



# The Bagpiper

## Argyle Central School Newsletter

### Superintendent's Message

*James Bennefield*

Dear ACS Students, Parents, and Community Members:

I would like to officially welcome you back to the 2023-2024 school year! I am very excited to be your new superintendent of schools. I look forward to serving the Argyle school community for the upcoming school year and for many more school years to come! I come to Argyle with over 20 years of school administration experience, most of which was in the Hudson Falls School District. During my time there, I served as both an assistant principal and principal. Except for a few short years in Western New York, I have been a lifelong resident of Washington County. I love this area and couldn't see myself anywhere else.



I officially started working at Argyle at the beginning of July and in the past six weeks I have spent time meeting with faculty and staff. I am very impressed so far with the pride and dedication that employees show for this school district. They truly care about the well-being of all Argyle students. In addition, I had the opportunity to spend a week with Mr. Bessen at the end of June. This transition time was very helpful and afforded me the opportunity to hit the ground running as I began my new position.

As August comes to a close and school gets ready to open, I look forward to meeting students and families. The beginning of the school year brings with it the promise of a fresh start and the opportunities that it affords all students regardless of what happened the previous year. I look forward to the first day of school and the opportunity to greet the student body and help support them on their academic journey through this school year.

#### **New Faculty and Staff**

We are pleased to welcome the following new faculty and staff to Argyle Central School:

- ◆ John Galarneau, Junior/Senior High Principal
- ◆ Michele Bromley, Global Studies Teacher
- ◆ John Newton, Bus Driver/Building Maintenance Helper
- ◆ April LaPoint, Food Service Worker
- ◆ Bonnie Fish, Bus Monitor

#### **Food Nutrition Service Announcement**

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, Argyle Central School was informed that our application for the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) meal program through the USDA was approved. Simply put, this program allows all of our student body to receive a free breakfast and lunch daily at school. Parents and students will still have lunch accounts and are allowed to deposit money in them for ala carte items or to purchase additional meals. Students will also still be required to use their PIN number, even for their free meals. If you have any questions about the CEP program, please contact Meaghan Wilkins at 518-638-8243, ext. 519.

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September 2023  
Newsletter

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## Superintendent's Message (Continued)

### Attendance

The most important goal I have for the upcoming school year is to have our student body attend school on a regular basis and be here on time daily. Studies show that students who are chronically absent, 10 percent of the school year or 18 days, underperform in the classroom. In addition, students who miss 2-4 days of school in September go on to miss a month of school. Conversely, students who have good attendance perform better in school, on state tests and go on to graduate from high school. New York State considers a student chronically absent if they miss 18 or more days of school each year, or two days each month. The state does not discern between excused or unexcused absences. In other words, an absence is an absence, the reason doesn't matter.

I speak for the faculty, staff and administration when I say we are dedicated to working with all families to assist you in getting your student(s) to school on a regular basis. I urge you to contact the school if you are having difficulty in getting your student to school. Our partnership is vital in helping overcome your students' difficulty in getting to school. We have ways to help, but we need to know how best to support you in getting them here.

### First Day of Classes and Open House

Our first day of classes is Wednesday, September 6, 2023 and the PreK-12 Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 28th. I look forward to meeting and working with you as we start the 2023-2024 school year.

Sincerely,

*James Bennetfield*  
Superintendent of Schools

## Secondary Principal's Message

*John Galarneau*

Dear Grades 7-12 Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Welcome back! I hope this letter finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we gear up for the 2023-2024 school year, I am excited to extend my warmest greetings to each one of you and to commence another year of learning, growth, and achievement at Argyle Junior/Senior High School.



I am honored to introduce myself as the new principal for Argyle Junior/Senior High School. Over the past month, I have had the privilege of meeting and collaborating with our remarkable staff and community. I must say that I am truly impressed by the dedication and passion I have witnessed within this educational community.

As we embark on this new school year together, I encourage you all to set goals, work hard, and engage actively in your studies and extracurricular activities. Our school community is a place of inclusivity, respect, and collaboration, where each individual's unique talents and perspectives enrich the collective experience.

In addition to our academic endeavors, we have planned a variety of exciting events and activities throughout the year to encourage student involvement and build a strong sense of school spirit.

