

Pawling

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023



RECIPES FOR SUCCESS



In this newsletter, we share some of the Pawling Central School District's many recipes for success. Our secret ingredients include dedicated teachers and coaches; supportive parents; enhanced facilities; and, of course, enthusiastic students.



Dear Pawling Community,

Many of us have treasured family recipes, handed down from generation to generation. They are made with “secret” ingredients like TLC, and the end result is always comforting and delicious.

In this newsletter, we share some of the Pawling Central School District’s many recipes for success. Our secret ingredients include dedicated teachers and coaches; supportive parents; enhanced facilities; and, of course, enthusiastic students.

All across our schools, there are amazing things cooking: the Middle School Intersession; the Elementary School’s Team Community; and the High School Thespians’ performance of Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*, to name just a few. On the following pages you’ll learn how we mixed together 36 foreign language students, 6 High School chaperones, 42 safety helmets, 43 passports and 147 maple sugar tasting sticks to create an unforgettable trip to Quebec City.

One of the key ingredients in all of PCSD’s endeavors is our community’s commitment to the district. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, employee or resident, we couldn’t do any of these things without you. PCSD prides itself on being small in size.... but big in opportunities. We continue to offer our students a wide array of courses, extracurricular activities and mental health supports. Our staff benefits from ongoing professional development, as well as numerous opportunities to enrich our students’ experiences as chaperones, advisors, and coaches.

So, enjoy our collection of recipes – the first PCSD cookbook. I hope reading about our wonderful activities and accomplishments makes you hungry for more!

Bon appetit!

Sincerely,

Karen Burka

Karen Burka
President, Pawling Board of Education



STUDENTS DISCOVER POSSIBILITIES

YIELD: 89 Rising High School Freshmen with a new perspective

This recipe is aimed at preparing our eighth-grade students for success in high school through a one-of-a-kind, five-day experience.

- **89 Student Journals**
 - **60 Stories of Success**
 - **3 College Campuses**
- 1. Gather all eighth-grade students** and invite them to envision their futures. Let their thoughts marinate before blending with 30 community members who present their own pathways to success.
 - 2. Let students rise** and present self-designed projects to their peers. Flip and allow students to learn from 30 more visiting professionals.
 - 3. Immerse students in new environments** including three college campuses, a museum, an aquarium and a planetarium: allow students time to envision themselves learning & working in these spaces.

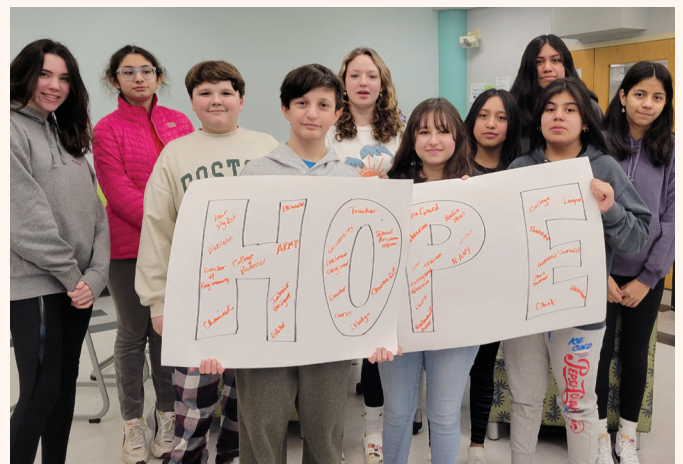
★ TIPS

"Before Intersession, I didn't realize there were so many people who could help you through college."

- Intersession Attendee

"I used to think, being successful meant you just got good grades and made enough money, now I know it is more about pursuing your passion."

- Intersession Attendee



PAWLING TEACHERS LEARN TOGETHER

YIELD: More engaged teachers

This recipe aims to maximize Pawling teachers' talents by bringing them together to share best practices that benefit students.

★ TIPS

Keep an open mind to hearing perspectives from teachers across district and in multiple subjects.

