CONTENTS:

Superintendent's Message ................................ 2
PACS Health Offices ........................................ 2
COVID Updates .............................................. 2
Maintaining Facilities to Enhance Safety .......... 3
Communication at PACS ..................................... 3
Fueling Students Through Nutrition ................. 3
College & Career Advising Supports ............... 4
Student Success ............................................. 4
Maintaining High Standards For Transportation ................. 5
We're Going Virtual ....................................... 5
Business Office Keeping PACS Fiscally Responsible ................. 5
Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners ............... 6
PACS Education Plan ....................................... 6
Elementary School Opportunities .................... 7

Middle School Opportunities ........................... 8
High School Opportunities ............................... 9
Music & Arts Alive & well in Pulaski Schools .... 10
Blue Devil Athletics Thrive ............................ 11
Academic Center .......................................... 12
The Make Sense Shop ..................................... 12

www.pulaskicsd.org
The first day of school with faculty and staff each year is always a day of excitement and anticipation about the year ahead. We celebrate previous accomplishments, plan new initiatives, and prepare for our students. The optimism is palpable.

On the first day this year, we found ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic that has been a hundred years in the making and an economic crisis almost as unprecedented. We talked about how there will be uncertainty and anxiety, but there will also be joy and laughter, and many things to celebrate. It would be easy to despair over the many challenges we face. Instead, we remain optimistic.

The PACS community has come together, stayed positive, and lifted each other up. Our successes this year look different to be sure, but they are numerous and I hope you are as proud as I am of our staff, students, and community for all we are accomplishing together.

This Annual Report will highlight some of those successes and talk about where we hope to go in 2020-21. If you have any questions as you read through this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Tom Jennings
Superintendent
The PACS Facilities Department is moving away from a reactive model and working toward a proactive approach to maintaining the district’s buildings and grounds and, this year, the department is playing a crucially vital role to ensure the safety of students in its cleaning efforts.

Jim Sheeley says accountability for more thorough cleaning, sanitization, and raising standards have brought about the implementation of a program on district-provided Chromebooks. The program populates a list of cleaning tasks for each room and, as each one is completed, staff must check off each cleaning assignment. Through the purchase of touchless, high/low-pressure spray systems that clean everything from walls to urinals, the district is able to clean restrooms and locker rooms more effectively than if done by hand.

The Academic Center, an alternative school building which serves students from Sandy Creek, Mexico and APW, has been totally renovated. With few exceptions, this project was completed totally in house with a talented maintenance team well versed in the trades. The building adheres to ADA compliance and will feature newly installed LED lighting, a tankless on-demand water heater, and a new HVAC system with outside air exchange.

Nearing completion, Lura Sharp Elementary will showcase renovations to two elevations of its facade and infrastructure. Addressing water infiltration issues, these upgrades will keep the building warm and dry, yet keep much of its marvelous architecture in place.

Jim Sheeley
Director of Facilities
315.298.5103

Notifications & Reminders
We use a robust notification system to alert parents via phone, text and email in the event of an emergency school closing, upcoming events or other issues that concern you and your child. Please contact your child’s school to update your contact information or with any questions about the alert system. Important notices will also be found on the homepage of the website. You may also register for notifications of specific events on the District’s calendar page.

Returning Phone Calls & Emails
District faculty and staff are expected to return non-emergency phone calls and emails within two school days of receiving a message. Emergency phone calls are returned immediately.

Who to Contact
Frequently, parents and other community members request help in knowing the best way to communicate with the school. Please see the Staff Directory, pulaskicsd.org/directory, and Who To Contact chart on our website, pulaskicsd.org/contact

News & Events
School Calendar: pulaskicsd.org/calendar
Facebook: facebook.com/pacsacademy
Twitter: @PACS_Academy
News: Past and current school news stories on the homepage of the website
Newsletters: District publications including the graduate newsletter, programming guide, annual report, calendar, and budget newsletter: pulaskis.org/newsletters
Pulaski Academy and Central School has established a program of college and career advising, which will provide opportunities for students to experience college and career pathways throughout high school and prepare for their future.

