



**Gates Chili  
is now using  
ParentSquare for  
communication with  
K-12 families!**  
*Details on pg. 7*

**2024-25**

**GATES CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Handbook and Calendar*

# Gates Chili Central School District

## About the District

### Message from the Superintendent

Dear Gates Chili Families,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year!

The Gates Chili Central School District is committed to fostering belonging through equitable access to culturally responsive and restorative practices that support the wellness of our learning community. We also strive to maximize academic achievement for each student through access to rigorous instructional practices supported by data-driven insights and ongoing progress monitoring. This year, we are proud to be able to serve all students nutritious breakfasts and lunches at no charge to families.

This handbook is full of information about how to support your student in their educational journey. From information about those free meals for all students and emergency closing policies to health services and opportunities for family engagement, please review the information thoroughly and keep this handbook as a reference throughout the school year.

Additionally, you will find a calendar covering the school year months. While we strive to be as accurate as possible with these dates, the need may arise for dates and times to change. Always check the district website for the most up-to-date dates and times for events.

I look forward to working on behalf of you and your student this year.

Go Spartans!



Christopher J. Dailey  
Superintendent of Schools

The Gates Chili Central School District seeks to teach and inspire excellence for all learners through excellent academic programs, extensive co-curricular activities, family involvement, community partnerships and a commitment to providing the knowledge, skills and resources to prepare students for success.

Gates Chili CSD serves nearly 3,700 students in four elementary schools for grades UPK-5, one grades 6-8 middle school and one grades 9-12 high school. Our diverse population, comprised of students from more than 23 different countries who speak more than 30 home languages, fosters an accepting and positive school culture.



The district offers a robust variety of learning opportunities from our youngest learners in Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) to our high school scholars and transition-aged students. Along with rigorous curriculum and highly qualified staff, Gates Chili offers instructional technology integral in educating the 21st-century student. The district also places an increased focus on social-emotional learning and development.

GCCSD features state-of-the-art learning opportunities and facilities with additional investments being made to students' futures through capital improvement projects. Gates Chili High School has top-notch facilities including a national award-winning, state-of-the-art science wing; an art and graphic arts wing; a 9,000-square-foot library; a 22,000-square-foot field house that serves students and the community at large; and a performing arts center with 1,000+ seats. Gates Chili Middle School also features award-winning spaces, including art and family and consumer sciences (FACS) classrooms and counseling and nurse's suites.

### 2024-25 Board of Education Meetings

The Gates Chili Board of Education holds regular business meetings twice a month on Tuesdays beginning at 6:30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Gates Chili Professional Learning Center (GCPLC) unless otherwise indicated. For a full listing of BOE meetings including the most up-to-date times and locations, visit [gateschili.org/calendar](https://gateschili.org/calendar).

Sept. 10	Feb. 11
Sept. 24	Feb. 25
Oct. 8	March 11
Oct. 29	March 25
Nov. 12	April 8
Dec. 3	April 22
Dec. 17	May 6
Jan. 14	May 27
Jan. 28	June 17

### 2024-25 Board Members

**Catherine (Katie) Coffee**  
[cmcoffee@gateschili.org](mailto:cmcoffee@gateschili.org)

**Kathryn Davis**  
[kmdavis@gateschili.org](mailto:kmdavis@gateschili.org)

**Michelle Jennings**  
[mnjennings@gateschili.org](mailto:mnjennings@gateschili.org)

**Kerri Keyes**  
[makeyes@gateschili.org](mailto:makeyes@gateschili.org)

**Nicole Littlewood**  
[nmlittlewood@gateschili.org](mailto:nmlittlewood@gateschili.org)

**Robert Long**  
[rmlong@gateschili.org](mailto:rmlong@gateschili.org)

**Frank Muscato**  
[famuscato@gateschili.org](mailto:famuscato@gateschili.org)

**Dr. Christine Brown Richards**  
[cbrichards@gateschili.org](mailto:cbrichards@gateschili.org)

**Tanya Srbinovski**  
[txsrbinovski@gateschili.org](mailto:txsrbinovski@gateschili.org)

# District Directory

## Florence Brassler Elementary School

1000 Chili Center Coldwater Road, Rochester, NY 14624  
Main Office: (585) 247-1880  
Attendance: (585) 247-4660

Principal: Timothy Young  
Assistant Principal: Kylie Smith  
Student day: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Neil Armstrong Elementary School