"Meeting once a month in each other's classes and hearing other teachers' perspectives has been absolutely beneficial. I have received some good feedback."

– Fifth Grade teacher Deborah VanDoren

- 10 teachers from Pawling School District
- 1 Professional Development meeting over the summer
- 10 meetings throughout the school year
- A blend of hard work, creativity, courage and curiosity

1. **Come up with an idea** (examples: annotating stories with emotion; beginning each class with a daily dedication; examining note-taking strategies).
2. **Try the idea in the classroom.**
3. **Meet with colleagues** once a month to share the experience.
4. **(Optional) Analyze students' work** and look for ways to improve.



HOCKEY TEAM BOASTS INCREDIBLE SEASON

YIELD: 1 very proud school district

This recipe, which was years in the making, began with pre-seasoned athletes from community-based hockey programs that train young hockey players. It ended with what Assistant Captain Mason Carmen called the "Best hockey season Pawling has had in recent years!"



- 17 determined hockey players
 - 2 dedicated coaches
 - 63 hockey sticks
 - 199 years of hockey practices
(Coaches years included)
1. **Dress a dozen or so student athletes** in orange, black and white uniforms; add skates and place on ice.
 2. **Blend in a half dozen student athletes** from Our Lady of Lourdes after signing an inter-scholastic team merger agreement.
 3. **Apply generous portions of coaching** and conditioning while shaving ice with hockey sticks and avoiding the Zamboni.
 4. **Transport team to rinks near and far.** Using two referees as emulsifiers, mix with opposing team for a minimum of three 17-minute periods.
 5. **Once team rises to become League Champions**, drop into pressure cooker at Section 1 Championship Quarter-final and Semi-final games.

PCSD SUPPORTS A LIFETIME OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

YIELD: Students with healthy habits

This recipe seeks to build strength, nourish emotional resilience, and support a positive outlook among Pawling students. It depends on bringing a handful of the ingredients together once a month for the district's Health and Wellness Committee meetings. The group's ideas simmer while fresh activities and resources that support the Committee's vision bubble to the top. Scoop the best ideas for fitness and wellbeing and serve immediately.

- 9 chefs and cooking staff
 - 6 health and physical education teachers
 - District educators, parents and community members committed to health and wellness of students, staff and families
1. **Pop into the cafeteria and enjoy** Harvest of the Month—locally grown produce served in ways that introduce new flavors and food options.
 2. **Begin each week with intention.** Meditation Monday, offered in physical education for Lifestyle classes, is a time to unplug, unwind and focus on the week ahead.
 3. **Layer on positive connections** through the social opportunities created by the Pawling Recreation Department. Spring fun includes Teen Candle Making and a Mother's Day Stroll.
 4. **Blend school spirit and fitness** with Walk Before School, a mile-long loop that elementary students complete together each May, with organizational help from high school students. Tunes performed by the middle school band keep everyone stepping in time!



★ TIPS

Whenever possible, shift a celebration's emphasis from food to activities. Families might mark a special occasion with a nature walk. Classroom holiday celebrations could include creating decorations and enjoying music. Community organizations could host a dance-a-thon or read-a-thon.



PAWLING'S LITTLEST LEARNERS THRIVE IN PRE-K

YIELD: 36 young learners who are socially and emotionally ready for a successful kindergarten experience. Will also yield close friendships, increased confidence, and a love of learning.

This recipe began with grant funding from the NYS Education Department for Pawling's first-ever pre-k program. To ensure success, the district used existing staff resources to fill funding gaps and assigned two experienced early childhood education teachers, Elise Malone and Karina Antonio. This was combined with the expertise of Pawling Elementary Principal and Pre-K Coordinator Jennifer Jacobs to form a strong collaborative team.

