



# THE HAWK'S REPORT

ONE HOLLEY

APRIL 2023



## Message from the Principal

This month begins state testing, specifically for our middle school students. This year's New York State English Language Arts State Assessment for students in grades 3-8 is on Wednesday, April 19 and Thursday, April 20. The state exams provide us an opportunity to analyze our system of educating each student in comparison with school district across the state. It provides our teachers with an opportunity to assess and possibly enhance our curriculum based on student results.

One measure used to determine our school's accountability status is the results of the state exams. Over the last five years the middle/high school has been a school in need of comprehensive support due to our results on the seventh and eighth grade New York State English Language Arts and Math exams. Just this year we were notified we were no longer a school in need of improvement, but a school in good standing. This was a huge accomplishment for our school and district. There are many factors that go into school accountability status. One of the factors is student participation in state assessments. Therefore, it is essential that each student takes the state exams. If we fall below the required participation rate, we could be identified as a School in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement again. This designation begins with help from the New York State Education Department. However, if we are continually left with this designation, we could face serious ramifications ranging from loss of funding, and/or the state taking over the operations of our district.

I feel it important not to alarm the public, but rather ensure I am transparent with the system and state accountability status. We want students to be successful and common assessments across the state allow us to ensure our students are meeting rigorous standards. Over the years, the state education department has tried increasing the turnaround time of reporting student performance to schools. They have also shortened the exams from three days to two days. I am hopeful in the Holley community we can work together to ensure our school continues to remain a school in good standing. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out via phone at 585-815-5459.

Thank you,  
Mr. Feldman

### IMPORTANT EVENTS

April 3-7 - No School, Spring Break

April 13 - NJHS Induction Ceremony @ HS Auditorium

April 14 - Marking Period 3 Ends

April 17 - BOE Meeting @ 6pm; Modified Spring Sports Begin

April 28 - No School, Superintendent's Conference Day

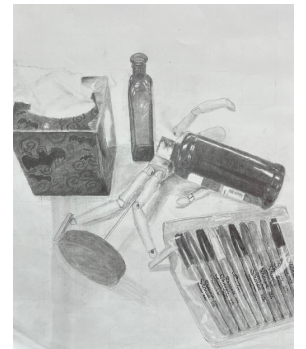


## Art

The second annual district art show was a huge success with an abundant of support from the community! The winners of this year's Principal Award is Laura Moak. A color pencil realistic image of a Twix bar and wrapper. The Superintendent's Award winner is Casey Onisk a still life graphite, drawing. The B.O.E. Award winner is Laci Brown a nature mandala sculpture. These students' work of art will be showcased in the District Office for a year! This was a hard decision for our "judges" to make, we have many talented young artists here at Holley! The Visual Arts Department would like to thank St. Mary's Church and Penny Cole for thinking of us and donating, new to us, dividers. The Visual Arts Department and stage crew will put them to good use for years to come. We would also like to thank Ethan Race and for creating feet for these said display boards. The Holley Visual Art's Department and PTSA are organizing a "Holley Hawk Chalk Walk" . This event will raise funds for an art scholarship. Chalk will be provided by the PTSA, sidewalk squares can be purchased ahead of time, and there will be a food truck rodeo on site with drinks and snacks available. Come support a good cause while creating and enjoying beautiful art. Intrigued? More information to come soon!



Art work by Rosie Emery



Art work by Karissa Robinson



Art work by Laura Moak



Art work by Kohle Pachla



Art work by Casey Onisk



Art work by Laci Brown





## Mental Health Minute

Mindfulness can be an important skill to work on with teens and young adults alike. Mindfulness is the practice of purposefully bringing your attention to the present moment. One of the most well-known forms of mindfulness is meditation, but there are types of mindfulness that exist beyond that. The practice of mindfulness has been known to reduce anxiety, depression, and improve sleep. Below you will find some quick mindfulness activities that we encourage you to practice with your student.

- **Five senses activity:** If you have a student who can become easily distracted and needs help grounding them back in the present, you can try the five senses activity. The five senses activity asks students to identify all 5 senses and then use them to notice the world around them. Starting off, ask students to identify 5 things that they can see. Once they have done that, move on to 4 things that they can feel, 3 things they can hear, 2 things they can smell, and 1 thing they can taste. This practice helps to ground students and allow them to become present in their surroundings.
- **Square Breathing:** Square breathing is a great activity for student who may be feeling heightened anxiety. To help your student with square breathing start with counting to the number 4. Breathe in for four counts, hold their breath for four counts, exhale for four counts, then hold for four counts. While the student is doing this have them picture each action, inhale hold exhale hold, is a side of the square and they will continue around the square.

- **Speak your Mantra:** Have students come up with a mantra, or a positive statement of the day. This could be something such as “I am having a good day” or “I know that I can do difficult things”. Once your student comes up with a positive mantra, have them begin by focusing on their breath and ensuring they have steady even breaths. Once their attention has been fully brought to their breath, have them begin to repeat the mantra over in their head or out loud as they continue their breathing. Encourage your student that whenever they feel as though they are frustrated, or coming up on a roadblock, to take a minute, find their breath, and repeat their mantra!

## Library

We just got in some great new reads in the library! Come check out the new books shelf! We also have some new book displays, including a display of fun, light-hearted reads to add some sunshine to your days. Students have been hard at work in the library, and many classes have been coming to utilize all of the great library resources. Art classes have again been generous in letting us borrow some of their work to use to decorate the library space! Our Holley Hawks are so talented!





## Hawk Talk (Athletics)

Spring weather can be unpredictable and lead to many changes in our Athletic Schedule. We use rSchoolToday for our Athletics Calendar (Link: <https://www.sectionvny.org/public/genie/783/school/3378/>) Because it is web based, we provide you instant access to the most up-to-date information at all times. All changes are reflected instantly to you as soon as they are made.

One of the most helpful features of the calendar is the "Notify Me" function on the right hand side. If you click "Notify Me" from the main calendar screen, you can get text messages to your cell phone or email notification for both event reminders and any schedule changes.

Thank you for being flexible and patient as we navigate the spring athletic season!

Go Hawks!

## Music

Congratulations to all the students on their wonderful performances at the District Band and Choir Concerts at the end of March! Their hard work was evident in the quality of every performance, bravo! Stay tuned for information regarding Spring Concerts and Performances.

## Student Council

The High School Student Council will be hosting its second blood drive on May 10th from 10am-4pm. Please consider donating! Each donation collected counts towards possible scholarship money for Holley students. Please contact Mr. DiSessa if you would like to make an appointment.

## Tech Club

GCC's annual Tech Wars competition occurred on 3/23 and Holley MS/HS sent 27 students to participate against schools across the GLOW region. Students engaged in competitions such as the Mystery Challenge, Paper Airplanes, and CO2 Car Racing and Design. The students were exposed to various new concepts and career opportunities that stress the importance of engineering and creativity. Holley HS took 1st place in the Mystery Challenge, whereas Ethan Race, Grant Smith and Caleb Donley constructed the tallest paper structure holding a ping pong ball at the top against nearly 100 other students. For the CO2 Car Race, Brody Schutz flew past the competition and claimed 1st place against 50+ HS racers. Will Kruger's car took 3rd place and Brody Fiorito's took 4th as well. Great job Holley!

