

CONNECT

PIONEER SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS



2



3



5



7

Old Glory survives journey from Iraqi warfront to Arcade classroom

Earlier this year, students in the Arcade Elementary School primary team classroom of Mrs. Madeline Hall made greeting cards and sent them to soldiers serving in Iraq. Recently, the students were rewarded for their good deeds.

Taylor Plowe, a 2nd grade student of Mrs. Hall, has a cousin, Joshua Graham, 20, of Corfu, who is serving for the United States Air Force and is stationed at the Ali Base in Iraq as a firefighter.

Taylor and her fellow students thought it would be nice to send cards over to the Ali Base to Graham and the other airmen serving with him.

As a token of appreciation for the children's love and



support, airmen of the 407th Air Expeditionary group, Ali Air Base Iraq, presented Taylor with an American flag and a certificate from the C Co. 3rd 126th A V N, to be presented to Mrs. Hall's class.

Graham gave the flag personally to Taylor during a "welcome home" party held in his honor.

The flag presented to Taylor for her to give to Mrs Hall's class had logged 1.8 combat hours during a MEDEVAC mission over Iraq on Jan. 9, in a UH60 Blackhawk.

That particular helicopter was flown on a rescue mission to airlift wounded soldiers out of a combat zone in Iraq. When the soldiers

Arcade Elementary teacher Madeline Hall and student Taylor Plowe hold a flag that was signed by Taylor's cousin, Joshua Graham, and fellow members of his air ambulance unit in Iraq.

are placed on a stretcher inside the chopper, they are usually wearing some type of neck brace or head restraint to prevent further injury from the bumpy helicopter ride. With their heads immobilized, they have no place to look but up. The American

Continued on Page 2

'Carousel' set to spin at Pioneer High School

For the first time in a generation, Pioneer School District will present one of Rodgers and Hammerstein's most beloved stage productions as its annual musical.

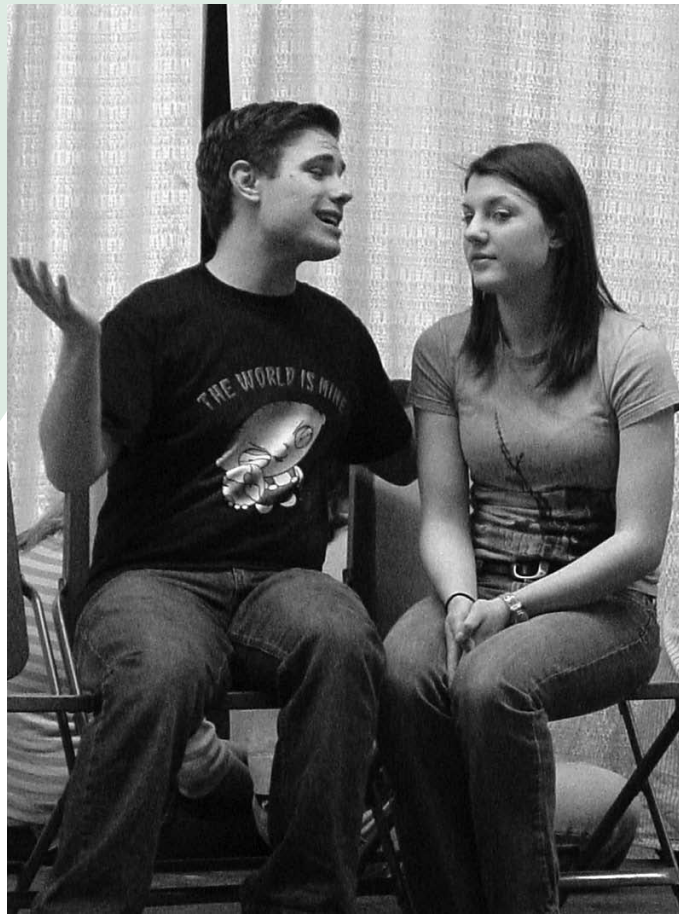
"Carousel" will be staged Thursday, April 6, Friday, April 7, and Saturday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. Residents should note that there is no Sunday matinee performance this year because of Palm Sunday observances.

All shows are in Pioneer High School's George C. Crawford Auditorium. General admission is \$5.00, and students and seniors pay \$3.00.

