Sentinel

Solvay Union Free School District

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August 2015 Volume XXXII No. 1. The "Sentinel" is published four times a year by the Solvay Union Free School District, 103 Third Street, Solvay, NY 13209. Questions and comments are welcomed by the Superintendent's Office at (315) 468-1111 or

sentinel@solvayschools.org.

School Opens Soon School opens Sept. 8. See page 3 for a copy of the district calendar for the 2015-16 school year. Current events and any

calendar updates can be found on our website at solvayschools.org.

Solvay High School graduation



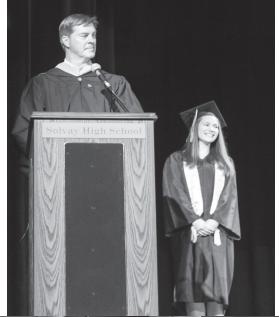




Solvay High Graduation 2015









Congratulations, retirees.

Ms. Elizabeth Barriere
Teacher - Kindergarten
Solvay Elementary School

Ms. Anna Cotter Italian Teacher Solvay High School.

Ms. Janice Parkinson
Teacher - Gr. 1
Solvay Elementary School

Ms. Marie Patterson Teacher - Gr. 3 Solvay Elementary School **Mr. Peter Pecora**Special Education Teacher
Solvay High School

Ms. Karen SchoonoverMath Teacher
Solvay Middle School

Mr. William Steinberg Business Manager District Office Ms. Linda Tucciarone Food Service Helper Solvay High School

Mr. William WentworthMaintenance Worker
Solvay Middle School

Mr. James Werbeck Principal Solvay Elementary School

| | | 201 | 5-20 | 16 S | olva | Union Free School | District | Cale | ndar | | | |
|-----|----|------------|------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|------|----|-----|----|
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| Ъ | | | | | | | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| SEP | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | FEB | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | | | 29 | | | | |
| | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | |
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| OCT | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | | MAR | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | | | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24* | 25 |
| | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | <i>30</i> | | | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
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| DEC | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | MAY | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | 21 | 22 | 23* | 24 | 25 | | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26* | 27 |
| | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | 30 | 31 | | | |
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| > | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | > | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| JAN | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | | JUN | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | | | | | | | |
| | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29* | | | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |

BOXED OR SHADED DAYS INDICATE NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

September 2 - Staff Development Day

September 2 – Staff Development Day
September 7 – Labor Day
September 8 – First Day for Students
October 9 – Staff Development Half Day*
October 12 – Columbus Day
November 3 – Staff Development Day/PreK-5 Parent Conferences
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 25-27 - Thanksgiving Recess
December 23 – Half Day*
December 24-January 1 - Holiday Recess
January 18 - Martin Luther King Day
January 26-29 – Regents
January 29 – Staff Development Half Day*

February 15-19 – Presidents' Day/Winter Recess

February 15-19 – Presidents' Day/Winter Recess
March 24 – Staff Development Half Day*
March 25 – Good Friday
April 25-29 – Spring Recess
May 26 – Staff Development Half Day*
May 30 – Memorial Day
June 1 – Regents Day
June 14-22 – Regents
June 23 –Regents Rating Day/Last Day of School

Adopted:3/16/15

School Report Card

Breaking Down the State's Assessment

In order to meet the reporting requirements of ESEA/No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the state Education Department provides student performance information on the elementary and secondary level assessments in English Language Arts (ELA), math, and science. In addition to meeting the New York standards, schools must also meet Federal Title I standards if they receive Title I grant funding. The district and individual schools will be considered "in good standing" if they 1) meet or exceed a 95 percent participation rate requirement for state testing and 2) meet or exceed the Effective Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) in ELA and math. The AMO is the performance index value that each accountability group within a school or district is expected to achieve to make Adequate Yearly Progress. Please note, because of the approval of NYSED ESEA/NCLB waiver, all schools were in good standing for the 2013-14 school year. Detailed copies of our school report card can be found on our web site at solvayschools.org, click under "Parent Resources." As reported earlier this month, this information is based on assessments given in the spring of 2014. The data from the 2014 assessments will be used for the 2014-15 school report cards (to be published in 2015). Specific questions can be addressed to Eric Larison, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, at elarison@ solvayschools.org or by calling (315) 468-1111.