Use the following QR Codes to find the athletic schedules for all school sports or the school website for extracurricular information



**ATHLETIC SCHEDULE**



**EXTRACURRICULAR SCHEDULE**

Sincerely

*John Galarneau*  
7-12 Principal  
Galarneau\_j@argylecsd.org

## Elementary Principal's Message

### Dawn Wood

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome Back! We are excited to begin the 2023-2024 school year. Our teachers and staff have been busy this summer working on our new reading curriculum, revising our intervention services, and getting ready for the 2023 New York State Grade 5 science test. We also hosted our second summer SCOTS camp. Twenty campers joined us on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this summer. We participated in several fun projects that centered around the theme of flight. Check out our Facebook page for the SCOTS Camp slideshow. Our Kindergarten Readiness program was held on August 10 and 11. We enjoyed meeting our new students and helping them prepare for their kindergarten year. We are looking forward to seeing our students back in the classroom and welcoming our new faculty members on September 6. See you soon!



Below is some information you may find helpful:

- ◆ *Classroom Schedules:* During the first few days of school, teachers will be sharing their classroom schedule with you. We have set aside 60-90 minutes for each of the core subjects (Math, ELA, and Science/Social Studies). These times may vary according to the grade level. This year there are two sections of Grades K-4 and we are implementing a middle school model in grades 5 and 6. We will continue to provide a full day 5 hour program for our Pre-Kindergarten students.
- ◆ *Specials:* We will continue the 5-day special rotation schedule. Your child will have art, music, library, and at least two PE classes each week. We are excited to add a maker space opportunity for our second and fourth graders and possibly some dance education. More information will be sent home in September.
- ◆ *Intervention Blocks:* Each 5 and 6 grade classroom teacher will provide intervention to their students. Intervention is typically a 30-minute block of time each day where teachers deliver extra help or enrichment in the various subject areas. At the K-4 level, reading intervention will be delivered by our RTI/AIS staff. We have added some extra support at the primary level this year with the addition to focused WIN (What I Need) time for grades K-4.
- ◆ *Grades 3-6 New York State Testing:* This year we administered the New York State ELA and Math Assessments. Our teachers and support staff will be sharing the results of these tests with you in September and providing any necessary academic support.
- ◆ *New Faces:* We are excited to welcome our new Superintendent, Mr. James Bennefield, and our new Junior/Senior High Principal, Mr. John Galarneau. We have been collaborating this summer on setting our district goals. I look forward to the great things we can accomplish for our ACS students.
- ◆ *Open House:* Our annual Open House will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023. We look forward to opening up our school this year and having our families visit our classrooms.
- ◆ *Parent Teacher Conferences:* Mark your calendars for November 13, 2023 and December 1, 2023. Our classroom teachers will be sending home information very soon.
- ◆ *Attendance Matters:* This is a goal we are working on this year. It's important to have our students here at school every-day. Research shows that missing 10 percent of schools days can negatively affect a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month. We will be working with our families this year to ensure good attendance and support our students in any way we can.

Please know my door is always open. You can contact me anytime and I will do my best to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you again for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at our family events.

Sincerely,

Dawn Wood  
Elementary Principal

# Scots Camp

Our campers had a great time at Scots Camp! Thank you to all of our teachers and parents who helped make this year's camp soar!



## Breakfast & Lunch Menu

### September 6, 7, 8, 2023

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

PK-12 Lunch:

Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Carrots

Elementary Breakfast:  
Breakfast in a Bag

Thursday, September 7, 2023

PK-12 Lunch:

NY Sloppy Joe on a Whole Grain Bun  
Oven Fries, NY Apple

Elementary Breakfast: Fruit Bar

Friday, September 8, 2023

PK-12 Lunch:

Pizza or Chicken Patty on a bun,  
Garden Salad

Elementary Breakfast: Donut Day

Daily Alternates

Elementary—Cereal Available Daily

High School—Special Breakfast  
Daily

Grab 'n Go Lunches

Sandwiches, Salads, PB&J Meal Kit,  
Protein Packs

Student Meal Pricing

Breakfast & Lunch are FREE for all  
students.

2nd Meal pricing is: \$ 1.35 for  
Breakfast and \$ 2.00 for lunch.

# Kindergarten Readiness Program

Our newest Scots had a great time during our Kindergarten Readiness Program!



# Pesticide State Requirements

Dear Parent, Guardian, and School Staff:

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Argyle Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- Anti-microbial products;
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- The application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CRF152.25;
- The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to James Bennefield Superintendent of Schools, School District pesticide representative at 5023 State Route 40, Argyle, NY 12809—Phone (518) 638-8243, ext. 504, Fax (518) 638-6373.

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## Argyle Central School District Request for Pesticide Application Notification

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to contact James Bennefield, Superintendent of Schools and Argyle Central School District pesticide representative at Argyle Central School, 5023 State Route 40, Argyle, NY 12809—Phone (518) 638-8243, ext. 504, Fax (518) 638-6373 or (e-mail address: [bennefield\\_j@argylecsd.org](mailto:bennefield_j@argylecsd.org)) for further information on these requirements.

