### **FALCONER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLET**

#### IN THIS EDITION

- **Administrative Letter**
- 3-8 Middle/High School
- 9-11 Fenner Elementary
- 12-15 Temple Elementary
- 16 MS/HS Winter Fun



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### March

- Superintendent's 19 Conference Day (No Students)
- Grades 6-8, & 12 Return 22 to full in-person instruction

#### **April**

- **Honor Society Induction**
- 2-9 Spring Break (No School)
- Board of Education 6 Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ends (MS/HS) 16
- 19-NYS Grades 3-8 ELA 29 Assessment
- Board of Education 20 Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

#### May

- NYS Grades 3-8 Math 3-14 Assessment
  - **Board of Education** Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- Board of Education 18 Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- Memorial Day (No School) 31

#### Play Ball!

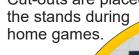
As per the New York Public High School Athletic Association, some moderate/high-risk sporting events for the winter athletic season have been approved for participation. Middle School and High School Basketball seasons began practicing on February 1, 2021, while following the NYSPHSAA Return to Interscholastic Athletics Guidelines. Chautaugua County, along with five other adjoining counties, have decided to postpone the Wrestling season until May 10, 2021, due to the high-risk for potential COVID-19 infection.

Although spectators were not initially permitted in any of the athletic events to prevent any potential spread of COVID-19 infection, limited spectators are now allowed. We ask that all parents, along with spectators, abide by this determination and do not attempt to attend any of the events that you are not on the spectator list for. We realize parents, family members and other spectators are an integral part of our student athletics, which we appreciate, but these are the requirements in order for our students to participate. We appreciate your cooperation.

Most schools will be providing live-stream links so we can all watch the games. The cameras should activate approximately 15 minutes before game time.

On the School Webpage, you will find live-stream links for home contests for Falconer athletics. We will also include other school live-stream links as they become available. Please visit falconercsd.org/Page/5065 for more information.

We are very excited to let the games begin! Many school and community members chose to show their support of the teams in spirit by purchasing a spectator cut-out. Cut-outs are placed on











Falconer Central School 2 East Avenue, North Falconer, NY 14733 (716)665-6624

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Clipart obtained through FCS' subscription to <u>clipart.com</u>

#### **Message from the High School Principal**

It's hard to believe that the end of the first semester is here and spring is around the corner. I would like to thank our students, parents, and staff for your hard work and support as we continue to work through Hybrid and Remote learning and work towards returning to full-in person instruction. Now is the time for our students to improve their first semester grades and strive to reach academic goals as we begin a new semester. Encourage your students to study, read, and connect with teachers when they are learning from home. There is no "off" day during the week in Hybrid learning. Although we do not have news yet from NYSED related to June regents, it's very important to achieve passing grades now to earn course credits towards graduation.

We are again underway with practices for our winter sports season, and are currently planning a full spring sports schedule. Students, please consider joining a sport or club activity this spring for the Golden Falcons. Finally, our Seniors have missed out on many High School experiences. We are in the process of planning strategies for a spring prom/after prom, outdoor graduation ceremony, and a village parade following graduation. Additional information will follow as we receive the most current updates related to COVID-19.

As always, please contact me with any questions by email or phone. Stay healthy and have a great 2<sup>nd</sup> semester! ~Mr. Jordan

# FEATURED FALC NS

Mrs. Pam Sigular
Fenner Elementary
4th Grade Writing and Spelling
Teaching 15 years

One thing that I am proud of achieving this year is building relationships with my homeroom students. I love hearing about their evenings and weekends.



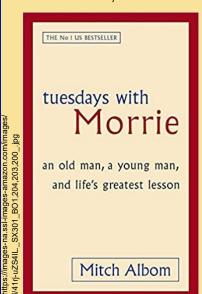
Mrs. Colleen Holsinger High School Spanish 2, 3, 4 Teaching 22 years

If you had told me one year ago that my class would be virtually paperless, I would not have believed it. Because of the capabilities of Schoology, I have been able to create quizzes, tests, projects, homework assignments, and a variety of class activities without a single sheet of paper! In order to keep the language learning going, the activities even include videos to watch and places for students to record their answers as audio or video.



