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## New Lebanon Jr./Sr. High School Introduces Agriculture Education with New Technology Teacher

New Lebanon Jr./Sr. High School is now offering multiple courses in agricultural education. Brandon Trinkle was hired for the 2023-24 school year as the new technology teacher and has added three new electives for students including Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Animal Science, Plant Science, and Agricultural Mechanics.

Trinkle, who grew up on a dairy farm, has many years of experience in agricultural education. He graduated with an Agricultural Business Management degree from SUNY Cobleskill and has hands-on experience working on dairy farms. He also created multiple agriculture programs throughout the state.

Students in the Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources course are receiving a comprehensive overview of the agriculture industry which includes animal science, plant science, business management, mechanical science, and leadership roles. This course is a steppingstone for students to identify their specific interests within agricultural education.

Trinkle's primary goal is to broaden students' perspectives regarding the diverse career opportunities available within agricultural education. "It affects your life every day, and there are career opportunities in agriculture that don't confine you to the farm or the field or being outside."

One project students are working on is the Farm-to-School initiative. This includes exploring local resources within the school and working with the community to provide locally grown food to our school. Additionally, the Animal Science class is focusing on the poultry industry, with plans to explore dairy, beef, and equine studies in the future.

The program aims to provide students with insights into various career pathways related to agriculture. As the

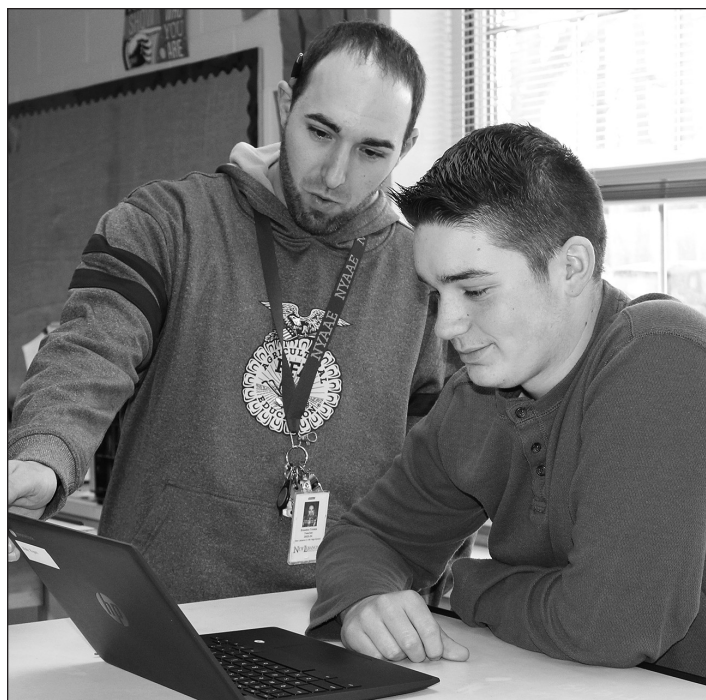


PHOTO: NLCS COMMUNICATIONS

program is still in its early stages, Trinkle hopes to expand the opportunities and garner more interest for future students.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer these new programs to our New Lebanon students. As a district, we strive to provide students with opportunities they can use past graduation and throughout their future careers. We are excited to see these new programs grow in New Lebanon."

— Superintendent Andrew Kourt



## Jr./Sr. High School Launches Electronic Literary Publication

Inspired by Mrs. Dickson's new creative writing course, New Lebanon Ink is the district's first electronic literary publication. Each month a prompt given by Mrs. Dickson is published to the website and open for students to respond. New Lebanon Ink gives students the opportunity to express themselves through written word. Explore students' work and discover upcoming prompts by visiting our website at <https://sites.google.com/newlebanoncsd.org/new-lebanon-ink/home>

## 2-Year Delay Travels to Rochester for NYSSMA Conference

In December, Jr./Sr. High School Music Teachers Mr. FitzGerald and Ms. Synakowski took 2-Year Delay students to the New York State Music Association Conference in Rochester, NY. New Lebanon CSD was invited to the conference to present on creating a modern band in public schools.

The presentation by FitzGerald and Synakowski aimed to inspire other music teachers to start the process of creating a rock band-style class in their school.

"We're the first in the county. We have some other districts that are interested in looking at doing it," said Synakowski.

During the presentation, students performed in front of teachers and professors from all over New York State and participated in the Q&A session at the end of the presentation.

Teachers statewide expressed their interest in implementing this program in their schools, even raising questions about how elementary school music programs could prepare students for this type of opportunity when they reach the high school level.

"School districts are so diverse in New York State. We had a really good discussion about how to mold and shape this

class to fit into their school districts," explained Synakowski.

Now in its second year, the 2-Year Delay class at the Jr./Sr. High has garnered great interest from students.

"There is a whole other element to this class other than learning music. We teach them how to use the PA system, book gigs, how to put together a band, and how to arrange songs," said FitzGerald.

