



Hilton Insight

HILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Maximizing the Potential of the Individual Learner
Winter 2020



Students learn about non-college careers
New Precision Manufacturing course introduced

College and Career Day, held at Hilton High School on Jan. 8, gives students the opportunity to hear from recent graduates on the ins and outs of college life. But this year, the day also featured a chance for students, who may not be thinking about attending college, to hear about lucrative careers and on-the-job training. Students packed a technology room where they heard from eight individuals working in specialized fields that did not require a college education.

Strategic Plan
FOCUS AREA 1
Action Step 4

Alejandro Mendoza is a human resources director for Optimax and Ben Zeller began working for the company right after graduating high school; Glenn Chaffee represented the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades; Craig Francis is owner of Craig’s Barber Shop; Rich Fiandach owns a welding shop; John Gizzi is president of Precise Tool and Manufacturing, Inc.; Tim Hull is a union carpenter; John Smyth represented the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; and Tim Williams is a chef at the Arlington Restaurant.

“Rochester is one of the core regions in the U.S. where you can be successful in the optics field with a G.E.D. or a Ph.D.,” said Mendoza.

“However, the field does require a lifelong commitment to learning in order to be successful.” He challenged students to tour a manufacturing company to get an idea of the typical day and stressed the importance of being able to work well with others.

In addition to talking about their individual trades, the guests sent a strong message about the necessity of finishing high school and having a good work ethic –

showing up on time and ready to work.

Gizzi told students about Precise Tool and Manufacturing’s paid 14-week training program that is offered three times a year with the next one beginning at the end of June. “The manufacturing industry has such a high demand for employees that we’ve created our own training institute,” he said. Successful completion of the program results in a job at Precise Tool and enrollment in the NYS Apprenticeship Program to become a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) Journeymen Machinist in four years.



Tim Hull, union carpenter and 1996 Hilton graduate, speaks to students about his profession at College and Career Day on Jan. 8.

A new Precision Manufacturing course is designed to transition graduates right into Precise Tool’s training program or employment. The half-year elective is offered in the spring semester. Students are encouraged to take the Materials Processing class first, but it is not a prerequisite. “The course is open to students in grades 10-12, however we prefer that students take it their senior year so they can feed right into the training at Precise Tool or into employment after graduation,” said Steve Randall, technology teacher. “Our goal is to get students trained in the basic skills and knowledge of manufacturing in high school to allow them successful entry into the training institute after graduation.”

According to Precise Tool, the average salary for a machinist is ranked the seventh highest among all American professions (including doctors, lawyers, etc.), and this average salary is higher than the average salary for all four-year college graduates. Over 50 percent of all machinists in America today will retire in the next 10 to 15 years.

John Gizzi, president of Precise Tool and Manufacturing, Inc., talks to Lucas Eberhart about his company’s training program.



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Dear Hilton Community Members:

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday with family and friends, and had time to rest and relax. It is hard to believe we are at the midpoint of the academic year. We have accomplished so much, but still have much work to do. Our students and staff continue to have great success in the classroom, with athletics, and in the fine arts as we focus to educate each student to succeed academically, physically, emotionally and socially. I am always reminded of what an honor and privilege it is to serve our community when I observe such a high level of learning in our classrooms and attend our top-performing student extracurricular activities.

In this issue of *Insight*, you will find highlighted work that district stakeholders are carrying out toward the progress of our strategic plan.

Recently the district hosted an International Baccalaureate showcase sponsored by the International Baccalaureate Organization. Our district welcomed teachers and administrators from across North America who are interested in implementing a program in their district or have already done so and are looking for new ideas. We also recently completed our recertification evaluation. Our IB program is evaluated every five years at each level by a team of independent evaluators. I am proud to say that Hilton continues to be a leader in this work and the benefits that it provides our students. I want to thank our teachers, school-related personnel, administration and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Barb Surash for all of their good work providing a top-notch education to our students.

We continue to take the issue of student vaping seriously. This is an extremely harmful practice for our students to engage in. Dr. Michael Mendoza, Monroe County commissioner of Public Health, has included an important message for families in this issue of *Insight*. We would request that you take the time to discuss the negative health effects of vaping with your child.