#### **Senior Book Study Leads to Donations**

Mrs. Katilus' ENG 1510 classes are reading the book Tuesdays with Morrie, a memoir about a man named Morrie, who teaches lessons about life, as he journeys toward his own death from ALS. One of



Morrie's many aphorisms is about materialism. He says, "there's a big confusion in this country over what we want verses what we need...you need food, you want a chocolate sundae...You don't need the latest sports car, you don't need the biggest house. The truth is, you don't get satisfaction from those things...what really gives you satisfaction is...offering others what you have to give." As we read the book, we are exploring our own perspectives on life and thinking about how we can live our lives in a meaningful way. After reading about this aphorism on materialism, students took stock of what they had in their rooms at home, and they made a list of wanted items verses needed items. They then brought into class some of their wanted items that they felt someone else might need, and they will be donating those items to a charity of each class period's choice. These selfless seniors were so excited to be able to contribute to our community, even in this small way. They are truly a great bunch, and they will surely go on to do wonderful and meaningful things as they soon embark on their own life's journeys!

#### **Key Club Serving Throughout the Pandemic**

Taking extra precautions, the Falconer Key Club has continued to serve the community throughout the pandemic. When school buildings closed last spring. students brought seedlings home to prepare them for the community garden. When the

weather warmed up and then through the summer, the teens signed up to tend the garden, including planting, watering, weeding and harvesting. Produce was delivered

to the Falconer Food Pantry and directly to local

families in need. Also over the summer, Key Club students served as virtual reading buddies for elementary students. Students met over Zoom and read together using duplicate copies of children's books and digital library books. During the first semester, Key Club made monetary donations in lieu of in-person service to two local charities. On snowy Sunday mornings, you can find them clearing the sidewalks at the Falconer Baptist Church, earning money to support hungry and needy youth in our community. Key Club is planning a virtual Bunny Hop 5K for late March. Upcoming projects will remain local for 2021, with the focus on the garden (a fence and a fruit tree) and finding creative ways to share the garden and its produce with more members of our school and community. If your organization needs socially-distanced support, please keep the Falconer Key Club in mind as a resource. Key Club develops leadership and character for High School students through community service projects and has been serving the Falconer Community for ten years.



## **FALC**N

#### **COVID Can't Hold Back Falconer Future Business Leaders of America**

Falconer FBLA have not let it get them down. They have continued the tradition of holding weekly meetings; they just look a bit different. Due to the hybrid schedule only a few of the members are able to physically attend and the remainder join via Zoom. Everyone continues to do whatever they can to make the chapter a success, while maintaining the restrictive guidelines that are in place.

While this year has been quite a challenge, the members of

On Saturday, February 6, 2021, the members of Falconer FBLA gathered for the Spring District Competition that was held virtually via zoom conferences and online testing. The annual event is a preliminary competition in preparation for the upcoming Virtual State Leadership and Virtual National Leadership Conferences. Members joined fellow FBLA members from Clymer FBLA and Randolph FBLA via an opening

session zoom and then later broke out into competitive events.

A few select district elimination events offered the opportunity to perform in a presentation environment in front of a panel of judges. The first and second place winners in these events earned the right to represent District 13 at the state competition in April. In addition to these elimination events, members were able to compete in a variety of exam based competitions.

District Elimination Event Awards (State Qualifiers)

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Zach K., Client Service Jacob T., Impromptu Speaking Garrett C., Intro to Decision Making Curtis H., Intro to Public Speaking 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Spencer B., Job Interview Ava T., Public Speaking

## Written Exam/Local Speaking Awards 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Anna C....FBLA Creed Speaking Spencer B....Business Calculations

Declan L....Intro to FBLA

Curtis H....Intro to Business Communications

Ava T....Word Processing

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Hanna H....Intro to Communication

Jacob T....Accounting

Ava T....Business Communications

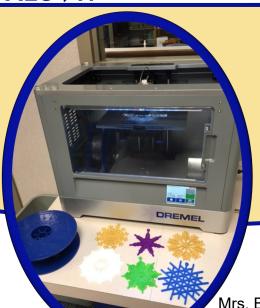
Declan L....Intro to FBLA



Photo: (Back to Front) Jacob T. (President), Ava T. (Secretary), Spencer B. (Parliamentarian), Garrett C., Declan L., Hanna H., Curtis H. (Treasurer), Zach K. (Vice President), and Anna C.

