Dear District Residents:

Red Jacket Pride is embodied in everything we do here at Red Jacket - it is evident as you walk through the halls of our schools, enter our classrooms, or attend any of our events.

Just as important, but often not considered, are the values, norms, and beliefs that are taught indirectly which often we assume others know. In education, this is an aspect of what is known as the hidden curriculum. The influence of the hidden curriculum should not be underestimated because important messages are often sent from situational encounters, interactions, and decisions - whether intended or not.

We are well aware of the influence of the hidden curriculum at Red Jacket. On opening day of school for staff, we dug deep collectively, to expose and interpret the meaning of our mission, shared vision, core beliefs and values to understand better how they translate into our individual roles and behaviors. As a result, we made “Red Jacket Pride Promises” to make our school a better place, no matter what our role.

The New York State Education Department recently recognized our high school as a Reward School in leading New York State toward the accomplishment of educational excellence through an increase in student achievement and closing the gap in student performance. We have very dedicated, collaborative, talented teachers at all levels at Red Jacket and we also get results, based in part, on the “extras” they provide to our students by going beyond the curriculum and reaching into the hidden curriculum. Building trusting, caring relationships with our students and families is essential to student success and motivation and it is easier to do in a small school. A clear message is sent when a dedicated teacher takes his/her planning times to provide additional assistance to struggling students. This happens routinely at Red Jacket. Our students can see that our teachers care about them and are genuinely concerned about their academic performance. This type of positive relationship happens more naturally in smaller schools and pays dividends for our students, impacting their performance as well as their character development, throughout their school years and beyond.

Our school has undergone a facelift and the fresh paint throughout ALL our schools has helped to create a prideful learning environment for our students and staff. After spending the summer painting, Mr. Russell Watson, the newest member of the maintenance department of three, took the initiative to repaint an area that had been marred, knowing the impact environment has on attitudes and feelings. Mr. Watson’s initiative sent a message to our students that we take pride in our environment and, beyond that, it tells me that Mr. Watson takes pride in his work. Likewise, as a result of a disruption in the cleaning schedule to address another facility need, Ms. Kathy Haas, head of our cleaning department, came to work with her co-worker and daughter, Ms. Kara Haas, on the weekend prior to the start of school to finish waxing the floors because they wanted the facility to be ready for the start of school so that students and staff would feel good in their environment. These folks can be counted on when any need arises. This level of care and commitment to a job well done does not go unnoticed.

“Hidden” messages, large or small, translate across all areas of our school program, including athletics. At our Homecoming Varsity Football Game against South Seneca on September 28th, our football coaches, led by Coach Marc Vitticore, demonstrated to their athletes, spectators, and community the heart of the meaning of dignity, respect, and sportsmanship.

continued on page 2
Here is what two spectators had to say regarding their “take-away” from the Red Jacket versus South Seneca Homecoming Varsity Football Game that day:

To the Administration, Coaching staff, Players and the whole Red Jacket Community:

On Sat. 9-28-13, we played your football team at your homecoming day. Our football team has struggled for the last several years on enrollment and, therefore, we have a handful of kids that play their heart out no matter the outcome. Coming into Red Jacket, South Seneca has not won a game in the last 2 years and knowing Red Jacket, being a power team, our boys knew it would be rough.

Your coaching staff, knowing the struggles this team has had, did something that I can only state is one class act. Your coaches, I assume, utilized all your players, to the point where our boy’s were able to move the ball, and even score a touchdown. Your coaches could have easily pounded this team into the ground, but they chose not to and for this I would like to thank and praise them for being such a Class Act. You do not know what this meant to our boys on that field and they knew that the starters of Red Jacket did not see a lot of playing time. Not only did it lift our player’s spirits, but we, as parents, were very proud of your coaching staff.

Please thank everyone for that little lift you gave this team. All of you at Red Jacket are one Class Act and I will never be able to say enough about your sports program.