Our district has placed a major emphasis on equity this year. We realize this is deep work and must be completed in a thoughtful progression to make sustainable change. Our District Improvement Team continues this work with multiple stakeholders from across the district. This work is aligned with Roc2Change, which Hilton High School students are proudly planning and hosting with East High School this spring. We are also pleased to announce that we will be partnering with Engaging Schools to review and revamp our Code of Conduct to incorporate both culturally responsive and social-emotional learning concepts and practices.

In closing, we continue the budget development process. Assistant Superintendent for Business Adam Geist has shared with me that the pieces are starting to fall into place for the development of our 2020-21 budget. The budget subcommittees have been working to develop their budget proposals for submission to the Business Office. The Board will receive the first draft of the budget in early March, with the final adoption anticipated at the beginning of April. Updates on our progress will be on the website, and presentations of the adopted budget will begin in late April.

I wish all of you continued success and look forward to challenging our learning community with the goal of continued growth. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 392-1000, 7043 or e-mail me at ckosiorek@hilton.k12.ny.us.

Sincerely,

Casey Kosiorek, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Quest Joy Shop



This year's Quest Joy Shop at Quest Elementary School in Hilton was even more successful than last year's, raising \$3,760 for children in need both locally and around the globe. In its third year, the Joy Shop replaces the traditional Santa's Secret Shop filled with trinkets that students can buy for family and friends. The Joy Shop features handmade crafts that students, families and staff created and donated to the shop. Students and staff then shop for items and the proceeds are donated to those in need. This year, \$1,000 went to the Hilton-Parma Emergency Food Shelf, \$1,000 to Doctors without Borders, and the remainder was split between Heifer International, The Navajo Water Project and Rochester City School District for early literacy. Students voted on the organizations to which they wanted to donate.

Board of Education petitions due April 20

The seven-member Hilton Board of Education will have two open seats on the May 19 ballot. Voters will select two board members to serve three-year terms (the seats currently held by Maryanne Chaffee and Brian O'Connor). To become a board candidate, please obtain a nominating petition from District Clerk Julie Norris in District Office, 225 West Ave., Hilton. The petitions will be available in late March. The completed petition must be filed with Mrs. Norris by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 20. To be a board candidate, one must be a Hilton School District resident for at least one year prior to the election and a qualified voter. For more information, contact Mrs. Norris at 392-1000, ext. 7099.

Hilton CSD | ROC2 Change to host Student Summit on Race

March 27

Students from around the region will gather at Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES in Spencerport as Hilton High School and East High School co-host the 10th ROC2Change Student Summit on Race on March 27. This Summit’s theme will be “Bridge the Gap” and will feature Collin Williams Jr., Ph.D., an educator, author and researcher addressing race and other diverse issues through the lens of sports. Dr. Williams is the director of leadership and education for RISE, a national nonprofit that educates and empowers the sports community to eliminate racial discrimination, champion social justice and improve race relations.

ROC2Change was established in 2016 as students from Monroe County began to come together to address race relations in the community. Over 500 Monroe County youth have participated in previous ROC2Change Summits to learn about and promote change related to diversity and inclusion. Each year, two summits are organized by students who engage in facilitated dialogue with peers, working together to develop plans to be the change they believe is needed in our community.

On Nov. 22, Pittsford Mendon and Sutherland High Schools’ student-led committee planned the event and chose the theme



The Hilton ROC2Change Committee (l-r) High School Principal Dr. Jeffrey Green, Luke Danzig, Lexi Nelms, Anaya Dees, Kayla Simone and Teacher Kate Gilmore-Tep. Not shown, Davion Savage.

“The Power of One” as a reminder that it just takes one person or a single action to make a positive difference.

Previous summits have focused on race and privilege, intersectionality, and raising student voices to promote awareness, competence and change. After participating in ROC2Change summits, students return to their schools to implement events or activities, to share what they have learned, and to increase dialogue and learning at each school.