In addition, our Parliamentary Procedures team of Jacob T., Spencer B., Curtis H. and Zach K., took the state qualifier exam on Wednesday, February 10. The Top 5 state-wide team averages will be notified and given the opportunity to compete in the performance portion of the event at the state competition.





#### Let it Snow with 3D Printed Snowflakes!

6th graders made 3D printed snowflake ornaments during Book Look in the Media Center in December. The snowflakes were designed using an app created by Falconer alumnus Brandon Caruso. It was fun to see our students' colorful creativity in action!

#### **Traditional Fall Middle School Play Produced Non-Traditionally**

Mrs. Binkley, Mrs. Mikula, and Mrs. Sigular did not want to go without a Middle School Play if they could help it. Thanks to Playwrights now writing plays specifically



to produce using virtual meeting software such as Zoom and technology, a little "normalcy" was possible in regards to the play. Virtual auditions were followed by the only one full cast practice, which could have been attended via Zoom or in the Auditorium (socially distanced of course). All practices that followed had those same options. Then using the recording features in Zoom, students performed their roles mostly in front of green screens and with minimal props and costumes. Help Desk, Stay-at-Home Version by Don Zolidis was in motion.

Next came the crew, who traditionally do set changes, lights, sounds, and props, to edit and cut and create the final product (complete with commercials and a blooper reel). Although the cast had hoped to premier the play both streaming and in the All-Weather Athletic Complex, out of an abundance of caution they quickly switched to streaming only.

The eleven member cast and crew did a marvelous job, coming together to safely have fun and laughs while producing Falcon Productions' first ever virtual Middle School play!

#### Congratulations to all involved!

#### **Science Class**

The Anatomy & Physiology Class has been working through this crazy COVID year by trying to keep some sense of normalcy. Along with the Earth Science & other Science classes in the High School, students are still doing hands-on labs. While it looks a little different and requires more cleaning, masks, and gloves, we are still able to do it for most labs. Shown in the pictures are the Anatomy and Physiology students performing a forensic anthropology investigation.





#### **Falconer FBLA Not Stopped by COVID**

The corona virus has not stopped Falconer Future Business Leaders of America. The chapter has continued their weekly meetings allowing members to attend either online and in person. Members are actively working on the NYS Program of Work and Non-Stop November activities, as well as, their individual Business Achievement Awards. These programs challenge them to improve upon their skills, plan for the future, build their chapter membership, and a wide array of other useful activities. The chapter is also working on creating COVID friendly community service and fundraising ideas. If you or your child is interested in becoming a part of the FBLA family, please feel free to reach out to chapter advisor, Michelle Johnson, in Room 131 or at <a href="mailto:mjohnson@falconerschools.org">mjohnson@falconerschools.org</a>.

# F<sup>2</sup>CS Blue & Gold Vanguard Participate in Unique Project!

Members of the F<sup>2</sup>CS Blue and Gold Vanguard, our competitive Marching Band made up of students from the Frewsburg and Falconer Central School Districts, recently contributed to a video project sponsored by the New York State Field Band Conference.

In the video, hundreds of students from 40 of the member bands of the NYSFBC joined together to perform an arrangement of Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind." The video can be viewed at this link: https://youtu.be/1J2IXF3QhO4.

The video premiered on November 1 to mark what would have been the 2020 NYSFBC Championship Show at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse.

We are pleased to have had 11 members of our band participate in the project, more than many other bands in the conference!

We would like to thank the following students for representing our schools in this statewide endeavor: Summer F., Madison H., Kelson L., Taran L., Robert M., Toby P, Johnnie S., Amanda S., Adam S., Amelia S., and Josiah S..

Congratulations to all involved in this worthwhile project!