**High school program offerings are rigorous and include 10 AP courses, more than 40 college credit opportunities through concurrent enrollment classes, and career and technical education experiences at CiTi BOCES.**

The PACS counseling team works to help students prepare goal-based plans for after high school. The preparation begins in ninth grade when students work with the College Board Program to create a portfolio that is reviewed annually and maintained throughout high school. The counseling team meets one-on-one with each student to review and update this plan. In addition to monitoring academic programs to support students in earning high school credits, required New York State sequences and fulfilling NYS Regents and Pathway Assessments, our school counselors build into the programming the following opportunities to aid students in the development of their post high school plans:

- College visits during the sophomore, junior and senior year college fairs
- Meetings with college admissions personnel
- College Board Program Review quarterly visits from military recruiters
- 1-on-1 support in completing college applications
- Freshman Year Orientation Night
- Sophomore Seminar Parent Night
- CiTi Orientation
- Junior College Information Night
- Junior and Senior Financial Aid Night

The district is also conducting a review of our career and college advising program during the 2020-21 school year. A special emphasis is being placed on career planning and alumni outreach.
MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS FOR TRANSPORTATION

Safety continues to be the top priority for the Transportation Department as several changes have been made to miles and routes to transport students to and from school.

This year, high school routes have been cut in half to accommodate for blue and crimson days on which separate groups of students attend school, as well as CiTi students.

One thing that hasn’t changed is the high standards we use to maintain our fleet of buses. Our inspections by the New York State Department of Transportation for the 2019-20 school year had a pass rate in the high 90s, which was roughly the same as the prior school year.

To meet the need of our shortage of bus drivers, an issue with which many school districts across the state are faced, mechanics, food service staff and monitors have been stepping up to help meet the need. Excellent state benefits, paid training and a rewarding career are only a few of the perks somebody in a full-time position can enjoy and we hope to gain drivers this year.

We will continue to work to ensure the safety of students and look forward to another successful school year.

‘WE’RE GOING VIRTUAL’

Similar phrases echoed throughout countless schools across New York State in the spring would signal radical changes to how technology would be used at Pulaski Academy & Central School District to educate students suddenly learning remotely.

As part of Pulaski’s planned one-to-one initiative, which aims to provide each student with one Chromebook, the district was able to quickly add to its Chromebook inventory last year. This enabled teachers to build their digital classrooms and allow students to get used to using Google Workspace (formerly G Suite). This combination put the district in a good position to provide continuous learning once our students had to move to fully remote classrooms at the end of the year. We provided mobile internet hotspots to families who did not have reliable internet access - we were able to get every student online.

Working with a dedicated committee of educators and administrators, PACS purchased additional software subscriptions to be integrated with the Google Workspace. Chromebooks, programmed with the learning management system, were distributed by staff, bus drivers and administrators who volunteered for the cause. “I think if you want to look at how we handled students’ and families’ needs, we successfully figured out how to get Chromebooks out to students who needed them,” Davis said. “It was a group effort.”

BUSINESS OFFICE KEEPING PACS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

School districts across the state, faced with a 20-percent hold on state aid due to the COVID-19 pandemic, were left to find ways to continue providing a quality education to students with fewer resources.

The same scenario was true for the PACS business office, which is responsible for maintaining the district’s budget, financial reports, accounting records, and ensuring district adherence to state and federal laws.

But thanks to careful spending and a tradition of sound financial planning, the district was able to end the year with a slight surplus to its fund balance.

The summer ended on a positive note as an external auditor combed through months of financial records, as is done on an annual basis, and gave the district a clean opinion. The complete audit report can be found on the school website, pulaskicsd.org/business.

With a current budget of $27,617,000, $7 million collected in property taxes, and a payroll with 200 part-time and full-time employees, Business Manager Sarah Starbird said the business office will continue to work purposefully to ensure a fiscally responsible future for the district.