Strategic Plan

FOCUS AREA 2

Action Step 5

Retired teacher captures students’ interest with storytelling



Katie Paxton-Johnson’s class at Quest listens to Bill Iveson tell them a story.

When Bill Iveson steps into a classroom, the students know that they are in for a special treat. A substitute teacher and gifted storyteller, Iveson has no problem capturing the students’ attention and holding it.

A native of Hilton, Iveson attended Parma #7 School on Dunbar Rd. and the high school that is now Hilton Community Center. His family then moved to Brockport and Iveson graduated from Brockport High School before starting his career, like many Rochesterians, working at Eastman Kodak Company. But he soon realized that teaching was his calling and enrolled at SUNY Brockport to earn a teaching degree. Iveson began his career as an educator in 1963 right here in Hilton before taking a couple of years to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserves working as a communications technician in Vietnam and Africa. In 1969, Iveson earned his master’s degree in education from the University of Washington in Seattle, then returned to Hilton until 1980 when he received an International Teaching Fellowship to Australia for one year.

It wasn’t until 1998 that Iveson retired from teaching sixth grade social studies in Hilton, and he’s been substitute teaching grades 4-6 at Northwood and Village Elementary Schools ever since. His 30-plus years as an educator isn’t the only thing that engages him with the students. In the early 1990s, Iveson attended a storytelling event at the University of Rochester and has been hooked ever since. “I heard a

fabulous story about Africa and decided that is what I wanted to do,” he said. In 1999, Iveson attended his first National Storytelling Festival in Tennessee and now attends every other year.

“I don’t like to tell personal stories. I’d rather tell folk tales,” Iveson said. He has all of his stories written out and some are on tape. “The students will always listen to stories, but not always lessons. And they remember the stories,” he added. Often Iveson incorporates geography into his stories and illustrates different places with his vast license plate collection, which he’s been adding to for 20 years.

“Mr. Iveson’s stories are realistic and he makes you feel like you are really there,” said Alexa Striemer, an elementary student in Katie Paxton-Johnston’s class at Quest.

“Bill has told many stories at Quest,” said Paxton-Johnson. “He recently presented to six elementary classes and told Native American stories to go along with our current planner on Indigenous People. Some of my students’ parents had him for a teacher and love him!”

Paxton-Johnson’s class even created thank-you notes for Iveson on handmade cardboard license plates after one of his storytelling sessions.

“I don’t go to Florida, so telling stories gives me something to do,” said Iveson.

“I love to tell stores and the kids love to hear them.”

Hilton CSD selected to showcase *International Baccalaureate program*

Strategic Plan

FOCUS AREA 1

Action Step 2

This year, the Hilton School District was selected by the International Baccalaureate (IB) North American Headquarters to be a District Showcase. On Oct. 28-29, 20 visitors from school districts around New York State, Baltimore, MD and Canada traveled to Hilton to learn more about IB. The districts are either interested in starting IB or growing their IB program.

“IB North American Headquarters heard about the great work being done here in Hilton and want to us to share it with other districts,” said Dr. Barbara Surash, assistant superintendent for instruction.

The visitors began their first day at Quest Elementary School where they were introduced to Hilton CSD administrators and IB coordinators, and Antrina Leeth, the Outreach and Development manager for the IB Organization. The group heard an overview of Hilton’s IB journey, then spent the day at Merton Williams Middle School, Village Elementary School and Quest. Participants had an opportunity to see the schools through students’ eyes with student-led tours, visit classrooms, talk with teachers, and experience firsthand how

IB schools holistically approach student learning and how IB enriches the entire school community. At Quest, a panel of students from all grade levels talked about the Primary Years Programme and what makes Quest Elementary unique.

Visitors spent the second day at Hilton High School where they learned about the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP). Principal Dr.

Jeffrey Green, MYP Coordinator Stephen Cudzilo and DP Coordinator Timothy Ackroyd provided a tour of the building, then participants visited classrooms. DP students gave the group valuable insight into their experiences taking on the challenges of the Diploma Programme

and how it is preparing them for life after high school. The visit wrapped up with local college and university representatives discussing their IB recognition policies.