| Solvay Elementary School | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| English/Language Arts (ELA) | | | | | | | |
| Participation Standard = 95% or higher | Performance Index | Effective AMO (standard) | Adequately Yearly Progress | State Accountability Status | | | |
| 95% | 61 | 78 | No | School in good standing | | | |
| Math | | | | | | | |
| Participation Standard = 95% or higher | Performance Index | Effective AMO (standard) | Adequately Yearly Progress | State Accountability Status | | | |
| 95% | 89 | 75 | Yes | School in good standing | | | |

| Solvay Middle School | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| English/Language Arts (ELA) | | | | | | | |
| Participation Standard = 95% or higher | Performance Index | Effective AMO (standard) | Adequately Yearly Progress | State Accountability Status | | | |
| 95% | 74 | 84 | No | School in good standing | | | |
| Math | | | | | | | |
| Participation Standard = 95% or higher | Performance Index | Effective AMO (standard) | Adequately Yearly Progress | State Accountability Status | | | |
| 94% | 87 | 81 | No | School in good standing | | | |
| Science | | | | | | | |
| Participation Standard = 80% or higher | Performance Index | Effective AMO (standard) | Adequately Yearly Progress | State Accountability Status | | | |
| 97% | 183 | 175 | Yes | School in good standing | | | |

| Solvay High School | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| English/Language Arts (ELA) | | | | | | | |
| Performance Index | Effective AMO (standard) | Adequately Yearly Progress | State Accountability Status | | | | |
| 160 | 154 | No | School in good standing | | | | |
| | Math | | | | | | |
| Performance Index | Effective AMO (standard) | Adequately Yearly Progress | State Accountability Status | | | | |
| 123 | 133 | No | School in good standing | | | | |

School Report Card

| Solvay High School | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2013 Graduation Rate | 2014 Graduation Rate | Graduation Rate Standard | State Accountability Status |
| 91% | 88% | 80% | School in good standing |

| Regents Examination Performance for All Students - Percentage of Students Scoring At or Above 65 | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|--|--|--|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | | | |
| English | 88 | 75 | 74 | | | |
| Integrated Algebra | 76 | 73 | 53 | | | |
| Geometry | 70 | 64 | 68 | | | |
| Algebra 2/Trigonometry | 40 | 37 | 63 | | | |
| Global History & Geography | 76 | 70 | 51 | | | |
| U.S. History & Government | 88 | 89 | 76 | | | |
| Living Environment | 83 | 70 | 68 | | | |
| Physical Setting/Earth Science | 81 | 71 | 84 | | | |
| Physical Setting/Chemistry | 75 | 49 | 60 | | | |

Italian Students Attend Syracuse Opera



The Italian 3 students attended Syracuse Opera's II Barbiere di Siviglia (The Barber of Seville) on April 14. The opera is a romantic comedy that is sung in Italian including the theme song "FIGARO". The students were able to follow and enjoy the performance. For most this had been their first experience at the opera. We had the distinct pleasure to meet with the actors after the close of the performance. Much of the discussion revolved around the challenges of singing their parts in Italian and perfecting the pronunciation. Needless to say, it was impeccable. The actors were thrilled to see students of Italian attend.

New Student Orientations

Solvay Elementary School

- August 26, PreK Orientation, at 5:00 p.m.
- August 26, Kindergarten Orientation, at 6:30 p.m.