“With the uncertainty moving forward, we are going to be very diligent about monitoring expenses and keeping track of our fund balance,” she said. “As the state adjusts its aid numbers, we will be closely monitoring that so we can maintain our healthy financial outlook.”
The Special Education Department at Pulaski Academy & Central Schools continually works hard to develop programs that fit the needs of our diverse learners through a collaboration between general education and special education teachers.

The department received 100-percent compliance for the New York State performance plan, Indicator 13, which evaluates transition planning for students age 15 and older within their IEP. "We are proud of this result as many special education teachers attended professional development sessions to refine their skills in this area," Special Education Department Chair Vanessa Phillips said. "Their hard work paid off in reaching this high goal." Pulaski is proud of the strong inclusive program that has been built.

At the “Make Sense Shop,” staff and students have been hard at work with hands-on vocational experiences through a store front, production area, and open restaurant structure. Students were provided with Fit Bits and goals were set for physical activity, along with completing daily tasks that are designed to foster school and workplace skills at the shop last year.

During the spring closure period, our eighth-grade students in resource periods were able to participate in virtual career-building opportunities by interviewing professionals in many different career paths.

To meet the goals of our students, the PACS Special Education Department has used an integrated co-teaching model for grades K-2; direct consultant teaching in grades 3 and above, resource room programming, as well as in a variety of CiTi programs. We remain committed to fully supporting our students and specialized programs.

Vanessa Phillips
Special Education Department Chair
315.298.5188

PACS Education Plan

What is the PACS Educational Plan?
The Pulaski Academy & Central School District Educational Plan is developed annually to evaluate and formulate programs, policies, and procedures that increase opportunity, engagement or achievement for students and improve other measures of success as determined by research, the PACS Educational Plan Committees, and the Board of Education.

The PACS Educational Plan and planning process will help keep us working together and focused on the “right work”. It is also intended to educate us about what effective schools look like.

This process encourages participation from students, faculty, staff, administrators, parents, and the community and approaches school improvement in an open and systematic way.

What does the Educational Plan process look like?
The Board of Education reviews and revises its Philosophy Statement, reviews previous PACS Educational Plan initiatives, studies relevant district data, surveys, and educational research, and establishes priority areas to begin the Educational Plan process.

District teams and committees conduct the work of developing the plan. They:
• Review district priority areas
• Study relevant district data, surveys, and educational research
• Identify areas of focus
• Develop initiatives to support district priorities

What are the Board of Education district priority areas for 2020-21?
Guidance department career/college advising program.
District capacity for online learning.
Leadership development.

How can I participate?
Attend one of our monthly Superintendent’s Coffee Hours to discuss your ideas. Check our district calendar for dates.
Take the annual Educational Plan online survey for parents, students, staff, and administrators.

For more information please contact Superintendent Tom Jennings at the PACS District Office.
At Lura Sharp Elementary School, we focus on creating a healthy and positive school atmosphere. Our small class sizes allow us to support students in all academic areas and challenge them to reach their highest potential academically and with positive behavior. PACS Elementary teachers are highly qualified to teach and engage in ongoing curricular review to continually improve our educational programs. Each year, teachers review NYSED testing data, local assessment data, and benchmarking data to identify students’ strengths and the areas for targeted growth on NYSED and national educational standards. Grades Pre-K-5 have continued providing instruction using Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) as our ELA and literacy curriculum, and we incorporate Heggerty models of instruction to help our students grow as readers. In doing this, PACS implements a continual curriculum growth model and strives for on-going for continued improvement with curricula revisions. At Lura Sharp elementary, we strive to broaden students’ choices and opportunities, and to make learning fun. Our students are reminded that they are respectful, responsible, safe, a problem-solver, and that they matter