Pre-sale tickets are available at any greeter's desk in the district, and can be purchased at the door.

A special free senior citizen performance of "Carousel" will be given on Tuesday, April 4, at 4:00 p.m.

Pioneer first presented "Carousel" during the 1986-87 school year. The show's musical numbers include such classics as "You'll Never Walk Alone," "Mister Snow," "If I Loved You," "June is Bustin' Out All Over," and "When the Children are Asleep."



Jeff Cannon plays Enoch Snow and Kelsey Wright is Carrie Pipperidge in the annual Pioneer district musical "Carousel". The cast presented a sneak preview at the Tri-County Community Trade Fair on March 11.

Set on the coast of New England, the musical's time period ranges from 1873 to 1888. A swaggering, carefree carnival barker,

Billy Bigelow (played by Adam Slocum), captivates and marries a naive millworker, Julie Jordan (Stacey George).

Billy loses his job just as he learns that Julie is pregnant and, desperately intent upon providing a decent life for his family, he is coerced into being an accomplice to a robbery. Caught in the act and facing the certainty of prison, he takes his own life and is sent "up there."

Billy is allowed to return to earth for one day and, time being what it is "up there," 15 years have passed. He then encounters the teenage daughter, Louise (Cala Galioto), whom he never knew. She is a lonely, friendless child, her father's reputation as a thief and bully having haunted her throughout her young life. How Billy instills in both the child and her mother a sense of hope and dignity is a dramatic testimony to the power of love.

It's easy to understand why, of all the shows they created, "Carousel" was Rodgers and Hammerstein's personal favorite.

Nearly 150 students are involved in the Pioneer production of "Carousel." Everyone is invited to take this magical, spiritual, romantic ride.

Old Glory *Continued from Page 1*

flag is either suspended against the ceiling, or hung behind the stretcher so when the soldier looks up, he sees the flag and it reminds him to stay hopeful and to remember why he's there.

"At the end of the rescue mission, they take

the flag down and present it either to the soldier's family, if God forbid he doesn't survive, or to his commander or someone in his unit," said Kathy Plowe, Taylor's mom.

Wounded soldiers are flown into Ali Base, Iraq, where Graham

is stationed, to await transport to Germany or another medical facility. There they recover, or are sent home.

Joshua sent along a message to the children at Arcade Elementary.

"It is so very important

to the troops to know they are appreciated, and to be recognized for their service. It is all we could ever ask for. Without the huge hearts of Americans to remind us of our cause, this war wouldn't be worth fighting."

Senior is part of Carnegie Hall performance

If the definition of “making it” in show business is playing Carnegie Hall, then one Pioneer High School student-musician is well on her way to success.

Senior Michelle Keem, daughter of Kevin and Donna Keem of Bliss, was part of the 85-member Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra that performed at Carnegie Hall’s Issac Stern Auditorium in New York City on March 5. Michelle was one of three bassoonists.

The GBYO performed two pieces, *Capriccio Espagnol, Op. 34*, by Rimsky-Korsakov, and *Capriccio Italien, Op. 45*, by Tchaikovsky. Several other youth-oriented ensembles also performed at the event, which was entitled the Manhattan Concert Productions Festival Concert.

“Stern Auditorium was enormous, with the ground floor plus three balcony levels,” said Michelle. “It was a little intimidating when we had our dress rehearsal there — it’s such a big place for us



Pioneer senior Michelle Keem performed at Carnegie Hall.

to fill with sound.

“But as soon as we started playing I knew it would be

fine. The acoustics of the hall were amazing. You could hear the sound ring at the end

of each piece.

“As expected, the orchestra sounded wonderful,” she continued. “Maybe it was because everyone wanted to make sure they didn’t mess up in *the Carnegie Hall.*”

Michelle has added this performance to an impressive list of achievements, which also includes participating in the world-famous Tanglewood Institute orchestra. “There I played with the best high school musicians from around the world,” she said.

GBYO members found out last May they would be performing at Carnegie Hall and spending the weekend in New York City. “It was the orchestra’s first time there, and I was thrilled to be a part of it,” Michelle said.

Michelle’s next endeavor with GBYO will be April 29 and 30 when it performs the Orff opera *Carmina Burana* in a pair of shows with singers from SUNY Geneseo and the Greece (N.Y.) Choral Society.