Solvay Middle School

- September 1, 4th and 5th Grade "Meet the Teacher," from 6:00 p.m.
- September 3, Grades 6-8 "Locker Night," from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Solvay High School

 September 2,Orientation for all incoming freshmen and new students, at 6:00 p.m. The program will last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes and will be followed by building tours. Student planners will also be available at this time.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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Perspective

Early Days in Education



By LAWRENCE WRIGHT, Superintendent

A year ago at this time, I told you that Solvay was in the midst of growing its educational program. To a large extent, it was a regrowth—an effort to recover from the difficult economic climate that plagued us from 2008 and continues to impact some of our community members and neighbors. Our goal, however, is not to return to the Solvay of six years ago, but to forge ahead into the future.

The past year is proof of our resolve and, most importantly, of your support. Literacy, one of the essential building blocks of a strong education, is on the upswing here thanks to a combination of grant funding, creative curriculum planning, and hard work. College and career readiness are also improving as we continue to expand our advanced programming and deepen relationships with local colleges and universities.

These improvements will certainly continue into the coming year. As you know, we have made a few organizational changes to building leadership and staff and brought in a number of new employees to support us as we move forward. Those changes, in combination with your continued support, place us squarely on the path to becoming the kind of school district your children deserve.

To be sure, there are challenges ahead. These are certainly not easy days to be in the business of education or parenting. I am confident, though, that Solvay has the ability and inspiration to face whatever obstacles stand in the way of our young people.

Author Visits High School



Author April Henry spent April 15 at Solvay High School leading writing workshops, sharing stories, and answering questions. Students enjoyed a lunch provided by Pies Guys, learned how to escape from handcuffs, and discussed the craft of writing!

High School Band Commission Project

This spring the high school band premiered *Triumphant Return*, composed by Kevin Mixon. The piece was written exclusively for the 2014-2015 band. Funding was generated through advertising in the annual October Pops Concert program. The plan is to have another piece written for the band in the next three to five years. This will give us time to secure a composer and generate funds.

The 4th annual Pops Concert will be held on October 14, 2015. The band is fundraising through advertising or buy a "note." The advertisement or note (eighth note for \$5, a quarter note for \$10, a half note for \$15, or a whole note for \$25). Your name will appear in the program. The money will go towards commissioning another original band composition written exclusively for Solvay. If you would like to advertise or make a donation, please contact Mr. Jerry FitzGerald at 468-2551 or gfitzgerald@solvayschools.org.

Athletics

Athletics **O**pdate

Congratulations!

This past spring two sports teams were champions:

- Softball Section III, Class B Champions, New York State runner up. Pictured
- Girls Track Katie Harrington, sophomore, placed 6th in the NYS pentathlon. She set two new personal bests in the long jump (15 feet, 4 inches) and 800m run (2:26.13). Katie is the current Solvay High School pentathlon record holder with 2,727 points. Pictured below right.

Start Dates for Fall 2015 Sports

- August 17 JV/Varsity Football, Girls and Boys Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, and Cheerleading
- August 31 Modified Football, Girls and Boys Soccer and Cross Country

Please be sure to contact the athletic office or the school nurse for the appropriate paperwork.

Save the Date

Homecoming weekend is scheduled for September 25-26. See you there.

Senior Citizens Passes

Below you will find information regarding the Senior Citizen Passes that the SHS Athletic Department will be issuing this year. This pass will allow Solvay and Lyncourt residents free admission to all of Solvay's home athletic contests.

- The individual must be 65 year of age
- Passes must be picked up in the SHS Athletic Office (located in Solvay High School)
- Passes are good for all home contests
- Passes are not transferable

If you have any questions, please contact John Dippold or Nicole Halloran at (315) 484-1400.

Website

Please be sure to visit our Athletic Department website at http://www.solvayschools.org/athletics for important announcements and for the most up to date schedules and directions to other schools please be sure to visit www.schedulegalaxy.com. There is a direct link to our new schedule program on the Athletics home page.

Follow us on Twitter @SolvayAthletics for the most up to date schedule changes, scores and other pertinent information!