### Elementary School Opportunities

#### Joelle Hendry
Principal
315.298.2412

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRICULUM</th>
<th>SUMMER ACADEMIC PROGRAM</th>
<th>COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS</th>
<th>CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Knowledge Reading Program PreK-5</td>
<td>Music grades K-5</td>
<td>Backpack Food Program</td>
<td>Odyssey of the Mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eureka Math Program</td>
<td>Band grade 5</td>
<td>Heaven’s Hands Sneaker Program</td>
<td>PARP (Pick a Reading Partner)</td>
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<td>MOBY MAX</td>
<td>Chorus grades 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>School Based Heath Center</td>
<td>Battle of the Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mind Yeti</td>
<td>Library grades PreK-5</td>
<td>Team Sheldon</td>
<td>Yoga/Mindfulness Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Program</td>
<td>Physical Education grades PreK-5</td>
<td>Oswego County Literacy Initiative (OCLI)</td>
<td>Running Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIBELS NEXT</td>
<td>Media Classes Grades 2-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Art Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadience Math</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lego Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>UPK Half-Day Programs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stay Sharp Reading Program</td>
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<td>Sharp Students Achieve In Learning Mystery Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response to Intervention K-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech and Language Improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banana Splits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Education Services and Programming</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Halloween Parade
- Veterans’ Day
- Family Fun Night
- Scholastic Book Fairs
- Kids Night Out
- Flag Day
- Scoville Olympics
- Academic Field Trips
- Imagination Library
At Pulaski Middle-High School, our focus is student-centered. Our highly qualified teachers work to foster growth in academics, character and social-emotional development. Students are provided opportunities to pursue their own interests in academics and extracurricular activities, and to begin to develop their sense of self. Our teachers have worked on developing quality assessments that are given throughout the year and as finals at the culmination of the year. Assessments are closely aligned to NYSED Standards and yearly our teachers review NYSED testing data, and local assessment data (at each grade level) to identify students’ strengths and the areas of targeted growth. The teachers have developed and continually review the curriculum scope and sequence documents to best plan for instruction and carefully allot time to instructing and assessing the students’ growth in educational standards. The skills developed in our middle school programs lay the foundation for success in high school.

### Middle School Opportunities

**Patrick Vrooman**  
Principal  
315.298.5103

**Jim Karcz**  
Assistant Principal  
315.298.5103

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### Middle School Course Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject/Activity</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELA AIS</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math AIS</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Fair</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish I</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chorus</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Band</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marching Band</td>
<td>7 &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Piano</td>
<td>7 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and Consumer Science</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>6, 7, &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Applications</td>
<td>6 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>7 &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Applications</td>
<td>6 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>7 &amp; 8</td>
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</tbody>
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### Middle School Special Programs

- Special Education Services & Programming 6, 7, & 8
- Academic Field Trips
- Advisement Period
- Character Education
- Counseling
- School-Based Health Center

### Middle School Athletics (Grades 7 & 8)

- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Football
- Swimming
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Indoor Track
- Baseball
- Softball
- Track & Field

### Middle School Clubs

- Drama Club
- Student Council
- Art Club
- Book Club
- Science Club
- Battle of the Books
- Seeds of Success
- All County Band & Chorus
- STEM Club
- Trivia Club

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# High School Opportunities

## English Language Arts
- English 9
- English 10
- English 11
- AP Literature & Composition/College English 11
- English 12
- AP Language & Composition/College English 12
- ELA Lab

## Math
- Algebra 1
- Intermediate Algebra
- Geometry
- Algebra 2
- Consumer Math
- College Precalculus
- AP/College Calculus
- Math Lab

## Science
- Living Environment with lab
- Earth Science with lab
- Chemistry with lab
- Physics with lab
- AP Environmental Science
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Science AIS

## Social Studies
- Global History 9
- AP World History 9
- Global History 10

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
- AP World History 10
- US History 11
- AP US History 11
- Participation in Government 12
- College Government 12
- Economics
- AP Macroeconomics
- Social Studies AIS

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE
- Spanish 2
- Spanish 3
- Spanish 4 (AP/College)