ACHIEVERS

- Pioneer High School junior **Nicole Bower** is one of two Wyoming County junior girls chosen to attend the Girls State Leadership Conference. The event happens June 23-29 at SUNY Brockport. Nicole is sponsored by the Wyoming County chapter of the American Legion Auxiliary. Selection is based on academic performance as well as recommendation attesting to the student’s leadership, character, honesty, cooperation, and maturity.

- Two seniors from Pioneer High School were pictured on the cover of *nextStep*, a publication distributed to students through guidance departments. The magazine (nextstepmag.com) deals with college, careers and life. Profiled in its pages were **Jacob Fontaine** and **Case Ronan**, who were named as two of 20 “super teens” in New York State. Jacob’s application touted his work on the family dairy farm in Strykersville, as well as his involvement in 4-H and FFA. Case is president of the National Honor Society and coached a 7th grade team in a community basketball league. He is also active in the worship band at Yorkshire Free Methodist Church.

- Eighth grader **Jaclyn Ely**, daughter of Jeff and Joanne Ely of Freedom, has been nominated to participate in a student ambassadors program through the group People to People. Jaclyn has an opportunity to represent Pioneer and Western New York during a trip to the United Kingdom and Ireland this summer. She and her family are working with local businesses and organizations to raise approximately \$6,000 to make the dream a reality. Jaclyn can be contacted via email at pcsambassador@aol.com. More information about the program can be found at www.studentambassadors.org.

- Pioneer senior **Diana Bockhahn** has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a President’s Volunteer Service Award. The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of time to their communities and country, was presented by the Prudential Spirit of Community program on behalf of the President’s Council on Service and Civic participation.

Internet safety: Know how to protect your family

by Erik Maeder,
Pioneer Technology Integrator

Much has been made in the news lately about the ever-increasing number of children that have created personal home pages on the MySpace.com web site, and of the dangers that our children are exposed to when they post personal information on the Internet. (MySpace.com is an example of a “social networking” site that allows people to create an Internet web page about themselves.)

These pages often include personal photographs, as well as information about hobbies, interests, friends and home towns. Though the intent of social networking sites is to allow people to communicate with others who share the same interests, they are also increasingly used by sexual predators who browse the online profiles to search for likely targets.

Though many use social networking sites, far more of our children are using instant messaging services like AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) and Yahoo Messenger. These services also present a threat, with predators searching online profiles and posing as people they are not in order to initiate online conversations with unsuspecting children and young adults.

Online predators use a simple “grooming process” to lure their victims, which begins with having shared similar interests to discuss. After gaining their victims’



Pioneer School District uses Internet filtering software to block social networking and instant messaging web sites on all computers.

trust and encouraging their victims to keep the online relationship secret, they will eventually try to arrange a face-to-face meeting.

Though our children understand the dangers associated with speaking to strangers and know not to share personal information with strangers, in the community, they are alarmingly unaware of the very same dangers when they go online. Recently, i-SAFE America (www.isafe.com), a company devoted to educating students about Internet safety, surveyed students and found that 10 percent feel it’s okay to post a picture of themselves on the Internet, 19 percent feel

safer on the Internet than they do in the real world, 24 percent see nothing wrong in chatting with a stranger on the Internet, and 10 percent have met someone from the Internet in person!

Here in the Pioneer Central School District, we have taken a number of steps to combat this problem. Using Internet filtering software, social networking and instant messaging sites are blocked on all school computers. In addition, we are making a concerted effort to educate our students to Internet dangers by holding age-appropriate Internet safety discussions with each and every student in the 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades.

But what can you do at

home to further protect your family? To begin, have a conversation with your children about Internet safety. Impress upon them that the rules about dealing with strangers in our communities also apply online, since everyone online could be a stranger.

Then, teach them about the four Rs:

- **RECOGNIZE** techniques used by predators to deceive them
- **REFUSE** requests for personal information
- **RESPOND** assertively to situations in which they may feel uncomfortable, by blocking the sender and/or telling a trusted adult,
- **REPORT** any suspicious or dangerous online contact.

Finally, your family can be safer online if you can follow a few general safety tips:

- Keep your computer in an open area, a family room or living room, rather than in your child’s bedroom.
- Become part of your child’s online experience. Show an interest and monitor what they are doing online.
- Learn about the Internet – educate yourself!
- Teach your child responsible Internet use, especially as it applies to posting personal information online.
- And most importantly, keep the lines of communication open with your child!