Back to School Information

Getting There

Transportation to/from a day care provider/baby sitter

If you wish to have your child transported to another address other than your home address, complete the Transportation Request Form on page 9. Once your form has been received, it will take 48 hours to process. You will receive a phone call from the transportation department giving you the busing information, including stops, times, and bus numbers.

This form needs to be filled out <u>each</u> school year. Forms received from previous years will not be honored for the 2015-16 school year.

This form also needs to be filled out each time there is a change in a day care/baby sitter provider. Phone calls to the transportation department requesting a change will not be accepted. Please use this form at all times. This form can be printed from our website at solvayschools.org (click on "Transportation"), picked up at any of the schools, or at the Transportation Department, 399 Beach Road, Syracuse, NY 13209.

Bus Schedule Notifications

The bus schedules will be mailed in the schools' August mailing. The bus list and schedules will be mailed on or about August 18. *If your home address is not listed, please use the nearest listed bus stop to your home address.*

Non-public (parochial and private) school students will receive individual notification in a letter or phone call to the parent/guardian based on requests received by April 1, 2015.

Request for Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Information

New York State law allows parents and legal guardians of a student to request the effectiveness scores and final ratings of teachers and principals to which the student is assigned for the current school year. Requests for this information must be made in writing using the teacher/principal request form found on the district website. Please mail it to: Assistant Superintendent, 103 Third Street, Solvay, NY 13209. This information may only be released to parents or legal guardians and the district will verify that any request received has been submitted by a parent or legal guardian. Additionally, the information is intended only for the use of the requesting parent or legal guardian. Once the written request is received you will be

contacted to schedule a meeting with district office personnel where the requested scores will be presented. No score will be released without a meeting between the parent(s) and district personnel.

Staying Healthy

Students in grades K, 2, 4, 7, and 10 and all new entrants are required to present a physical exam report within 30 days of the start of school. This physical exam should done within the previous 12 months. In addition, NYS requires school districts to request a dental certificate for the same grade levels.

Students in grades 4 and 7, who do not have a private physical exam report on file in the Health Office by December 1, 2015, will be scheduled for a school physical with the school district physician.

Changing Your Address

Have you moved?

If you moved during the summer or if you are planning on moving during the school year, you are required to notify your school principal of that new address as soon as your move is complete. If your new address is not within the boundaries of the school district, then you will need to register with a school in the district where your new residence is located.

Also, remember to keep your student(s) school(s) informed of all changes in contact information including phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Student Photographs

Pictures/Videos

Throughout the school year, photographs/videos may be taken of students for use in district publications, including the district website or by the news media. Parents who do not want their child(ren) photographed for these purposes are asked to send a note to your child's school principal. A simple written, signed note stating, "Please do not photograph my child(ren) {Student Name(s)} for use in publications and/or web," will suffice.

The note may be delivered in person or mailed to your child(ren)'s school.

Internet Access?

If you do not have internet access, please contact your child's principal to receive copies of newsletters and other school information at home.

Transportation

Solvay Union Free School District Transportation Department 399 Beach Road Syracuse, NY 13209

Phone: 487 – 5842 Fax: 487 - 5857

Transportation Request Form To start, update, or change student's transportation needs.

| Today's date: | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Student Name: | Last | First | | Middle Initial | _ |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | Lynburg Lawns) |
| Age: | Grade: | School: | | | |
| Parent/Guardian | Home Phone Nu | ımber: | Da | y Care Numbe | er: |
| Cell Phone Numb | er: | | Work Phone N | umber: | |
| | | | | | RS. MINIMUM TO PROCESS) |
| | To Our District: | Ch | eck one | _ | Transportation: |
| AM Change: | | | | | |
| Current Address: | | | New Address: | | |
| PM Change: | | | | | |
| Current Address: | | | | | |
| D | | | | | |
| Parent(s) Signatu NOTE: A NEW TRANS DEPARTMENT. | re: SPORTATION REQUE | ST FORM NEEDS TO BE | | EAR AND MAILED T | TO THE TRANSPORTATION |
| NOTE: In case of an | "Early Dismissal," | | | · | child to be transported. |
| | | | ORTATION USE ONLY | | |
| ☐ Approved ☐ Der | nied Reason | | | | |
| Transportation Depa | rtment Designee: | Signature: | | | |
| Bus # | Pick-up Ti | me: | Pick-up Locatio | on: | |