Dr. Barbara Surash, assistant superintendent for instruction, and Robert Chaffee, (top left) a junior in the Diploma Programme, were guests on WXXI’s Connections radio program along with students from Wilson Commencement.

“Hilton School District has been involved with IB for 20 years...and for 20 years we’ve continued to align our practices, curriculum, and assessments to the IB framework,” said Dr. Surash.

In December, Dr. Surash and junior Robert Chaffee, along with students from Wilson

Commencement, an

International Baccalaureate school in the City of Rochester, were guests on WXXI’s Connections radio program hosted by Evan Dawson. Dr. Surash talked about the IB program in Hilton and Robert shared his experiences as a student in the Diploma Programme.

Adopt Don’t Shop!

by Bailey Loomis, 10th Grader

Did you ever looked into the window of a pet shop when you were younger? There would be a cute golden retriever in the window and you’d talk about it the whole way home? Well, most of those golden retrievers and other puppies sold in pet stores originate from puppy mills.

Puppy mills are dog breeding factories that only focus on increasing profit with little regard for the health and welfare of the animals. The conditions of the factories are filthy and the animals go without adequate food, water or veterinary care. Female dogs are bred at any and every opportunity. No recovery time is given between litters, leaving the dogs worn out and tired.

Buying from pet stores could cost you thousands later down the road as serious health problems develop because of issues like inbreeding, and serious behavioral issues occur that do not make these dogs good family pets.

On the other hand, there are numerous reasons why adopting from a shelter is a

better choice. Adopting from a shelter results in saving that dog from possible euthanasia and saving the dog that was able to take its spot at the shelter. Most dogs at a shelter are fully trained, and you get to know the dog’s personality while meeting him or her. These dogs are also less expensive because shelters are not for profit. I myself have a dog named Nala that I love to death, whose mom was a rescue and given to my brother to be saved from being put down solely because she was “the runt of the litter” from a puppy mill.

Although most pet shops do sell from puppy mills, there are hundreds of licensed breeders across the country who are committed to humane practices and take great care in placing their purebred puppies in ideal homes.

Help end worldwide dog suffering by supporting pet stores when they agree to stop selling puppies from puppy mills and encouraging pet stores to offer only rescue and shelter dogs. If you do your part and raise awareness, dogs will thank you!
#AdoptDontShop



MYP Personal Project Presentations *March 10*

For the fifth year, 10th-grade students are participating in Middle Years Programme (MYP) personal projects. Presentations are scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday, March 10 with the Gallery Walk beginning at 5:30 p.m., which is an opportunity for the public to view the projects and hear the presentations. According to the International Baccalaureate (IB), the personal project is a significant student-directed inquiry produced over an extended period and completed during year five of the MYP. To the left is an article by Bailey Loomis, 10th grader, which is part of her MYP Project.

Strategic Plan

FOCUS AREA 2

Action Step 3

Staff and students take on mindfulness challenge to kick off 2020

“The mind is just like a muscle – the more you exercise it, the stronger it gets and the more it can expand.”

– Idowu Koyenikan, Internationally Acclaimed Organizational Consultant and Author

The Hilton School District Health and Wellness Committee is kicking off the New Year with a Mindfulness Challenge for staff, students and families. Between Jan. 6 and April 3, participants are being challenged with 60 seconds of mindfulness practice a day for 60 consecutive days.

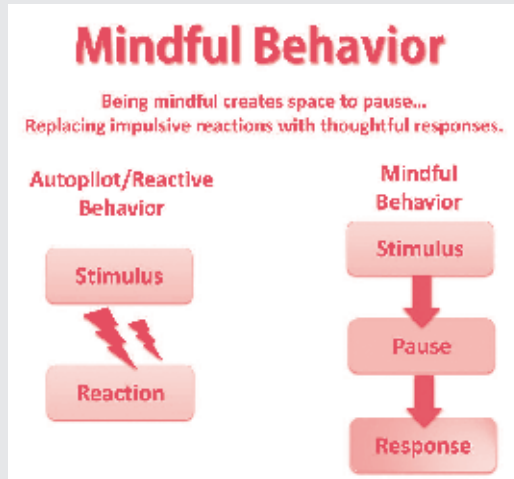
“A new year offers the opportunity to set new intentions,” said Christy Neu, Mindfulness in Education Representative for the District Health & Wellness Committee. “With our district’s focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL), we thought we would offer a district-wide Mindfulness Challenge: 60 Seconds

for 60 Days. This targets two main core competencies: self-awareness and self-management.” The mindfulness practice is meant to help individuals better understand relationship skills, social awareness and responsible decision making.