#### **October Big Read**

Each year the National Endowment for the Arts encourages libraries around the country to participate in Big Reads to encourage people to read and talk about books. The Big Read for October was Kelly Link's collection of short stories, <a href="Pretty Monsters">Pretty Monsters</a>. A huge thank you to the Falconer Public Library for partnering with the MSHS library and providing free copies of the book to High School students who were interested in participating. Reading this book was a perfect opportunity to escape from the weirdness of 2020 into the weirdness of some well-written stories! Thanks to all the students who participated.



The Middle School STEM program had a great first semester. Seventh grade classes learned to code animated scenes in JavaScript in a ten-week class. Their culminating project was to write code for an original scene with a background, sprites (characters) and movement. Students were able to use their new skills to create really amazing masterpieces involving sequencing, counter patterns and draw loops. Some students even incorporated their own hand-drawn artwork into their animated scenes. Students learned basics of programming animation, including:

- Creating clearly named variables that represent different data types and performing operations on their values.
- Decomposing problems and subproblems into parts to facilitate the design, implementation, and review of programs.
- Systematically testing and refining programs using a range of test cases.
- Documenting programs in order to make them easier to follow, test, and debug.

The code.org Game Lab platform supports introductory work for computer science through design, testing, and iteration, as students come to see that failure and debugging are an expected and valuable part of the programming and problem-solving process. The Seventh Grade STEM classes wrote over 25,900 lines of code during the semester. This link will take you to a showcase of their unique, animated scene creations. When viewing student work, it is important to realize the effort behind animation, even with advances in technology. The expert programmers at Pixar took over two years to create the octopus movement in the movie Finding Nemo. Knowing that animation is a complicated endeavor boosted student confidence and perseverance as they worked through their own codes.

Eighth Grade classes focused on engineering and design, particularly technology development and challenges related to exploration of Mars. Students learned about the current Mars Rover Mission headed to the Jezero Crater for a February 18, 2021,

landing. Students learned about how Mars rovers are constructed, the instrumentation they use, and how exploration on other planets has progressed over the past few decades. Model rovers were constructed from everyday objects and favorite types of candies to model robot arms, navigation cameras, scientific sensors and the body of the rover. Small groups brainstormed what it would take to establish a five-year human settlement on Mars, including essentials like power, water, food, oxygen, shelter and waste management, but also transportation, scientific studies, basic human interaction and the need to relax and have social experiences. The four sections of classes collaborated on designing a Martian settlement and then building it to scale in the back of the classroom. They created slides similar to the information displays in museums, communicating the important features of their structure. The Martian adventure ended with students controlling Sphero Mini robots on a "mission" to save scientists stranded in a remote quadrant of the Jezero Crater model settlement. Students needed to use bridges they had constructed out of popsicle sticks so their robot rover could cross a dangerous section of terrain to reach the stranded scientists. Throughout the entire project-based learning unit, students experienced multiple opportunities for creative problem-solving, engineering design challenges, the need to collaborate, and how to make the best of a situation with given needs and constraints. The classroom was buzzing with activity, laughter and exclamations when success was finally achieved. The students were excited to see the Perseverance landing on the real Jezero Crater in February.



#### **Students of the** Month

September 2020 Aydin W. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

October 2020 Mary L. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade



November 2020 Matthew E. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

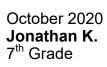
December 2020 Erik S. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



February 2021 Mathis B.

#### **Kiwanis Terrific Kids**

September 2020 Kenley L. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade







December 2020 Kennedy L. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

January 2021 Haven K. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade



February 2021 Annalise P. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



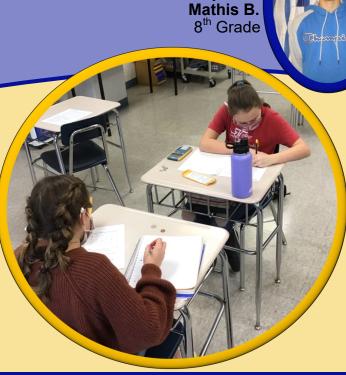


Sixth graders in Mrs. Tordella's class work on calculations with money. The learning goal was, "I can read a task and choose a strategy to solve, using the calculator for support."