Thank you again.
Parent of SS football player, Bob Steele

Dear Charlene Harvey,

As a visitor spectator from South Seneca I wanted to say I was quite impressed with the total sportsmanship of your football program. Your coaching staff deserves many compliments. I enjoyed the game and talking to some of your alumni. It is nice to see the message being sent to the kids and not having to deal with a nasty blowout.

Enjoy your homecoming.

Please forward this message to the head football coach.
Lee Dresser

I thanked Mr. Steele and Mr. Dresser for taking the time to provide such thoughtful, positive feedback that, unfortunately, we do not often hear from our visitor spectators. I think we can all learn lessons of sportsmanship, and the importance of treating others the way we want to be treated - with dignity - from the South Seneca experience. Our coaches and the adults in our student’s lives are role models and our adult behaviors, responses, and reactions are being observed by our children. Athletic opportunities for our students should be positive, lifelong memorable experiences that teach life lessons of respect, dignity, pride, teamwork, dedication, AND that sportsmanship in competition and having fun is more important than winning or losing – they are kids after all. This is the very message I gladly received from the leadership and actions of Coach Vitticore and his assistant coaches after the South Seneca game. It would be a feather in our cap if Red Jacket became known for excellence in sportsmanship across all our sports.

I am proud of our students and staff at the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District. You simply cannot match the opportunities our small school, with such a supportive community, has to offer children. Larger schools attempt to emulate the small school experience by creating “houses” or “teams” within their large buildings and classes. Our Red Jacket Team is exceptional, dedicated, caring, and accessible; our students and their parents receive more individual attention and without a doubt, we get results, whether it’s in athletics, the arts, or within our academic programs. We are a competitive, proud, small public school that uniquely provides a personal, private school type of experience. It doesn’t get better than that! I thank you all for your continued support.

With Red Jacket Pride,
Charlene Harvey
Superintendent of Schools
As I told our students on the first day of school, Red Jacket High School is an excellent place to go to school by any measurement. We have an admirably low suspension rate, a consistently high average daily attendance rate, and a stellar passing rate on every Regents exam. We offer a wide array of classes, including a very healthy roster of art, business, technology, and consumer science classes. Students also have the tremendous opportunity to graduate with many college credits. To date, we offer seven AP classes, ten Gemini classes, and, starting this year, many more virtual AP courses. Over the last two years, Red Jacket High School has been recognized as an outstanding school by US News and World Report and Newsweek, and it has also been named a Reward School for the 2013 school year by the New York State Department of Education. Our students are also very well-rounded; many of them participate in multiple athletic, musical, and artistic activities in addition to working hard in the classroom.

The teachers on my staff and I take our tradition of excellence very seriously and we are constantly in search of ways to improve. Over the past two years, we have worked to improve enrollment in upper level math and science classes, not because there is a mandate to do so, but because we believe that students who challenge themselves in math and science throughout high school will be more successful in college and in life. We also encourage students to explore vocational and art classes and continue studying foreign languages beyond the state requirements for the same reason. We believe in keeping as many doors open to students as possible. In our ever-changing world, it is difficult to predict which careers will be in demand when our students enter the marketplace and even impossible to predict the path a student’s career will take him or her over the course of a lifetime.

In addition to making academic progress, it is also important to me that Red Jacket High School is a supportive environment for developing young adults. Our school needs to remain something in which we can take pride. To that end, the High School Building Council and I have been exploring Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for the last two years. You may have noticed the PRIDE posters around the school, the PRIDE Points behavior incentive program, the new paint on the walls, and the new pictures of students that line our halls, but you probably aren’t aware that these things are the result of ongoing data analysis and planning. Last year alone, our work resulted in a dramatic decrease in office referrals and suspensions. By using PBIS, it is our belief that our school, like the many other schools that have used it, can become a more positive place for all of our students.

Respectfully,

Jim Niedermeier
High School Principal

To the Families of our Red Jacket Community,

After 20 years as a RJ PTSA Board member, I will be stepping down by the end of June 2014.