Back to School Information (continued from page 8)

2015-2016 Concert Dates

The Visual and Performing Arts Department is pleased to announce its 2015-2016 concert dates. Community members are welcome to attend these concerts featuring our school performing ensembles. Each concert begins at 7:00 p.m. and admission is free.

Solvay Elementary School

- December 9, Gr. 3 Chorus Concert at SMS
- May 11, Gr. 3 Chorus Concert at SMS

Solvay Middle School

- December 15, Gr. 5/6 Band and Chorus Concert
- December 17, Gr. 7/8 Band and Chorus Concert
- January 12, Gr. 4 Concert
- March 8, All District Band Concert at SHS
- Snow Date March 10, All District Band Concert at SHS
- May 25, Gr. 7/8 Band and Chorus Concert
- June 2, Gr. 5/6 Grade Band and Chorus Concert
- June 8, Gr. 4 Band and Chorus Concert

Solvay High School

- October 14, Band Pops Concert
- November 19, Chorus Concert
- December 10, Band Concert
- March 8, All District Band Concert
- Snow Date March 10, All District Band Concert
- March 16, Chorus Cabaret
- May 5, Chorus Concert
- May 12, Band Concert

Professional Qualifications for Teachers

As a parent/guardian of a student attending the Solvay Union Free School District, you have a right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teacher(s) who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teacher(s), and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teacher(s):

- 1. Whether the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he/she teaches.
- 2. Whether the NYSED has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- 3. The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- 4. Whether any teacher's aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please send a written request to the district office: Attention: Assistant Superintendent, 103 Third Street, Solvay, NY 13209. If you have further questions, please contact Eric Larison, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, at (315) 468-1111.

Science Teachers Award Teacher Tools

Congratulations to science teachers, Eric Wojtalewski (pictured right) and Travis Hall (pictured left) along with board member, Eugene Blackburn. On May 28, they were awarded "Teacher Tools" grants



from the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association: Erie Canal Chapter at a ceremony held in Rome, NY. Travis' grant is for vermicomposting bins and probes to measure oxygen/pH/temperature changes as the worms work



their magic. Eric's is for a 3D printer setup for his physics classroom.

Pesticide Notification Procedure

Parent/Guardian and School Staff:

The use of pesticides on school properties has gained attention from various groups, agencies, and individuals. At Solvay Union Free School District (SUFSD), we want you to know that we take pesticide applications seriously.

It is our policy to practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to protect our students, staff, and property from unwanted pests. As you are aware, pests carry and spread diseases, contaminate food, sting, and cause property damage. Keeping pests such as mice out of our buildings is important to help ensure the safety and health of our students and the protection of our property.

The practice of IPM helps us balance our objectives of keeping pests a safe distance away while limiting the use of pesticides.

The New York State Pesticide Notification Law requires that we notify you that pesticides may be used periodically throughout the school year.

It is our intent to protect our students and staff from exposure, and use only non-volatile, reduced risk pesticides from the exempt list for any application. However, should we find it necessary to use other pesticides, the law requires us to maintain a list of parents, guardians, and staff members who wish to receive forty-eight (48)-hour advance notice when a non-exempt pesticide is intended to be used.

If you wish to have your name added to the advanced notice list, simply complete the information in the box below and return it to the Solvay Union Free School District, 103 Third Street, Solvay, NY 13209 Attn: Kevin Van Beveren, Director of Facilities.