It's not just schoolwork, it's an adventure

Students in the Pioneer Middle School 5th grade classroom of Mrs. Mary Sue Asquith recently took part in an exciting "e-mission" in which they helped coordinate communications and relief efforts before, during, and after a simulated natural disaster.

Mrs. Asquith said "Operation: Survivor" started several months ago with a presentation from Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES' Distance Learning department. That led to a proposed two-hour mission in which students would use wireless laptops, the computer network, and distance learning technology to help coordinate a response to a simulated volcano and hurricane hitting the Caribbean Island of Montserrat. The scenario was based on real events.

In the weeks leading up to the March 10 e-mission, students learned how natural disasters affect the different spheres of the earth. With the help of science teacher Russ Morgan, students also learned how to graph hurricane and volcano data.

"We not only developed skills in reading, math, and science, but we also learned the importance of teamwork and communications," said Mrs. Asquith.



The excitement builds as students work to save people from a threatened volcano eruption. From left: Alyssa Archibald, Melissa Struck, and Courtney Wittmeyer.

The class had to also prepare resumes and team letters, then waited three weeks to find out if they would be accepted for the assignment.

On the day of the mission, students gathered in the RealNet room and met Commander Flynn of Mission Control. They watched as space shuttle astronauts repaired a low orbiting satellite in order to make remote communications possible. Then the satellite began transmitting real-time data

to the laptops to the student teams.

The students were divided among the evacuation team, communication team, volcano team, and hurricane team. One data officer was also designated to communicate with Mission Control.

"Our team decided that the women and children should be evacuated first with the available buses," said evacuation team member Hannah Heineman. "The rest had to wait until more buses

became available."

With all four teams working simultaneously during the mission, the area near the volcano was evacuated before the eruption. Though the hurricane narrowly missed hitting Montserrat, students tracked the storm path and alerted other islands of its approach.

In the aftermath of the e-mission, there were no casualties. A real-life eruption of the Soufriere Hills volcano nine years ago claimed 19 lives.

"This was our first e-mission, and I didn't know what to expect," said Mrs. Asquith. "But I'm really amazed that a group of 10-year-olds could do such an incredible job."

"The experience is an excellent example of using technological resources to provide hands-on, engaging, interdisciplinary instruction that motivates students to learn," said Pioneer Middle School principal Ravo Root.

At the March 21 meeting of the Pioneer Board of Education, students gave a presentation on the Montserrat mission, then received a certificate of achievement.

Mission control guides the communication team as members make the split-second decisions required in times of emergency.

From left: Katlyn Chmiel, Kristin Gleason, Bradley Fontaine, Jennifer Eckel, Shasta Ford, and Collin Hedges.



PIONEER SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE 2006 SEASON

Varsity Baseball

Coach: Dave Buncy
All Home Games Played at Arcade Park

Date	Opponent	H/A	Time
4/1	Maryvale	H	11:00
4/3	Amherst	H	4:30
4/5	Iroquois	A	5:00
4/7	Tonawanda	A	4:30
4/10	Hamburg	A	5:00
4/12	West Seneca E	A	5:00
4/13	Springville	A	4:00
4/17	Lackawanna	H *DH	1/3:00
4/18	Springville	H	12:00
4/19	East Aurora	A	1:00
4/21	East Aurora	H	1:00
4/24	Willi East	A	4:45
4/26	LakeShore	H	4:30
4/28	Amherst	A	5:00
5/1	Iroquois	H	4:30
5/3	Tonawanda	H	5:00
5/5	Hamburg	H	4:30
5/8	West Seneca E	H	5:00
5/10	Willi East	A	5:00
5/12	LakeShore	A	5:00
5/19	Maryvale	A	4:30

Tennis

Coach: Chris Edwards

4/5	Maryvale	A	4:30
4/11 @	GOW	4/19	GOW H 4:00
4/24	Springville	A	4:30
4/26	Depew	H	4:30
4/27	Starpoint	A	4:30
4/28	Willi South	H	4:30
5/1	Cheektowaga	H	4:30
5/4	Willi South	A	4:30
5/5	Maryvale	H	4:30
5/8	Springville	H	4:30
5/10	Depew	A	4:30
5/11	Starpoint	H	4:30
5/12	West Seneca E.	A	4:30
5/15	Cheektowaga	A	4:30