Research shows how the brain matter can physically change – that rewiring can occur – with eight weeks of consistent mindfulness practice. Mindfulness practice can potentially strengthen the prefrontal cortex, the area of the brain associated with higher order brain functions like awareness, concentration and decision making, and shrink the Amygdala, the area associated with fear, emotion and initiating the body’s response to stress.

Participants are asked to focus on one thing, such as a sense or breathing, for a full minute. Teachers are provided with a toolbox of activities for the classroom, such as having students count four things they can touch; three they can hear; two they can smell and one they can taste.

Participants are also asked to share their experience on social media using the hashtag #onemindfulhcsd.



Kindergarten registration in March children must be five by Dec. 1



Children whose fifth birthday falls on or before December 1 following the start of the school year in September are eligible to attend kindergarten. Kindergarten in the Hilton School District is full day.

The Hilton School District Office of Census/Central Registration mails registration information letters to all eligible district families. If you do not receive a letter by mid-March, please call the Census/Central Registration Clerk at 392-1000, ext. 7031.

To register, please bring your child’s original birth certificate, proof of residency, proof of immunizations, and custody or guardianship papers if applicable.

New kindergartners are eligible to attend the Quest Elementary School, a school of choice, no matter where they reside in the district. Applications to attend Quest Elementary School are due Monday, Feb. 3. Only those accepted to attend Quest in the fall may register on Mar. 4 or 5. For more information about Quest Elementary School, please call 392-1000, ext. 6102.

The Hilton School District elementary school attendance boundary line is Rt. 261 (Manitou Rd.). All residents east of the boundary line (Greece) attend Northwood Elementary School, 433 N. Greece Rd., and all residents west of the boundary line (Parma, Clarkson, Hamlin) attend Village Elementary School with the exception of some private drives.

Quest Elementary School Kindergarten Registration, 225 West Ave., Hilton

Wednesday, Mar. 4 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 5 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Village Elementary School Kindergarten Registration, 100 School La., Hilton

Monday, Mar. 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 17 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Northwood Elementary School Kindergarten Registration, 433 N. Greece Rd., Greece

Monday, Mar. 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 17 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Attention parents of 2020-21 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students: in order to receive all mailings, please complete the new student update form on the district website at www.hilton.k12.ny.us/NewStudent to ensure that your address is correct in our system.

Talk with your kids about e-cigarettes

Tips from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Here are some questions and comments you might get from your teen about e-cigarettes and some ideas on how you can answer them.

Why don't you want me to use e-cigarettes?

- Science shows that e-cigarettes contain ingredients that are addictive and could harm different parts of your body.
- Right now, your brain is still developing, which means you are more vulnerable to addiction. Many e-cigarettes contain nicotine, and using nicotine can change your brain to make you crave more nicotine. It can also affect your memory and concentration. I don't want that for you!
- E-cigarettes contain chemicals that are harmful. When people use e-cigarettes, they breathe in tiny particles that can harm their lungs.
- The cloud that people exhale from e-cigarettes can expose you to chemicals that are not safe to breathe.

What's the big deal about nicotine?

- Your brain is still developing until about age 25. The Surgeon General reported that nicotine is addictive and can harm your brain development.
- Using nicotine at your age may make it harder for you to concentrate, learn, or control your impulses.

• Nicotine can even train your brain to be more easily addicted to other drugs like meth and cocaine.

• I don't say this to scare you, but I want you to have the facts because nothing is more important to me than your health and safety.

Aren't e-cigarettes safer than conventional cigarettes?