COMPLETE ONLY IF YOU WISH TO BE ON THE 48 HOUR ADVANCE NOTICE LIST

| Please add my name to the forty-eight (48)-hour advance notificat when required by law. | , |
|---|---|
| Signature: | _ |
| Print Name: | |
| Mailing Address: | |
| Phone: | |
| Date: | |
| Please feel free to contact Kevin Van Beveren, Director of Facilities at (315) 468-7035 for further information on these requirements, are scheduled to be applied. | · |

Full Plate Dinner Wrap Up

The annual Full Plate Dinner raised \$2,511 for St. Cecilia's Human Development this year. The dinner,

sponsored by the Visual and Performing Arts Department along with the Solvay Teachers Association and the Solvay Schools Employees Union, has raised over \$19,000 for the Food Pantry since it first began. This year's event featured

a K-12 Art Show, Silent Auction, Pie-Eating Contest, Wooden Airplane Make and Take Station (sponsored by Mark Weston's World of Technology class) and performances by SHS Jazz Band,



SHS Vocal Jazz Ensemble, SMS Select Choir and SMS Jazz Band. Many thanks to everyone, including Jerry Cali and *Daniella's Steakhouse*, for the many donations that help make this event successful each year.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Solvay Union Free School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.05 (all grades); lunch costs \$2.00 (grades PreK-8) and \$2.10 (grades 9-12). Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$0.25 for breakfast and \$0.25 for lunch.

- DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Pamela Kinne, Food Service Manager, 600 Gertrude Avenue, Solvay, NY 13209. She can be reached at 315-484-1403.
- WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS? All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or TANF, can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
- 3. Can foster children get free meals? Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.
- 4. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call Diane Hagemann, Homeless Liaison, at 315-487-7061 to see if they qualify.
- 5. WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.
- 6. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 315-484-1403 if you have questions.
- 7. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first 30 days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- 8. Í GET WÍC. CAN MY ČHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out a FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEAL application.
- 9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.
- 10. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also
 may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Karen Henry, Assistant Superintendent for Business, 103 Third Street, Solvay, NY
 13209 or call at 315-468-4942.
- 12. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- 13. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
- 14. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 15. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
- 16. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
- 17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-342-3009.

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2015-2016 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR FREE MILK REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART

| Total Family Size | Annual | Monthly | Twice per Month | Every Two Weeks | Weekly |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1 | \$ 21,775 | \$ 1,815 | \$ 908 | \$ 838 | \$ 419 |
| 2 | \$ 29,471 | \$ 2,456 | \$ 1,228 | \$ 1,134 | \$ 567 |
| 3 | \$ 37,167 | \$ 3,098 | \$ 1,549 | \$ 1,430 | \$ 715 |
| 4 | \$ 44,863 | \$ 3,739 | \$ 1,870 | \$ 1,726 | \$ 863 |
| 5 | \$ 52,559 | \$ 4,380 | \$ 2,190 | \$ 2,022 | \$ 1,011 |
| 6 | \$ 60,255 | \$ 5,022 | \$ 2,511 | \$ 2,318 | \$ 1,159 |
| 7 | \$ 67,951 | \$ 5,663 | \$ 2,832 | \$ 2,614 | \$ 1,307 |
| 8 | \$ 75,647 | \$ 6,304 | \$ 3,152 | \$ 2,910 | \$ 1,455 |
| *Each Add'l person add | \$ 7,696 | \$ 642 | \$ 321 | \$ 296 | \$ 148 |

How to Apply: To get free or reduced price meals for your children you may submit an Eligibility Letter for Free Meals received from the NYS Education Department, OR carefully complete one application for your household and return it to the designated office. If you now receive SNAP, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for any children, or participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. All children should be listed on the same application. If you do not list a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number for all the children for whom you are applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult's social security number, or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number. An application that is not complete cannot be approved. Contact your local Department of Social Services for your food stamp or TANF case number or complete the income portion of the application.

Reporting Changes: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year. You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive SNAP.

Income Exclusions: The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

Meal Service to Children with Disabilities: Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are defined to include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a medical doctor. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical certification must contain.