5/16-19: ECIC'Singles&Doubles@ Lancaster

5/22 - 5/24 Team Champs & Sectionals



Boys J.V. Baseball

Coach: Daryl Besant

Date	Opponent	H/A	Time
3/28	Holland	A	3:30
3/30	Holland	H	3:30
4/1	Maryvale	H	11:00
4/3	Amherst	A	4:30
4/5	Iroquois	H	4:30
4/7	Tonawanda	A	4:30
4/10	Hamburg	H	5:00
4/12	West Seneca E	H	5:00
4/13	Springville	H	4:00
4/18	Springville	H	12:00
4/24	Willi East	H	5:00
4/26	LakeShore	H	4:30
4/28	Amherst	H	4:30
5/1	Iroquois	A	5:00
5/3	Tonawanda	H	5:00
5/5	Hamburg	A	4:30
5/8	West Seneca E	A	5:00
5/10	Willi East	A	5:00
5/12	LakeShore	A	5:00
5/19	Maryvale	A	4:30

Boys Modified Baseball

All Games Played at High School

Coach: Mark Mitrowski

4/11	Amherst	H	5:00
4/6	Tonawanda (Vet. Park)	A	5:00
4/25	Cheektowaga	H	5:00
4/27	Maryvale	A	5:00
5/3	Eden (Middle School)	A	4:30
5/4	Springville	A	5:00
5/6	Depew	H	10:00
5/9	Amherst (Saratoga)	A	5:00
5/11	Tonawanda	H	4:30
5/13	Cheektowaga	A	10:00
5/15	Maryvale	H	4:30
5/17	JFK (Woodrow Wilson)	A	4:30
5/19	JFK	H	4:30
5/20	Eden	H	10:00

Girls J.V. Varsity Softball

All Games Played at High School
Coach: Frank Miga / Ben Gallegos

Date	Opponent	H/A	Time
3/30	Holland (Var)	A	3:30
3/30	Holland (V)	H	3:30
4/3	Amherst	H	5:00
4/5	Iroquois	A	4:30
4/10	Hamburg	A	4:30
4/11	North Collins(Var)	A	4:30
4/12	W. Seneca E.	A	5:00
4/13	Holland (Var)	H	4:30
4/13	Holland (V)	A	4:30
4/24	Willi E. (TMS)	A	5:00
4/25	East Aurora	H	4:30
4/26	LakeShore	H	4:30
4/27	Amherst	A	5:00
4/27	Amherst JV	H	4:30
4/28	Springville	H	4:30
5/1	Iroquois	H	4:30
5/4	Hamburg	H	4:45
5/5	East Aurora	A	4:30
5/8	W. Seneca E.	H	5:00
5/9	North Collins(Var)	A	5:00
5/10	Willi East	H	5:00
5/12	LakeShore	A	5:00
5/15	Springville	A	4:30



Girls Modified Softball

Coach: John Hochmuth

4/10	Willi South	H	5:00
4/12	LakeShore	A	4:30
4/25	Iroquois	A	4:30
4/27	Amherst	A	4:30
4/29	Willi East	H	10:00
5/2	W. Seneca E.	H	4:30
5/6	Willi South	A	10:00
5/9	LakeShore	H	4:30
5/11	Iroquois	H	4:30
5/16	Amherst	H	5:00
5/18	Willi East	A	4:30
5/23	W. Seneca E.	A	4:30

Boys & Girls Track

All Meets are at the High School
Boys Coaches: Jim Duprey, Matt Carucci
Girls Coaches: Mary Doud, Jana Landahl

Date	Opponent	H/A
4/8	Franklinville Relays	(1:00) A
4/13	Frontier	(4:30) H
4/18	Olean	(1:00) A
4/21	Letchworth	(1:00) H
4/25	Holland	(4:00) H
4/27	Cheektowaga	(4:30) H
4/29	Olean Invite	(10:00 AM) A
5/1	Amherst	(4:30) H
5/4	Starpoint	(5:00) A
5/6	Depew Wildcat Relays	(2:00) A
5/10	Williamsville East	(5:00) A
5/15	Springville	(4:00) A
5/18	Williamsville South	(4:30) H
5/19	Salamanca Super 8's	(4:00) A
5/22	Pioneer Pentathlon (girls)	H
5/26/27	ECIC's (Alden)	A
6/1	Frosh/Soph Champs (Iroq)	A
6/2/3	Sectional Champs (JFK)	A
6/3 & 4	NYS Championships	A
	St. Lawrence University	