## Health & Physical Education
- Health
- Physical Education grades 9, 10, 11, & 12

## Art
- Studio Art
- Painting & Drawing
- Ceramics
- Digital Photography
- AP 2D Art & Design
- AP Art History

## Music
- Chorus with group lessons
- Piano
- Band with group lessons
- Marching Band
- Drumline

## Technology & Business
- Personal Professional Planning
- CAD/Advanced CAD
- Drawing & Design for Production
- Trades 1 & 2

## Citi Programs
- Advanced Metal Manufacturing
- Auto Body Repair
- Auto Technology
- Computer Coding
- Construction Technology
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Digital Media Technology
- Early Childhood Education
- Heavy Equipment Repair & Operation
- Industrial Electrical Technologies
- Nursing Assistant
- Outdoor Power
- Equipment Technology
- Public Safety & Justice
- Welding Technology
- New Vision Allied Health
- New Vision Law & Government
- New Vision Specialized Careers
- P-TECH

## Special Programs
- Special Education Services & Programming
- Make Sense Shop
- work-based learning program
- College and Career Advising
- Counseling
- Academic Center
- alternative education program
- Distance Learning
- Online Courses
- Advisement Period
- Tutoring Program
- Academic Field Trips
- School-Based Health Center

## High School Clubs
- Peer Leaders
- National Honor Society
- Student Council
- Art Club
- Varsity Club
- Envirothon
- OCAY League
- Mock Trial
- Yearbook
- Trivia Club
- Drama Club
- Game Club
Music & Arts Alive and Well in Pulaski Schools

Fine Arts Chair Jack Jennings believes if there’s a will, there’s a way. And if there’s one thing Pulaski administrators and students can always agree on, it’s that nothing can separate a student and their desire to create and perform art and music.

Although concert band, marching band, jazz band, choirs, drama club and state ensembles will be held either outdoors or virtually for the 2020-21 school year, students still have the opportunity to showcase their skills and talents, thanks to a community effort.

“When you have groups as large as us, it’s certainly challenging,” Jennings said, referencing the 12-foot distancing guidelines some 100 students now follow for band practice and concerts. “The biggest example of why this worked is we did not jump on the first wagon that came down the road.”

Performances planned for this year include a middle school drama performance of “A Christmas Carol,” as well as a holiday ensemble by the concert band of seasonal songs. A video compilation of the performances will be packaged and shared on social media by CITI PR, ensuring parents and the community can still enjoy student performances.

Students worked hard to prepare for an October 30 outdoor performance by the band, drumline and color guard, which was unfortunately canceled due to a two-week closure of the Middle-High School.

Looking ahead, we are hopeful the marching band will be able to outside for performances beginning in March to kick off “Music in our Schools” month and that regional and local events will have a semblance of normalcy.

Middle-High School Enhances Art Tracks

At the high school, we have been working toward creating art tracks for students who are interested in focusing in one specific area of art. We now have a traditional art track, which focuses more in drawing and painting and other traditional media. We now also have a media arts track which focuses on digital photography and other digital media. We are continuing to offer other electives as well such as ceramics. One of our goals is to add on a 3D art track to our program as well. We have started by adding one 3D art course to our curriculum.

Despite the many challenges that COVID has presented us with, our high school students took part in many opportunities throughout the 2019-20 school year. Thirteen of our students earned regional recognition at the Scholastics Art Competition this year. Our students earned three gold keys, four silver keys, and six honorable mentions. Our Artist of the Year show highlighting Roy Lichtenstein was a huge success this winter, and our students pulled many awards during the Virtual Oswego County Show and Competition this past spring. Eight of our students’ work was also highlighted this spring at the Beaver Lake Student Art Naturally show and we submitted two works to the State Legislative Exhibit as well, which was unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic.

Art Opportunities Expanded at Elementary School

At the elementary school, one of our goals at the end of the 2019-20 school year was to create equity in special area instruction for the upcoming school year. In our old weekly schedule, students who had Friday specials would miss those specials at a much higher frequency than the rest of the school. To solve this problem, we changed the special areas schedule from a weekly schedule to a six-day schedule. By switching to a six-day schedule, it is not always the Friday classes that miss their special area classes due to half days, parent/teacher conferences, and snow days, thereby creating equity in special area instruction.