Although no grade was taken for this assignment, the students were motivated by earning SWAT points (Students with Awesome Talent). We can all grow our brains when we think, pair, and share our work!







#### 9

#### **SADD Coloring Contest Winners**

Last fall, the Fenner & Temple students participated in SADD's annual Red Ribbon Week coloring



FALC N

contest. The SADD group hosted a Zoom meeting to talk with the elementary students about making positive choices in their lives and in the community.

Pictured with the winners from Fenner are Mikaela L. and Lauren A., SADD officers.

# Summer Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all third through sixth grade students who completed the Summer Reading Challenge! There were over 60 students who faithfully stuck to great reading habits over the summer to earn the title "Reading Champion!" Everyone who participated earned an official certificate and reading medal to celebrate their achievement! Third. Fourth and Fifth Graders at Fenner, and Sixth Graders at the Middle

Graders at the Middle School, also earned some treats and exclusive celebrations as a result of their efforts. During those celebrations, two students had their names drawn for cool, new bikes and

helmets! Eight
additional
students also
won bike
helmets, and
three book
lights were
given away,
as well as a
BIG Boggle
game.
Setting a
long-term
goal and
seeing it

something to be proud of! Way to go, readers!

through is definitely

#### **Grade 4 Dream Catchers**

Recently, the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade has been learning about Native Americans. Students learned about their culture, lifestyle, and tribes around Western New York. Typically, at the end of the unit, they would do a final "at home" project where students would choose a project and construct it at home. This year, the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Team thought it would be safer if they did not do the project. Instead, they decided to end the unit with creating Dream Catchers. Students read about their origin, meaning, and how they were created in the past and now. The students had a blast making them and proudly displayed them in the 4th Grade hallway!

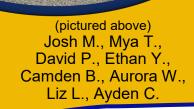






(pictured above) Holden B., Everly S., Mya M., Jenna B., Clara C., Courtney K., Jacob K...

(pictured below) Brody T., Carter S., Isabella E., Cooper Z., Andrea C., Avery F., auren W., Noah M. Moya C.



Grade

5<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### October 2020

(pictured above) Mae G., AJ S., Lucas O., Colton M., Hunter N., Hannah., Noah D.

(pictured below) Reagan T., Michaela L Lauren Y., Lauren W., Alivia H., Bryce H., Josh W., Alexis G., Grace S.



(pictured below) Kolton V., Talon H., **Grade** Moya C., Koleson L., Colleen F., Breonna W., William M., Elizabeth B.,

Madelynn O. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

(pictured above) Emma G., Morgan R., Liam S., Marlaina R., Macy O., Ellie K., Logan F., Matthew O.

- 1. Are respectful to all students and staff.
- 2. Make responsible nsices at all times.

  Nonth 3. Make safe choices.

  4. Put forth !! choices at all times.

  - 4. Put forth their BEST effort.

(pictured above) Lydia C., Trinity T., Dominic S., Harlee K.,

Sutton W., Holden B., Aubrey L. November 2020

(pictured above) Sydnee S., Levi O., Risa S., Alonnah W., Mattea R., Noah R., Aurora W., Ava C.







(pictured above)
Molly K., Keaira B.
Mathias A., Brodie G.
Samuel C., AJ S.

(pictured below)
Leah H., Mason C.,
Luke S., Colton R.,
Jaydyn B., Lizzy B.,
Braeden P.,
Drew S-F.,
Korry M.



corner M

#### **January 2021**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

(pictured above)
Courtney K., Karla L., Sofia D.,
Mallory M., Sutton W., Molly K.,
Carter B.

(pictured below)
Joan P., Alexis S.,
Andrew S-F., Eliana C.,
Sarah H., Korry M.,
Brienna P., Elyana B.,
Andrea C.



(pictured above)
Jayden C., Jimmy M.,
Bella V., Lilah M.,
Ava C., Faith M.,
Jamison M.,
Madalynn D.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

(pictured below)
Elisa V., Jackson B., Braelynn
M., Cole H., Lorelei H.,
Mikayla C., William M.,
Hunter K., Lauren Y

4<sup>th</sup> Grade

(pictured above)
Trevor L., Noah D.,
Taiylin A., Jordyn C.,
Chase P., Abreyanna E.,
Trinity T.