See the Pioneer website
(www.pioneer.wvnyric.org) for
Directions and game results!
www.ecicsports.org

Jim Graczyk Athletic Director 492-9351
Jen Tatko Athletic Secretary 492-9061
Up to date information - Hotline 492-9066
Schedule is subject to change

Unit on rainforest has students thinking globally

Tropical rainforests may not be in the backyards of Pioneer Middle School students, but that doesn't mean they aren't learning about them and trying to conserve them.

Students in the mixed 5th and 6th grade class of Mrs. Christine Frascella are studying biomes of the world this year. A biome is a large, naturally occurring community of plants and animals occupying a major habitat.

"When studying the tropical rainforest in science, we cross curriculum to study South America at the same time," said Mrs. Frascella. "We read the story, *The Great Kapok Tree*, by Lynne Cherry."

Students then created their own Kapok tree out of cardboard and paper. They studied the animals who would live in a Kapok tree, with each student researching a different one. Then they created life-sized animals through drawing, painting, and stuffing the bodies with newspaper.

Mrs. Frascella said the next step is for the class to promote saving the rainforest. "We would like to get the word out for people to visit the web site, www.rainforestsites.com, and click on it daily. They can do anywhere they connect to the Internet. Sponsors will set aside money to buy 11.4 square feet of rainforest land for each daily click on the web site. This can help prevent the deforestation."

Rainforests are extremely important in the ecology of the Earth. The plants of the rainforest generate much of the Earth's oxygen. These plants are also very important to people in other ways; many are used in new drugs that fight disease and illness.



Pioneer Middle School students Andrew Prouty and Tyler Grace pose in front of life-sized animals and trees they helped create while studying the rainforest.

FASHION STATEMENT



The Delevan Elementary School 2nd grade class of Miss Elaine Kalinowski recently read the book "The Principal's New Clothes" by Stephanie Calmenson. Afterward the students designed clothing and dressed a picture of principal Jeannene Wagner in some adorable paper outfits.

Special Education workshop planned

The Parent Network of Western New York will be conducting a workshop, "Overview of Special Education," for parents of students with disabilities.

This event will take place on Friday, April 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Pioneer Middle School.

Presenters will explain the special education process, children's rights, and the importance of collaboration and communication between parents and school personnel.

To obtain information about the workshop or to register, contact the Parent Network of Western New York at 716-332-4170 or 866-277-4762.

THE PIONEER SCENE



WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

A group of students from Pioneer Middle School finished second in their division at the regional Odyssey of the Mind event held March 11 in Wellsville. Teacher Sarah Farr said the team competed to solve a problem entitled "Classics...Ancient Egypt," in which Queen Nefertiti experiences ups and downs in constructing her pyramid. Row 1: Jamie Levy and Amanda Galioto. Row 2: Courtney Taylor and Brittany Zavarella. Row 3: Drioux Danielson, Mrs. Farr, Alex Lewis, and Kelsey Rebman

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK:

At a recent in-school performance of the Pioneer High School Symphonic Band, several members of the Arcade Elementary School faculty were invited to sit in for a musical number. Their students were delighted to see the results. From left: Mark Kehl, Cheryl Galvin, Pam Kaminski, Madeline Hall, Judy Carmody, and Jeremy Wilton.



THE TASK-ER AT HAND:

Pioneer superintendent Jeffrey Bowen visits with Steve Tasker following the ex-Buffalo Bill's speech to staff on March 24. Following that, teachers conducted parent conferences, while other employees participated in staff development activities.

Pioneer Central School is in compliance with the U.S. Civil Services Rights Act of 1964 and the Title IX Education Amendments of 1972, Part 86. The District provides equal employment opportunity to all individuals and does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age or handicapping condition. The 504 compliance officer can be reached at 716 492-9435. The Title IX compliance officer can be reached at 716 492-9351.