

It hardly seems possible we are nearing the end of our first quarter of school. Although this was my 17th opening of school in Whitesboro, this year was indeed one of a kind for me. Having the opportunity to engage with all our students and staff in the opening weeks and months was an experience I will not soon forget. The enthusiasm and positive attitudes I encountered affirms my long-held belief that we are indeed at the forefront of our field.

We continue to make great strides with respect to our capital project. Since September, we have completed: roof work at the Middle School and Hart's Hill; office, music wing and classroom flooring at the High School; and the renovation of the Middle School locker rooms. Construction on the new press box at Chiz Frye Field is also underway.

Our Middle and High Schools inducted 140 students into their respective National Honor Societies. This is an honor bestowed upon students who exhibit character, leadership, scholarship and service, in addition to academic excellence. Congratulations to all of our inductees.

Two of our long-time employees were both nominated for and selected as Educators of the Year by the Genesis Group. Mrs. Lisa Putnam, Hart's Hill Principal, and Mrs. Julieanne Venezia, Middle School Social Studies Teacher, are the two recipients. As a district, we are so proud to have these individuals acknowledged for all they do for our school community. Congratulations to them both for this outstanding accomplishment.

For the first time in 12 years, Whitesboro hosted the NYSSMA Zone 4 Area All-State Festival. Thirty districts from around the region performed together to a capacity crowd at our High School on Saturday, November 19. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talented young musicians in our school. Kudos to all the students and staff who helped make this event such a success.

Our student-athletes have had tremendous success during the fall season. In addition to 148 students being designated scholar athletes, our teams won two league titles and two sectional titles. Four athletes qualified for state competition. Fantastic job to all of our athletes and coaches!

These are just a few of the many outstanding accomplishments of our students and staff thus far. I look forward to those to follow. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Brian K. Bellair

Superintendent of Schools