February 2021



(pictured above)
Neese R., Camryn O.,
Marcus P., Logan M.,
Mattea R., Olivia S.,
Arianna H., Emma G.



October Cheer Bear

Winners

Mrs. Nutt's Kindergarten Class

#### **Students of the Month**

Students who receive this award are featured in weekly videos, assist with the announcements, and are able to eat a lunch with a friend of their choosing in a special location.



Cora, Kaytlynn, Nolan, Dillon, Collin, Claire





Miss Buccola's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Class

Mr. Helt's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class

# October Students of the Month

Skyler, Makayla, Collyns, Averie, Sophia, Jonah, Zoey

#### **3B's Awards**

Students who receive these awards exemplify the Temple 3B's (Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible). One to two students per classroom are given this award monthly and Special Area Teachers also distribute this award to students. Award recipients are featured in the Student Spotlight found on the Temple Elementary Website (<a href="https://www.falconercsd.org/Page/4084">https://www.falconercsd.org/Page/4084</a>).









Class









#### **SADD Coloring Contest Winners**

The SADD group hosted a Zoom meeting to talk with the elementary students about making positive choices in their lives and in the community. Shown here are the coloring contest winners from Temple Elementary with Mrs. Hannon.





Students in first and second grade have now been assigned and trained on their 1 to 1, touchscreen Chromebooks. Students utilize their devices for primarily reading activities, math activities, and keyboarding instruction.

Parents as
Teachers
liaison,
Mrs. Spinler,
read to Mrs.
Boughton's
1st grade
class in
celebration of
Dr. Seuss's
Birthday
Week!

nashvillefunforfamilies.com/ event/celebrate-dr-seusssbirthday-at-target/

#### **Bus Safety**

Bus Safety instruction and drills looked different this year but are still a vital part of keeping our students safe. Pictured here is Miss

Buccola's class learning some valuable lessons.

U.S. Postage Paid Permit #30 Iamestown, NY Non-Profit Organization

ecrwss

# FALC N

#### **Winter 2021: Getting Students Moving**



#### **Mission Statement**

The Board of Education, collective staff, and community of the Falconer School District are committed to preparing our children to be productive members of society. Through continuous evaluation and improvement, this partnership will provide a quality educational environment for students to meet the graduation requirements.



#### Alma Mater

Falconer High School here's to you best in the land. 'Neath the old gold and blue, we will proudly take our stand. In classroom study, field, or track with you dear as our guide, no honor ever shall you lack. I'll win your pride.



#### **Board of Education** Agendas, Additions/ **Deletions, & Minutes**

To access any of the above documents, go to:

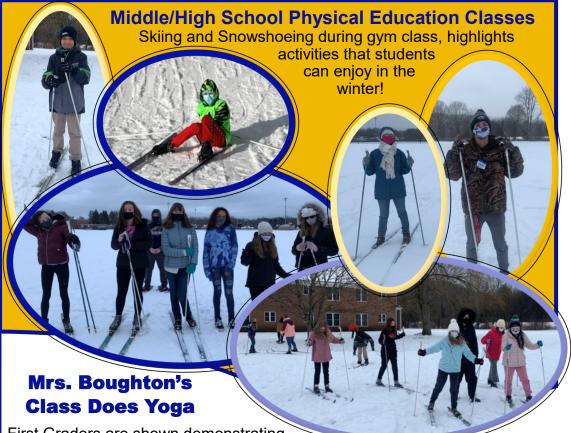
- www.falconerscsd.org
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- ⇒ Board Meetings 2020-21
- ⇒ Select what you want to look at (ex: Agendas, or Minutes)
- ⇒ Click on Meeting Date



www.FalconerCSD.org

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Clipart obtained through FCS' subscription to clipart.com



First Graders are shown demonstrating various uses for their yoga mats in their

classrooms, while social distancing. Aligning their social emotional Second Step lessons with the practice of yoga helps our students to focus, calm themselves, and manage the stress of pandemic restrictions.

Our students use their classroom space for a variety of lessons, and the yoga mats have afforded them some flexible learning options!

