY Broome, I was tutoring others in Math and Science and came to realize the gift of serving others. Thus, I transferred to SUNY Cortland to major in Secondary Education of Mathematics. After graduating from SUNY Cortland, I was inspired to complete my Master of Science Degree in Special Education at Binghamton University. I taught Special Education and Math in a neighboring district for 13 years. I utilized my third NYS teaching certificate in Technology Education to become a pre-engineering teacher in the Project Lead the Way program through the Rochester Institute of Technology. I became a Master Teacher for Digital Electronics and taught at RIT and San Diego State University during summers.

Eventually, I completed the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) program through SUNY Cortland to obtain a School District Leader certification. This led me to Vestal MS as an Assistant Principal. I eventually moved to Vestal HS in the same capacity, and then became VHS Principal.

Ultimately, I became the Assistant Superintendent for Fi-

School Board Reminders

6 p.m., Tuesday, November 21, 2023
Administration Board Conference Room

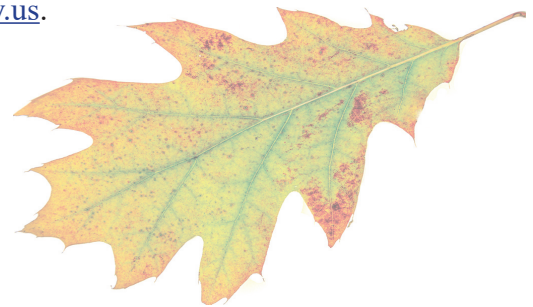
6 p.m., Tuesday, December 5, 2023
African Road Elementary

6 p.m., December 19, 2023
Administration Board Conference Room

6 p.m., January 9, 2024
Vestal High School

nance, Operations & Personnel. After completing the SUNY Oswego Superintendent Development Program, I became Deputy Superintendent and am now thrilled to be your new Superintendent of Vestal Schools. I am very humbled and honored to have been afforded the amazing opportunity to continue serving all of you and our fantastic Vestal school community!

I look forward to working alongside all of you as we continue to make the Vestal Central School District a pillar of education in the community and the “District of Choice.” There is no doubt that we will achieve this by combining our efforts and working together toward that goal. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns at 607-757-2241 or at crkasson@vestal.k12.ny.us.



Cover Photo - UPK Literacy Letter Hunt

Superintendent Kasson welcomes our smallest students from the UPK Program at the Cub Care campus as they travel through our building on the hunt for letters during their annual Literacy Parade.

Direct Deposit

Save yourself a delayed paycheck or unnecessary trip to the bank! Direct deposit automatically places your check amount into your bank account, regardless of inclement weather or scheduled holidays. In addition, you will still receive a copy of your paystub to your email (for employees) or to your home (for substitutes). The Vestal Central School District encourages all employees to participate in the direct deposit program. Please note, however, that the enrollment process will take a minimum of two payrolls to be finalized.

The enrollment form is available through the Personnel Office in the Administration building. If you haven't signed up yet, or if you have any questions, contact Mandy DuCreay at ext.3403 for enrollment assistance.

Flexible Spending Account

Need band-aids? Don't forget that you may spend your Flexible Spending Account money at www.fsastore.com. On this site, you may purchase items such as sunscreen, thermometers, first aid kits, cold and hot packs, and much more.

Health Insurance Alternative (Buyout)

If you do not participate in the District Health Insurance Plan and are enrolled in the insurance alternative (Buyout), the first payment for the 2023-24 school year will be **included in the paycheck of December 7, 2023**. Please contact Stacy Wickham, Benefits, at ext. 2228 if you any have questions.



Wishing You & Yours a Very Happy Thanksgiving!

Welcome to New Vestal Staff!



Brian Fowler is Vestal's Special Education Department Coordinator. He joined us on November 13, and will also serve as CSE (Committee on Special Education) Chairperson.

A resident of the Southern Tier since 2012, Brian is a native of Pennsylvania and received his undergraduate degree from Saint Vincent College. Receiving his graduate degree from Binghamton University, Brian has taught special education exclusively and has experience teaching 6:1:1, 12:1:1, and 15:1. He has also enjoyed co-teaching, acting as a direct consultant to Special Education programs, and serving as CSE Chairperson.

"I decided to become an administrator to help make plans that benefit students' long-term success and to support teachers in carrying out those plans," said Brian. "I look forward to building relationships with Vestal families and teachers."

In addition, Brian is proud to have a small, but growing, family that is attending Vestal CSD.

A big Golden Bear welcome to Maureen Culligan, pictured right, and Rachel Vargason, shown below. Maureen is the new senior typist at

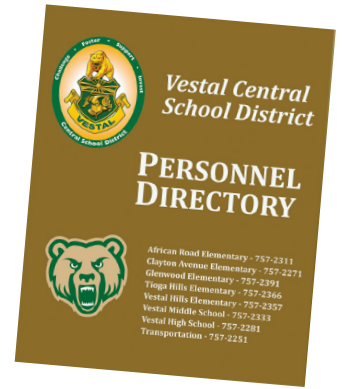


African Road Elementary and Rachel has stepped into the main office at Glenwood Elementary as senior typist. We are pleased to have them both as part of our Vestal family!



2023-24 Personnel Directory

This year's Personnel Directory has been produced and delivered. If you did not get a copy, please contact your main office... Please remember that this is an internal district document. Information contained in the back pages, especially, should not be shared with anyone outside of the school district.



Website Staff Directory

The Staff Directory for the District website shall be reinstated beginning the week of December 1. Faculty and administrators will be included in this tool that will enable families and guardians to more easily contact them with questions.

Staff Photos from October...



Helping Hands... Clayton Avenue Teacher Aide Helen Criscitello helps a third-grader with her new dictionary from the Vestal Elks.

Fire Safety... Vestal Hills Principal Cathy Willis, right, joined the fun during a Fire Safety lesson for Grs. K - 2 presented by Vestal Fire Department personnel.



Employee Recognition... Superintendent Kasson presents Beverly Atwood, Special Education Senior Typist, with her certificate celebrating 20 years in Vestal.

SAVE THE DATE

Announcing the Vestal HS musical will be



**FEBRUARY
22-25
2024**