# Asbestos

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1987 (40 CFR Part 763) all school employees, parents/guardians, and all building occupants are hereby notified that the Argyle Central School Asbestos Management Plan is available to the public for review Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Under the AHERA Regulation, the school district is required to reinspect all facilities which contain asbestos materials once every three (3) years. Moreover, periodic surveillances are conducted by our Building and Grounds personnel on a regular basis.



## A Message from the Food Service Director

*Meaghan Wilkins*

Welcome Back! I am looking forward to seeing everyone in September! The goal of the Food Service department this year is to continue to feed our kids and have fun! Keep an eye out for new items as well as our favorites! Please know that communication is very important to me and please contact me if I can answer any questions.



- ◆ **Who are we?** Our fabulous Food Service Team consists of myself and six amazing people: Chelsea Bates, Joy Hennessey, Missy Irwin, April LaPoint, Stacie Rozelle, and Kathy Scott.
- ◆ **FREE MEALS!**  
**GREAT NEWS!!!!!! Breakfast and lunch are FREE for all ACS students in 2023-24. Argyle Central School is also encouraging families to complete an income form found [HERE](#). The form is vital for other grants and aid programs that will benefit our school. Thanks to the Community Eligibility Provision program that we have qualified for!**
- ◆ Breakfast is such an important part of the day! All students have the option of getting breakfast each morning—whether they are dropped off or coming off the bus. Grades K-6 GRAB ‘n GO bags are available outside the Multi-purpose room each morning! We will have two choices each day (consisting of 2 grains, 1 fruit, or juice and milk). Grades 7-12 will get their breakfast in the cafeteria.
- ◆ Lunch options will be awesome as usual.
- ◆ *Meal Accounts*—We will NOT accept cash during meal service. Families can send in checks or cash for elementary children through the classroom teachers. High school students should try to bring any checks and cash to the cafeteria first thing in the morning. The BEST OPTION is to pre-pay on MySchoolBucks at any time. MySchoolBucks is an excellent option to keep track of balances and purchases—[www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) to manage your child’s account.
- ◆ *Notes on Account*—Our system allows parents/guardians to be able to have a note on their child’s account. Please send any notes/communication to the Food Service Director to add onto accounts. This includes allergies—please be sure the nurse and food service have updated doctor notes.
- ◆ **Free and Reduced Applications**
  - ⇒ Federally funded Community Eligibility Provision Household Income Eligibility applications will be sent home with each child at the start of each school year. It is not “required” in order to obtain FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH, as ALL students will be able to eat school breakfasts and lunches at NO CHARGE, our District and students will benefit from free and reduced meal eligibility information. It only takes a couple of minutes to fill in the blanks on the application. Thank you!
  - ⇒ Most Importantly—Our program runs independently from the General Fund and reimbursements are how we can pay our bills! Reimbursements are based on Free/Reduced application numbers.... Please fill them out.
- ◆ *Classroom Celebrations*—We will continue our classroom celebrations this year! I will have the forms available on the website and I can email them or send them home with students any time.

Sincerely,

*Meaghan Wilkins*

518-638-8243, ext. 519

[Wilkins\\_m@argylecsd.org](mailto:Wilkins_m@argylecsd.org)



## Congratulations to the Following ACS Retirees

Nancy Davis, Teacher Aide  
Susan Passaro, Elementary Teacher  
Patricia Robertson, Bus Driver  
Jacqueline Rosati, Social Studies Teacher  
Cheryl Simpson, Speech Teacher

## Families in Transition Services

The Argyle CSD receives funding through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and serves a homeless population through a variety of support services, including a homeless liaison/counselor for homeless students and students deemed at-risk. Our Homeless Liaison is K-8 Counselor Nicole Pafundi and may be reached at (518) 638-8243, ext.526

## Non-Discrimination Notice

The Argyle CSD does not discriminate in employment or in the education programs and activities which it operates on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, religion, race, or handicap in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, or §504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the NYS Human Rights Law. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination notice may be directed to Superintendent James Bennefield Section 504/Title IX Coordinator, at (518) 638-8243, ext. 504

## Annual Fire Inspection

The annual fire inspection for the Argyle Central School District will be conducted in September 2023 and the required reports will be submitted to the New York State Education Department.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September 2023

9/4 Labor Day—School Closed  
9/5 Superintendent's Conference Day  
9/6 Classes Begin  
9/12 PTSA Meeting 7pm  
9/14 Board of Education Meeting 7pm  
9/18 Kindergarten Parent Orientation  
9/28 PreK-Grade 12 Open House  
9/29 School Pictures