- Because your brain is still developing, scientific studies show that it isn't safe for you to use any tobacco product that contains nicotine, including e-cigarettes.
- Whether you get nicotine from an e-cigarette or a cigarette, it's still risky.
- Some e-cigarette batteries have even exploded and hurt people.

I thought e-cigarettes didn't have nicotine – just water and flavoring?

- I used to think that too. But many e-cigarettes have nicotine. There are also other chemicals in them that can be harmful.
- Let's look at the Surgeon General's website on e-cigarettes (*E-cigarettes*. SurgeonGeneral.gov) together so you can see for yourself.

I (or my friends) have tried e-cigarettes and it was no big deal.

- I appreciate your honesty. In the future, I hope you (or your friends) will stay away from e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, including cigarettes. Science shows that e-cigarettes contain ingredients that are addictive and could harm different parts of your body.
- Next time we go to the doctor, let's ask about the risks of nicotine, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products.

You used tobacco, so why shouldn't I?

- If I could live my life over again, I never would have started smoking. I learned that people who smoke cigarettes are much more likely to develop, and die from, certain diseases than people who don't smoke. This was really scary, so I quit smoking.
- Quitting was really hard, and I don't want you to go through that. The best thing is to not start at all.

For more information and resources on vaping and e-cigarettes, visit Hilton.k12.ny.us/vaping.

A Message from Dr. Michael Mendoza, Commissioner, Monroe County Health Department

As a parent, I know firsthand how difficult it can be for both parents and students to talk about vaping. And yet, it is so important.

This conversation is perhaps more important now than ever before. Scientific research has proven that nicotine, found in most vaping products, is highly addictive and through its impact on brain development can increase the risk for addiction later in life. As our community battles against the opioid crisis, it is especially important that we do all that we can to prevent addiction for future generations.

This past summer, we also became aware of a separate but related epidemic of vaping-associated lung diseases. In New York State alone there have been over 200 cases of this acute lung illness, and across the country people have died from this illness. Although we don't yet have a full understanding of what's causing these

illnesses, we are learning that most, but not all, of these cases involved vaping THC (marijuana).

In the face of these risks, on September 9, 2019, I issued a local advisory on vaping, urging all residents of Monroe County to stop using vape products. This applies especially to youth and young adults, women who are pregnant, and adults who currently do not use tobacco products where the harms of e-cigarettes far outweigh any possible benefits. While the jury is still out on the benefits of vaping for adults trying to quit smoking, there is no benefit for youth to start and continue to vape.

Youth and young adults can access a new e-cigarette quit program by texting "DITCHJUUL" to 88709. Parents and other adults looking to help young people quit should text "QUIT" to (202) 899-7550.

17th Annual Hilton Evening of Jazz features

Eric Marienthal and Wayne Bergeron

Feb. 14



presenting the 17th Annual Hilton Evening of Jazz on **Friday, February 14 at 7 p.m.** at Merton Williams Middle School.

This year's Evening of Jazz features saxophonist Eric Marienthal and trumpeter Wayne Bergeron.

Marienthal studied at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA with the legendary saxophone professor, Joe Viola. By the time he left Berklee, Eric had achieved the highest proficiency rating given by the school. He has since gone on to perform in over 75 different countries, recorded 14 solo CDs and has played on hundreds of records, films, television shows and commercial jingles. As a member of the Chick Corea Elektric Band, he recorded six CDs and won two Grammy Awards. Marienthal went on to perform with artists such as Elton John, Barbra Streisand, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder, Dionne Warwick, Burt Bacharach, Aaron Neville, Johnny Mathis and many others.

Bergeron first caught the ear of many when he landed the lead trumpet chair with Maynard

The Hilton School District Jazz Department and Hilton Music Boosters are

Ferguson's band in 1986. As a sideman, Bergeron's list of recording credits reads like a who's who in contemporary jazz and pop, running the stylistic gamut from Ray Charles to Green Day. Other names include Beyoncé, Barbra Streisand, Michael Bubl , Celine Dion, Seal, Diana Krall and many more. Bergeron has worked on over 400 TV & motion picture soundtracks and his featured trumpet solos can be heard on the motion pictures *La La Land*, *Jersey Boys* and *The Incredibles*, just to name a few.