I am proud of the successes of our Board. One of our major highlights was the installation of the elementary playground. The RJ PTSA funded approximately $100,000 to construct the entire playground. We added a basketball court a few years later through the dedication and commitment of our community.

I have enjoyed planning and hosting our events: Family Matters, PARP, roller skating parties, TV Busters, and Santa’s Secret Shop. It would be my hope for the future that these events can continue and/or return.

I have had the privilege of working with a great group of ladies. I would like to thank them for their years of service as they will also be stepping down in June: Betsy Phillips (14 years), Christine Colburn (14 years), Audrey Clark (8 years), and Judy VanNorman (4 years).

As Stephani Hutson learns the ropes this year and continues her commitment to the RJ PTSA, we look to the community for new Board members for next year, and we wish her our best for continued success. If you are interested in learning more about the RJ PTSA, please call me at 289-9647 x2035.

It is with heart-felt gratitude that I thank the community for all of your support over the years – it has made our PTSA a huge success!

Respectfully,

Sandy Bott
Although it seems like school just started a few days ago, I can say with certainty the new year is well underway with teachers and students fully engaged in active learning every period of every day. As a new member of the Red Jacket Middle School faculty, it has been an amazing experience to see how the school operates on a day to day basis. I can only hope each student has learned as much in the last few weeks as I have because, if that’s true, they are well on their way to an excellent - and challenging - year.

You are probably aware that the vision statement for the school district begins with: “Every employee of the District plays a vital role in the success of our students. With uncompromising commitment in the pursuit of excellence, we will meet the unique needs of every student...” One of the many things I have learned so far is just how true that statement is! I have been very impressed with the commitment of the staff to know your child, to learn their strengths, and to meet their needs no matter what. The interest in each student as a person is not just from two or three teachers, but from all of them. It’s a perfect example of taking a vision statement and making it come alive.

As a parent and community member, you may wonder how that will benefit our students the most. First, each teacher has accepted the challenge of making sure every student has a passing grade of 70% in all classes. To do that will require effort on the part of the student but will also require a consistent effort on the part of the teachers. It is a challenge they have accepted willingly and enthusiastically. With the adoption of the Common Core Learning Standards and the corresponding changes in course content, teaching methods, lesson plans, and vocabulary (among others changes), it can be a tall order to be sure all students will not just have the passing grade, but will advance academically as far as they can in all classes. Tall order or not, those are the goals the Red Jacket Middle School teachers have adopted for the year and I commend them for their genuine belief in the potential of all students.

Having worked in much larger school districts in the last few years, I can say with confidence one of the things that makes Red Jacket stand out is the interpersonal connections teachers have with students. It’s much harder to “slip through the cracks” when almost everyone knows who you are. From reading ability levels, daily attendance figures, homework completion patterns, and so many more factors, teachers know their students (even though there may be some kids who wish they didn’t!). The team approach to teaching goes well beyond the core instructional teams at each grade level - it applies to the school staff as a whole and how they support each student. That will be especially helpful as our kids become more involved in the Common Core Learning Standards, the increased academic requirements, and the drive towards college and career readiness.

Respectfully,

Ralph Undercoffler
Interim Middle School Principal
Dear Red Jacket Families and Community Members,

Red Jacket Elementary School is a rare gem! In a time where bigger is often referred to as better, Red Jacket is proof of just the opposite. Our intimate and small school environment offers families the unique opportunity to be a part of a school community that feels more like a family than an educational institution. Children are known in the hallways by name and families have generations of descendents who have walked the halls of Red Jacket. One of the greatest compliments to a school district is when you see alumni’s descendents in its student body! It is only further proof of the excellence that Red Jacket provides generation after generation. Our District mission, vision, beliefs, and core values further define the excellence that Red Jacket is committed to providing to our next generation.