We also built in time for more art opportunities in the six-day schedule by creating an Art Club for fourth and fifth-graders. Unfortunately, due to COVID complications, we are not yet able to offer the Art Club this year. We are hoping that if restrictions change in the spring that we may be able to start Art Club then, or we may be looking forward to starting Art Club in fall 2021.

The work of elementary artists was highlighted at the annual NYSATA Legislative Student Art Exhibition in Albany in March 2020. Although the Art Show ultimately ended up being canceled, we were proud to send the work of Malachy Ruddy, Abigail Brown, Vaughn Balcom, Delilah Falato, and Maggie Andrzejczak.
Blue Devils Athletics Thrive

Pulaski Blue Devils pride is alive and well as fall sports kicked off with a successful season, thanks to the teamwork of student athletes, coaches, parents and staff.

While this season may look a bit different, with football postponed until spring 2021, female student athletes had the option to play varsity cross country, soccer and tennis, and modified cross country and soccer. Male athletes were able to participate in both varsity and modified cross country. We are waiting to hear from NYS about the fate of winter sports - basketball and wrestling.

“The Board of Education and Superintendent Tom Jennings have allowed us to develop a plan to complete our season within State and Department of Health guidance,” PACS Athletic Director Karcz said. “We are very proud that the coaches and players have been able to implement the plans with discipline and consistency.”

In preparation for football’s return in March, students have been visiting the weight room twice a week for strength training and conditioning.

“Our community and players have renewed enthusiasm with our move back to 11-man football,” Jim said. “We have developed a league with Oswego County schools and we’re ready to renew some rivalries and compete!”

All coaches have been trained on PPE use and student athletes have been following guidelines from the New York State Department of Health, including social distancing, wearing masks at practices and games, and ensuring equipment is washed after every practice and games.
ACADEMIC CENTER

The Pulaski Academy & Central School District Academic Center (AC) provides a supported, self-paced education in an alternative and flexible setting. Our goal is to promote personal growth and academic success while meeting the social and emotional needs of students in a welcoming and caring environment. Our alternative educational program accepts 9th grade through 12th grade students from the Pulaski, Sandy Creek, Mexico, and Altmar-Parish-Williamstown (APW) school districts. The AC provides a unique environment for students offering: small class sizes, alternative seating, flexible scheduling, incentive programs and a blended remote learning options.

The AC staff works closely with students on goal completion, progress monitoring, and offers individualized academic support. This is done so students can earn credit recovery and credit accrual toward earning a high school diploma. The AC program culminates with students that successfully complete all required courses and NYS assessments earning a high school diploma through their home district. Frequent communication with students, home districts, and with parents/guardians occurs to best help the students to achieve this educational goal.

THE MAKE SENSE SHOP

The Make Sense Shop is located in downtown Pulaski and offers a number of services to the local community. Patrons of our business can enjoy shopping in our gift shop along with having a tasty lunch from our cafe. Our building houses a fully functional commercial kitchen, and a variety of crafts and gifts to purchase, some of which are student produced and finished. Our shop employs students from the Pulaski, Sandy Creek, APW, and Camden school districts in this enriching educational, workplace environment.

The mission of the Make Sense Shop is to provide a unique educational experience to current and post-graduate high school students with special needs. We are focused and committed to help students with special needs transition successfully from the school to a work environment. At the Make Sense Shop, students experience the workplace setting and interact, and learn within a functioning store, production area and restaurant, in a safe and welcoming educational setting. By offering an opportunity to learn employment skills and life skills, the Make Sense Shop fosters critical developmental learning for the benefit of all students and the surrounding businesses with whom we cooperate. The combined efforts of the internship program and surrounding community businesses provide the best possible chance for our students to find success after graduation and post high school. Please check out our menu below, or access the link provided and see what we have available for purchase during the holiday shopping season.

Mike Bateson,
Principal for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
315.298.2412