Confidentiality: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

<u>Reapplication</u>: You may apply for benefits any time during the school year. Also, if you are not eligible now, but during the school year become unemployed, have a decrease in household income, or an increase in family size you may request and complete an application at that time.

The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian. We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.

Sincerely, Karen Henry Assistant Superintendent for Business

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, submit a Free Meals/Milk Eligibility Letter received from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR complete only one application for your household using the instructions. Sign the application and return the application to Pamela Kinne, Food Service Manager, 600 Gertrude Avenue, Solvay, NY 13209. If you have a foster child in your household, you may include them on your application. A separate application is no longer needed. Call the school if you need help: 315-484-1403. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- 1. Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one application.
- 2. List their grade and school.
- 3. Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, or if you believe any child meets the description for homeless, migrant, runaway (a school staff will confirm this eligibility).

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING FOOD STAMPS, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- 1. List a current Food Stamp, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household.
- 2. Do not use the 16-digit number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4. SKIP PART 3. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a food stamp case number, TANF or FDPIR number.

PART 3 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 4.

- Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- 2. Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box. The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should not be considered as income for this program.
- 3. The application must include the last four digits only of the social security number of the adult who signs PART 4 if Part 3 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, check the box. If you listed a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR number, a social security number is not needed.

OTHER BENEFITS: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In order to determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number are not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Food Stamp, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

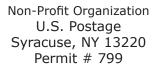
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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint-filing-cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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Solvay Union Free School District Solvay, NY 13209

Lena Rose Orlando, President Ty Marshal, Vice President Stephen Zalewski, District Clerk Kristin Sunser-King, Assistant Clerk Kevin Dwyer, Member

Lawrence Wright Superintendent of Schools

| | September 2015 | | October 2015 | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| September 1 | SMS Gr. 4/5 Meet the Teacher 6:00 p.m. | October 1 | SES Picture Day | | |
| September 2 | SHS Freshman Orientation 6:00 p.m. | October 5 | SES PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m. | | |
| September 3 | SMS Gr. 6-8 Locker Night 6:30-7:30 p.m. | October 8 | SMS PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. | | |
| September 8 | Welcome Back! First Day for Students | October 9 | Early Dismissal - Staff Development Day | | |
| September 10 | SMS PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. | October 12 | District Closed - Columbus Day | | |
| Contember 14 | SHS Picture Day | October 14 | SHS Band Pops Concert 7:00 p.m. | | |
| September 14 | Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m. | October 19 | Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m. @ SMS | | |
| September 16 | SES Curriculum Night 6:30 p.m. | October 28 | SHS Picture Retake Day | | |
| September 17 | SMS Gr. 4/5 Picture Day | | SES Halloween Parade | | |
| | SES PBIS Kickoff | October 30 | SMS Student Council Dance: Gr. 4/5 2:45-4:15 p.m. Gr. 6-8 7:00-9:00 p.m. | | |
| September 18 | SMS Gr. 6-8 Picture Day | | | | |
| | SMS PTO Dance: Gr. 4/5 2:45-4:15 p.m. Gr. 6-8 7:00-9:00 p.m. | | | | |
| Contember 22 | SMS Gr. 4/5 AIS Parent Night 6:15 p.m. | If school events change, they can be found on our web site at www.solvayschools.org. SES = Solvay Elementary School | | | |
| September 23 | SMS Gr. 4/5 Curriculum Night 7:00 p.m. | | | | |
| September 24 SHS Open House 7:00 p.m. | | SMS = Solvay Middle School SHS = Solvay High School | | | |
| September 25-26 | SHS Homecoming Weekend | | | | |
| September 29 | SHS Senior Parent Night 7:00 p.m. | | | | |
| Contember 20 | SMS Gr. 6-8 AIS Parent Night 6:15 p.m. | | | | |
| September 30 | SMS Gr. 6-8 Curriculum Night 7:00 p.m. | | | | |