“We will promote healthy habits...” (District Vision) You will notice when walking into Red Jacket Elementary School’s Cafeteria that we are an award-winning school for encouraging our student body to make healthy choices and providing healthy choices through our breakfast and lunch programs. These are important healthy habits that begin both at home and at school. Our food services manager, Dorrie Dunham, works hard to ensure that the elementary menu is interesting and delicious for our children!

“We will cultivate student ownership for goal-setting, learning and citizenship by partnering with families and community groups.” (District Vision) One of our important building goals this school year is family engagement. As a result, we have moved the meeting times of our PTSA meetings to accommodate families so that we can increase our PTSA involvement. There is also a story hour in the library at the same time as our PTSA meetings so that families can bring their children! Our last meeting was very well attended and we thank all of the parents that came. I would like to thank all of the long-standing PTSA leaders for their heartfelt dedication to Red Jacket Elementary: Sandy Bott (20 years), Betsy Phillips (14 years), Christine Colburn (14 years), Audrey Clark (8 years), and Judy VanNorman (4 years). After their many years of dedicated service, they are looking for new and eager replacements. We encourage new families to become involved this year and learn more about PTSA so that we have another strong crew of leaders moving forward!

“With uncompromising commitment in the pursuit of excellence, we will meet the unique needs of every student...” (District Vision) One of the most valuable assets that Red Jacket has is in its highly educated, caring, and compassionate faculty and staff that work with our children daily. I am so impressed by their dedication to meeting the needs of every child and providing a safe, caring, and welcoming environment. They are truly a precious resource!

Red Jacket, Red Jacket, Hooray!

Respectfully,

Mrs. Marisa Philp
Elementary School Principal
Early Intervention

For children 0-3 years

Are you concerned about your child’s speech development, physical development, ability to learn, social skills, or self-help skills?

Does your child have a disability? Would your family like more information, help, or support?

If so, you can contact Ontario County Early Intervention program at 585-396-4439 for a free screening.

Don’t delay! In the words of Robert Ehrlich, “Experts tell us 90% of brain development occurs by the age of five. If we don’t begin thinking about education in the early years, our children are at risk of falling behind by the time they start kindergarten.”

After the screening, if your child qualifies as a child with a disability, with your permission, your child may then eligible for several services at no cost to you, including:

• Speech-language services
• Occupational therapy
• Physical therapy
• Vision services
• Special instruction
• Psychological services
• Nutrition services
• Nursing services
• Family training/counseling/supervision and respite services
• Service coordination
• Transportation

For more information please contact either early intervention at the above number or Amy Walton, School Psychologist, at Red Jacket at 289-9647. For concerns about your 3-4 year old child, please contact the school district’s CPSE Office directly at 289-3478.

Social Media Presentation

Last week, basketball coach Scott Fitch spoke to RJHS students about the lasting digital footprint students leave whenever they post something online. As I’m sure you know, negative posts can have real life consequences if employers or colleges investigate the online character of their applicants. Our students were visibly nervous to find out that their posts could go public at any time. It is also very clear that negative posts can also hurt others. Please note that we have a referral for any type of bullying on our website.
During the summer of 2012, Red Jacket teachers came together with administrators to create new curriculum maps to guide their instruction of the new ELA & Math Common Core State Standards. Had we known what the assessments for the spring of 2013 would look like, we would have used Best Practices in Curriculum Design and “begun with the end in mind.” Instead, everyone made educated decisions based on documents shared by the New York State Education Department. We paired our 7th and 8th grade math teachers with our K-5 teachers to develop plans that would appropriately target the standards, along with providing professional development on sound mathematical techniques for instruction.

During the summer of 2013, teachers again came together to review work from the 2012-2013 school year and begin to investigate the newly released NYS Common Core Modules. Again, only a few modules were available and we were unable to create a long-term plan. We also had no access to the restricted State assessments that were administered in the spring and, therefore, were unable to use performance information to make curricular decisions. We focused on student needs and our goal of moving them forward. Plans were created, based on the limited information we had from the State. Many teachers attended professional development to help them better understand the new standards and modules.