- Grant funding from NYSED
- 36 preschool students
- 2 early childhood teachers
- 1 highly effective pre-k curriculum
- A vision for an expanded program
- Two classrooms
- Creative play centers, craft materials, books and a child-centered decor

1. Preheat the oven to high hopes.
2. Divide pre-k teachers and classroom aides between two classrooms.
3. Measure New York City's Pre-K for All curriculum and an attentive student-led mindset in equal parts and combine to create an engaging student experience. Mix well. NOTE: This will lead to projects and trips like a visit to the local post office and a visit from Two By Two Animal Haven.
4. Pour mixture into the collaborative team of faculty and staff and bake for one school year.
5. Take Pawling Superintendent Kim Fontana's vision of more comprehensive funding for public education and let simmer. Advocacy efforts will focus on encouraging New York State to put more money and flexibility into pre-k programs, among others. She will work to achieve this by representing Dutchess County in a regional initiative to reach these goals.
6. Enjoy the delicious results of a successful pre-k program, and plan to revisit funding next year for even more equitable and sustainable solutions.



PAWLING SCIENCE RESEARCH STUDENT WINS POSTER SESSION

YIELD: Curious, innovative, science research student

This recipe springs from three years of dedicated research by Evan Mascia, a member of Pawling's Science Research program studying biomimicry. Evan's work falls under the heading of biometric soft robotic fish and marine animals, which have the potential to explore delicate marine ecosystems without causing harm.

- 1 Pawling High School Science Research Student (Evan Mascia)
- 1 Upstate NY Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at Albany
- 1 dose of extensive research
- A mix of hard work, dedication & perseverance



1. **Evan attends** and presents at the symposium.
2. **Pawling student Magnolia Garbarino** also presents at symposium.
3. **Other Pawling Science Research students** attend symposium.
4. **Evan Mascia wins the poster session** for presenting his research entitled "The Application of Biomimicry in Underwater 3D Printed Soft Robots to Improve Thrust and Precision."

CIVIC READINESS SEAL RECIPE

YIELD: Students Better Prepared to Contribute to our World



This recipe aims to produce students who are knowledgeable about our society and government and prepared to make informed decisions for the public good as members of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world. Students learn how to identify and address problems in the community and demonstrate respect for others.

- Students in grades 8-12
- One dose love of social studies
- An ounce of community activism
- One dose motivated learners

1. **Review the** Seal of Civic Readiness Handbook.
2. **Earn 6 points** by completing social studies courses including civic engagement electives; completing projects in other classes; passing the state social studies Regents exam; and being involved in the community.
3. **Apply for Seal in 12th grade.**
4. **Receive Seal** and add to your college application.

★ TIPS

"Everyone can apply for the Seal, which is a New York State initiative. You don't have to be an AP student to receive it. It is our very first year and we have 42 seniors that applied for it, but ideally, we would like all seniors to apply. Pawling School District provides a great foundation for civic engagement. The Board of Education has advocated for it for a long time."

– Lisa Horn, social studies teacher at Pawling High School and Seal of Civic Readiness coordinator.

Postal Patron

FRENCH STUDENTS TRAVEL TO QUEBEC

YIELD: 30+ new international travelers

This recipe offered Pawling students with two to five years of French study the opportunity to travel to the French-speaking region of Quebec, Canada, where they experienced French-Canadian history and culture.

- 36 foreign language students from French II, III, IV and AP classes
 - 6 PHS chaperones including the high school principal and school nurse
 - 43 passports (including one for the bus driver)
 - 86 winter gloves
 - 42 safety helmets while snow-tubing
 - 352 US miles, or 933 kilometers
1. **After carefully reviewing credentials,** load first four ingredients onto a chartered bus.
 2. **Travel 10.5 hours,** stopping midway for customs inspection.
 3. **Arrive at Plains of Abraham Museum.** Immerse participants in 18th century costume, warfare and medical demonstrations.
 4. **Take guided walking tour of Quebec** featuring Chateau Frontenac, Hotel de Glace and La Basilique-Cathedral Notre Dame de Quebec.
 5. **Experience Winter Carnival.** Trek through wooded trails behind a team of sled dogs, try winter sports like snowshoeing, tubing and tobogganing.



Read our monthly online newsletters and Digital Backpack on the website to stay up to date on news around the District.

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