"We're reaching a different kind of musician with this class," said Synakowski. "Some students are built to be in a rock band, and so this class really caters to that certain kind of musician. The kids are open to different kinds of music. It's another area they can explore."

"So many districts around the state are small like New Lebanon, and we were able to show them you can do this too," said FitzGerald.

New Lebanon CSD is thrilled that Mr. FitzGerald and Ms. Synakowski had the opportunity to showcase our unique music program at the NYSSMA Conference. 2-Year Delay provides our students with a platform to explore their musical interests and talents outside of the conventional concert band environment. It is a valuable experience that they can take with them beyond the walls of the high school.



PHOTO: NLCS COMMUNICATIONS



## WBH Drama Club Presents: Seussical Kids

For the first time since before COVID-19, the WBH Drama Club is gearing up to put on a show for families and friends with their performance of 'Seussical Kids'. The play is a take on multiple Dr. Seuss stories and brings Seuss's colorful characters to life on stage. Families can expect to see familiar characters from 'The Cat and The Hat' and 'Green Eggs and Ham'.

Thirty-four students from fourth, fifth, and sixth grades have been working once a week to learn new music and acting techniques. WBH Music Teacher Ms. Daino expressed that there has been a lot of interest from students in participating in the musical. "I walk around the school and I see the students with their scripts out, and singing their songs. They're really excited to the point that they're working outside of the club itself."

Preparing for the musical has allowed students to express themselves and grow confidence. "It gives them a different platform to figure out where they fit in socially,

and the expectations are a little different because we are all being goofy so if you are that type of person that wants to be expressive and loud that's okay," said Daino.

Ms. Daino hopes that students will take away a sense of friendship and trust with their classmates throughout this process. "They've been working hard together, and it's allowed them to do something outside of school that is a positive thing, creating a sense of school community."

Ms. Daino wants to acknowledge the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and the Columbia County Youth Theatre Program. This project has been supported by a grant from the New Lebanon Arts and Humanities Endowment of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, and the sets and costumes are on loan from the Columbia County Youth Theatre program.

Community members are invited to attend the performance of 'Seussical Kids' on Thursday, March 21st, and Friday, March 22nd at 6 pm at WBH.

## WBH Welcomes Rosie the Therapy Dog

Meet Rosie, WBH's new therapy dog! Rosie is fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Chandler's Goldendoodle, who joins her at school 2-3 days a week. They are both certified by Therapy Dog International.

In the mornings when Rosie accompanies Mrs. Chandler to school, they greet students outside her classroom as the students begin their day.

Additionally, special times have been scheduled throughout the day to enable teachers and students to interact with Rosie.

"The students have been very respectful and gentle towards her," said Chandler. "She brings joy and smiles to both students and teachers."

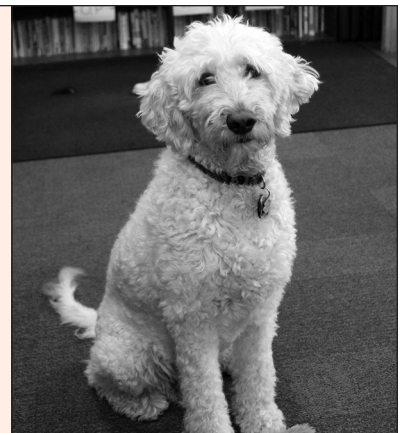


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## SUPERINTENDENT

Andrew Kourt

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## POSTAL PATRON

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## BNL Girls Wrestling Sees Success Two Consecutive Years

For the second consecutive year BNL Girls Wrestling made waves at the New York State Girls Wrestling Invitational. This year sisters Tallulah and Vivienne Powers headed to the invitational in Syracuse to represent BNL Girls Wrestling. Tallulah, a senior, was the New York State Runner Up for her wrestling division at last year's invitational. Vivienne, a freshman, entered the competition as an alternate in her weight class.

In only its second year BNL Girls Wrestling has made a name for themselves, outclassing larger districts in New York State Section 2.

"We've made a lot of strides mentally," says BNL Girls Wrestling Coach Jared DeLuca.

"We're hoping to get more students involved as time goes on. When they see success others want to join."

Both Coach DeLuca and Coach Prather believe exposure to the sport at a younger age is crucial for building up BNL Wrestling. A Youth Wrestling Club offered at the Jr./Sr. High School is hoping to garner more attention in interest in the BNL Boys and Girls Wrestling program.

"I think exposing young students to wrestling at an early age will help break some stigmas behind it because I know that it's a really tough sport, and you have to really train for it," says DeLuca.

"Girl's wrestling is the fastest-growing sport in the country," says Prather. "It's a good sport for discipline, and any size, shape, or weight can be successful. Any kid who puts dedication in can be a good wrestler."



PHOTO: BCSD COMMUNICATIONS

Tallulah finished 7th in the state at this year's invitational, showcasing the improvement in the level of competition at her weight over the past year, according to Coach Prather.

The district is proud of the BNL Wrestling program and it hopes to continue to see its growth in the upcoming years.