Students will have the opportunity to work with both musicians with a morning masterclass for all music students in grades 4-12 and a "hands-on" clinic for the Middle School and High School Jazz Ensembles.

Tickets are \$18 and also include performances by the Merton Williams and Hilton High School Jazz Ensembles. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door, however seating is limited. Groups purchasing 10 or more tickets may reserve a table. For pre-sale tickets, contact Jared Streiff at 392-1000, ext. 2293 or jstreiff@hilton.k12.ny.us. Proceeds benefit the Hilton Middle School and High School Jazz Departments and the Hilton Music Boosters.

Earth Science | helps formulate teacher Regents questions

Brian McDowell, science teacher at Hilton High School, traveled to Albany last October to share his input on potential Earth Science Regents exam questions. He worked on a committee with nine teachers over two days to review 126 questions, providing feedback on the questions, art, directions and rating guide. These questions will then get split up and sent to schools as Field Tests in May 2020, and then McDowell will likely be asked to grade the Field Tests next summer. Once the data comes back on the questions, they will get pared down to 85 questions and become a future Regents exam.

"It's a rewarding experience and I like talking with people who teach Earth Science from across the state," said McDowell. After completing a form on the State Education website about 15 years ago, he has been writing questions and working in Albany for about 10 days per year, mostly during the summer, since then.



Northwood Giving Tree

Northwood Student Council spearheaded a Giving Tree and Diaper Drive to support Northwood families in need during the holidays. To publicize the event, students created posters, made daily announcements, wrote an article for the Northwood News, and shared information with teachers and classmates. Between Dec. 2-13, students and staff filled the counseling office conference room with new toys for all ages, hats, gloves, scarves, and diapers of all sizes. Student Council then spent the morning of Dec. 15 sorting and categorizing all the donations so counselors could distribute them to various families. Shown are (l-r) Ava Heise, Lila Mason, Madison Hood and Jonathan Testa sorting the many donations.

Hilton School Board Members are elected to three-year terms and serve without pay. Online Board meeting agendas and minutes: hilton.k12.ny.us/board-education.htm

**2019-20
Board of Education**

Thomas Abbott
Russell Byer
Maryanne Chaffee
Therese Flannery
Mark Hilburger
Brian O'Connor
Nancy Pickering

District Clerk
Julie Norris



hilton.k12.ny.us

The Hilton School District does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, race, color, religion, political affiliation or national origin.

Superintendent of Schools,
Casey Kosiorek, Ed. D.

Director of Communications,
Grace Scism



Hilton School District Resident

Hilton Insight

STAR Tax Relief Program

Eligible new homeowners will receive their STAR savings in the form of a check directly from New York State. But you must register with the New York State Tax Department to receive a STAR credit check. You can register 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.tax.ny.gov/star. Property owners without access to a computer can register by phone weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (518-457-2036).

Are you eligible for STAR?

If you own your home, it's your primary residence, and your income is \$500,000 or less, you're eligible for the Basic STAR credit. In addition, if you're 65 or older with an income of \$88,050 or less, you may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR credit.

In the first year of your new home, you may receive the prior owner's STAR exemption. In future years, as long as you're eligible, you'll receive a STAR check. You don't need to register again.

Community Education accepting registrations for winter/spring classes

The 2020 Winter/Spring Hilton Community Education program is underway with openings still available for many classes and activities. For course and registration information, visit hilton.k12.ny.us/commed or call 392-1000, ext. 7044 or 7095.

Please note that when the Hilton Central School District closes due to emergency or weather-related conditions, Community Education classes and activities on school grounds are also canceled. The District contacts the local media when closing the schools is necessary. A message is also placed on the District's voicemail, 392-1000, and posted on the website, Facebook and Twitter pages. Community Education classes and activities held off campus are at the instructor's discretion to cancel.

5 BUY FIVE
Charity Art Show
Merton Williams MS Hilton NY
5:00-6:30pm
Wednesday
February 12
Hundreds of 5" x 5" Works of Art All Available For \$5.00 !!