### October 2023

10/3 PTSA Meeting 7pm  
10/6 Superintendent's Conference Day  
10/9 Columbus Day—School Closed  
10/10-11 Fire Prevention  
10/11 PSAT Test for Grade 11  
10/12 Board of Education Meeting 7pm  
10/20 Grades 7-12 Interim Reports Issued  
10/29 PTSA Trunk or Treat  
10/31 Elementary Halloween Parade

**School Reopens  
September 6th**



**Argyle Central School**  
5023 State Route 40  
Argyle, New York 12809

**Board of Education Members**  
Pamela Ellis, *President*  
Travis Dessaint, *Vice President*  
Thomas Genovese  
David Holck  
Rodney Saunders

## Postal Patron or Current Resident

Carrier Route Pres.  
Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Permit #3**  
Argyle, New York 12809

# Fall Sports Schedules

### ***JV & Varsity Volleyball***

***Game time is 5:00 unless noted***

9/6 ACS @ Luzerne  
9/7 ACS @ Lake George  
9/13 ACS @ Warrensburg  
9/15 Corinth @ ACS  
9/19 ACS @ Loudonville Christian (Varsity Only)  
9/20 Hartford @ ACS  
9/22 Granville @ ACS  
9/27 ACS @ Fort Edward  
9/29 Luzerne @ ACS 4:30  
10/4 Lake George @ ACS  
10/6 Warrensburg @ ACS  
10/7 Power of Pink Tournament (Varsity Only)  
10/11 ACS @ Corinth 4:30  
10/13 ACS @ Hartford  
10/14 Argyle Volleyball Tournament (Varsity Only)  
10/18 ACS @ Granville  
10/20 Fort Edward @ ACS

### ***Modified Volleyball—Game time is at 5:00***

9/15 ACS @ Corinth	10/2 Warrensburg @ ACS
9/18 Luzerne @ ACS	10/4 ACS @ Lake George
9/20 ACS @ Hartford	10/6 ACS @ Warrensburg
9/22 ACS @ Granville	10/11 ACS @ Corinth
9/25 ACS @ Lake George	10/13 Hartford @ ACS
9/27 Fort Edward @ ACS	10/18 Granville @ ACS
9/29 ACS @ Luzerne	10/20 ACS @ Fort Edward

### ***Golf— 4:00***

9/6 @ Hartford (Pole Valley)  
9/7 Bolton  
9/11 Lake George  
9/12 @ Luzerne (Bend of the River)  
9/14 @ No. Warren (Green Mansions)  
9/18 Whitehall  
9/19 Corinth  
9/21 @ Granville (Skene Valley)  
9/25 @ Lake George (Top of the World)  
9/26 @ Whitehall (Skene Valley)  
9/28 Hartford  
10/2 Warrensburg  
10/5 Adirondack League Tourn.

### ***Varsity Soccer—Game time is 4:30 unless noted***

8/30 Stillwater Soccer Tournament  
9/1 Stillwater Soccer Tournament  
9/6 ACS @ Hartford  
9/8 Granville @ ACS  
9/11 ACS @ Fair Haven 6:00  
9/13 ACS @ North Warren  
9/18 Fort Ann @ ACS  
9/20 Luzerne @ ACS  
9/25 Warrensburg @ ACS  
9/27 ACS @ Granville  
9/29 Hartford @ ACS (Jug Game) 7:00  
10/2 ACS @ Lake George  
10/4 ACS @ Fort Ann  
10/11 Corinth @ ACS  
10/13 ACS @ Loudonville Christian

### ***Modified Soccer—Game time is at 4:30 unless noted***

9/14 ACS @ North Warren  
9/16 Loudonville Christian @ ACS 10:00  
9/19 ACS @ Lake George  
9/21 ACS @ Hartford 7:00  
9/26 ACS @ Luzerne  
9/28 Corinth @ ACS  
10/3 ACS @ Warrensburg  
10/6 Fort Ann @ ACS  
10/17 Granville @ ACS  
10/19 ACS @ Hartford

### ***Modified & Varsity Cross Country Meet time is 4:00 unless noted***

9/20 ACS @ Lake George  
9/27 ACS @ Corinth (Corinth/Luzerne, Hartford)  
10/4 ACS @ North Warren (Warrensburg/Bolton)  
10/11 ACS @ Whitehall (Granville)  
10/18 ACS @ North Warren (Granville, Warrensburg)  
10/27 Adirondack League Championships @ Queensbury 3:00 pm