Our original intent was to adopt the modules and follow them, believing they would afford our students the best, research-based instruction. During these first few weeks of the school year, we’ve found that adapting the modules is in the best interest of both our teachers and our students. We are studying them and then making instructional decisions that are developmentally appropriate for our students. Even

Commissioner King has recently shared that the modules are resources and encouraged Districts to use them as such. We continue to work with staff and offer professional development opportunities that will enhance our ability to make sound curricular decisions.

We will be devoting our early release days to collaboration amongst staff, K-12, on how to implement the modules and standards, as well as the impact that decisions at each level will have on the grades above them. We will strive to construct a solid foundation at the primary level that can be built on for increasing success in the elementary, middle, and high school.

Please practice patience and encourage your child as they encounter the new, rigorous work that the Common Core brings. We are here to support them and teach them how to persevere. We need to hear from you if they are struggling. Please feel free to contact their teacher, building principal or myself if we can be of any assistance to you or your child. We are here for you.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Kristine Guererró
Assistant Superintendent
Out-of District Transportation Requests
Due April 1, 2014
for 2014-2015 School Year

Manchester-Shortsville Central School District parents who will have children attending non-public schools outside of the district in 2014-2015 must file a request for transportation by April 1, 2014.

Please note that even if a child already attends a non-public school and receives transportation, the request must be filed again for 2014-2015.

The following form should be completed and sent to the Assistant Superintendent, Manchester-Shortsville Central School District, 1506 Route 21, Shortsville, NY 14548.

Name of Student: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
Grade Level: ____________________________
Date of Birth: ____________________________
Name of School: ____________________________
School Address: ____________________________
Parent/Guardian: ____________________________
Home Telephone: ____________________________

Return form to:
Kristine Guererrri, Assistant Superintendent
Manchester-Shortsville Central School District
1506 Route 21
Shortsville, NY 14548

What Good Readers Do

1. Make predictions before and during reading.

2. Make connections to their own lives as they read.

3. Make connections in the text as they read.

4. Try to determine the meaning of unknown words as they read by using the sentences around the unfamiliar word.

5. Visualize as they read.

6. Reflect on what they read (summarize, question, evaluate).

7. Ask questions - Why is this happening? What does it mean?

8. Write about what they read to support their understanding.
Congratulations Mrs. Ryan

If you happen to see Mrs. Ryan, congratulate her for 30 years of service to the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District! You likely know Mrs. Ryan as our high school counselor, however, she has served our students and community at all levels over the years. Mrs. Ryan spends her free time volunteering at our school and within the community, whether it is helping with our musicals, attending events or fund raising for various causes.

She has no plans to retire anytime soon – which is good news for Red Jacket!

On behalf of our Red Jacket students from the past and the present, the Board of Education, the Red Jacket community, and your entire Red Jacket Family:

Thank you, Mrs. Ryan, for your 30 years of service to our children, community and District!

MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC COMMENT - Pledge of Conduct

• The speaker understands this is a meeting of the Board of Education in a public setting, not an open public meeting and will respect that purpose.
• The speaker will address the Board President.
• All remarks shall be addressed to the Board as a body and not to any member thereof.
• The speaker will direct all comments to issues.
• The speaker may disagree, but will be respectful to others.

The Board provides a time for “public comment” at each meeting. Procedures are as follows:
• Those wishing to address the Board must sign up prior to the start of the BOE meeting.
• Speakers will be called in the order in which they sign up.
• Speakers will be given up to two (2) minutes to address the Board.
• Additional written comments may be left with the Board Clerk.
• Up to ten (10) speakers will be given the opportunity to address the Board.
• In order to effectively deal with the regularly scheduled business on the agenda, the Board will not engage in dialogue or respond to questions posed by the public.
• This opportunity should not be a vehicle to avoid appropriate channels of communication with teachers or administrators. It is expected that attempts to solve problems with those directly involved have been tried prior to sharing comments.
• Personal attacks are inappropriate during “public comment” and will be ruled out of order by the Board President. Confidential personnel matters may only be discussed by the Board in Executive Session in accordance with the law.
Chain of Contact
First Contact: Coach
Second Contact: Athletic Director, Mr. Yehl
Third Contact: Building Principal
Fourth Contact: Superintendent Harvey

Sportsmanship
Excellence in sportsmanship is a top priority for the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District. Displaying proper conduct is expected of all participants, coaches, chaperones, parents/guardians and spectators.

Red Jacket takes pride in demonstrating:

1) the ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play;
2) winning AND losing with grace and dignity;
3) respect, courtesy, professionalism, and humble leadership;
4) cordial courtesy to visitors and officials;
5) respect for the judgment of officials;
6) self control, good judgment, and positive initiative;
7) acceptance of rules and standards of eligibility.

Philosophy

Modified Program
• Focuses on the fundamentals of the game.
• Emphasizes academics, sportsmanship, chemical-free lifestyle, socio-emotional growth, commitment, and dedication.
• Plays all participants, in good standing, in every game; however, they may not all play equally in each game.

Junior Varsity (JV) Program
• Emphasizes academics, sportsmanship, team play, chemical-free lifestyle, physical conditioning, and refinement of basic skills.
• Teaches athletes how to cope with winning and losing properly.
• Plays athletes at the discretion of the coach.

Varsity Program
• Emphasizes academics, sportsmanship, team play, leadership, role modeling, chemical-free lifestyle, individual ability, motivation, community service, and mental attitude.
• Plays to win but understands and accepts the lessons of losing.
• Plays athletes at the discretion of the coach, not every athlete will play in every contest.
TOP of the Trades

Congratulations to Angela Liastsos
Criminal Justice for September

for being awarded the Finger Lakes Vocational Center's Top of the Trades Award.

Census Information Needed

We would like to ask your help in maintaining our census. If you are a new family to our district that has a pre-schooler or if you are a family that has a new addition to your family since June 2009, please complete the form below and return to: Red Jacket Central School, c/o Barb Hansen, 1506 Route 21, Shortsville, NY 14548.

Thank you for your assistance.

Father's Name: ____________________________
Mother's Name: ____________________________
Street Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
Phone #: ____________________________
Child's Full Name: ____________________________
Male or Female: ______  Date of Birth: ________

PTSA Family Matters Night

Family Matters Night
Saturday, February 8, 2014
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
ES Building
Loads of fun and activities will be available for kids of all ages.

Presented by the Red Jacket PTSA

SPECTATOR RISK

Spectators and adults are deemed to assume normal risk with the attendance, participation and viewing of school events.

Parents and guardians of students assume all normal risks while their child attends and participates in school programs.
UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC
7  SAT Exam
11  Board of Education Mtg 7:00pm, HS Aud Lobby
17  MS Winter Concert 7:00pm, HS Auditorium
17  15 Week Marking Period Ends
18  HS Winter Concert 7:00pm, HS Auditorium
19  ES Winter Concert 7:00pm, HS Auditorium
23  Winter Break December 23-January 3

6  School Re-Opens
8  Service Learning Fair 6-7 pm, HS Cafe Annex
20  Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School
31  K-12 Early Release HS-10:50 MS-11:00 ES-11:10

OUR MISSION
We will challenge all learners and work in partnership with students, parents and community to achieve high standards.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MRS. KRISTIN GRAY, PRESIDENT
term expires 2015
(kristin.gray@redjacket.org)

MRS. MARTHA FLOWER, VICE-PRESIDENT
term expires 2015
(martha.flower@redjacket.org)

MR. EDWARD CLARK
term expires 2017
(ed.clark@redjacket.org)

MR. ERIC SCHAERTL
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(eric.schaertl@redjacket.org)

MR. CLINTON KRAGER
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