3273 Lyell Road, Rochester, NY 14606  
Main Office: (585) 247-3190  
Attendance: (585) 340-5546

Principal: Rebecca Scott  
Assistant Principal: Lindsey Georger  
Student day: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Paul Road Elementary School

571 Paul Road, Rochester, NY 14624  
Main Office: (585) 247-2144  
Attendance: (585) 340-5581

Principal: Andraya Cutaia  
Assistant Principal: Kimberly Doty  
Student day: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Walt Disney Elementary School

175 Coldwater Road, Rochester, NY 14624  
Main Office: (585) 247-3151  
Attendance: (585) 340-5560

Principal: Erin Uginie  
Assistant Principal: Costa Tavelaris  
Student day: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Gates Chili Middle School

2 Spartan Way, Rochester, NY 14624  
Main Office: (585) 247-5053  
Attendance: (585) 247-5050 ext. 31101

Principal: Dr. Daniel Zdanowski  
Amerk Assistant Principal: Michelle Dossier  
Red Wing Assistant Principal: Kenya Rollins  
Rhino Assistant Principal: Zalika Johnson  
Student day: 7:58 a.m. to 2:57 p.m.

## Gates Chili High School

1 Spartan Way, Rochester, NY 14624  
Switchboard: (585) 247-5050, option 1  
Attendance Last Name A-K: (585) 247-5050 ext. 21101  
Attendance Last Name L-Z: (585) 247-5050 ext. 21102

Principal: Thomas Hammel  
Class of 2025 Assistant Principal: Laura Braid  
Class of 2026 Assistant Principal: Kevin Whitmore  
Class of 2027 Assistant Principal: Jennifer Kern  
Class of 2028 Assistant Principal: Garonia Parchment-Magnussen  
Student day: 7:20 a.m. to 2:12 p.m.

## Gates Chili District Office\*

3 Spartan Way, Rochester, NY 14624  
Switchboard: (585) 247-5050, option 4  
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*\* Please note that during this school year, Gates Chili District Office will be moving from the Administration Building at 3 Spartan Way to Gates Chili High School at 1 Spartan Way. Please check our website for the most up-to-date locations.*

## Gates Chili Transportation and Facilities Center

4 Spartan Way, Rochester, NY 14624  
Main Office: (585) 247-4774

## Stay connected on ParentSquare!

Gone are the days of sifting through your email inbox to find an important message. Using ParentSquare, you can communicate with faculty, staff and administrators using Direct Messages and all your messages will be in one place! Go to [gateschili.org/ParentSquare](https://gateschili.org/ParentSquare) to learn more.

## Safe School Helpline

Parents/guardians, students, staff and community members can report concerns to district administration utilizing the Safe School Helpline. This may include bullying/harassment, drug use/abuse and safety concerns. Submit confidential information by calling 1-800-418-6423 ext. 359, texting TIPS to 66746 or clicking the link on the homepage of the district website.



# School-To-Home Communication



## Introducing ParentSquare for K-12 communication!

Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, Gates Chili is using ParentSquare for school-to-home communication!

ParentSquare is a powerful and user-friendly communication platform where families will be able to keep track of news, activities and events from all their students' schools in one place. That means you don't have to use different apps or tools for different schools or grades—everyone will be using the same platform!

With ParentSquare's mobile app and web-based platform, Gates Chili families will be able to choose how and how often they receive information from the district. For each message modality (email, text message/SMS, app notification), families can choose how they want to be notified. These choices can also be customized by school building:

- **Instant:** receive Posts as soon as they are shared
- **Digest:** receive a summary of any Posts from the day in one message at 6 p.m.
- **Off:** receive only alerts and urgent messages

Families can also choose the language in which they would prefer to receive messages.

ParentSquare automatically generates an account for each family member, using their preferred email address and phone number. We encourage families to access their accounts so they can download the mobile app and update their preferences on when and how they are notified.

Visit [gateschili.org/ParentSquare](https://gateschili.org/ParentSquare) for details on how to activate your account, use ParentSquare and more!

### Using ParentSquare, families can:

- Receive messages from the school via email, text or app notification
- Choose to receive information as it comes or all at once with a daily digest at 6 p.m.
- Communicate in your preferred language
- Comment on school postings to engage with your school community
- Direct message teachers and school staff
- Sign up for conferences or other events
- Receive report cards
- and more!



Families will receive regular and timely communication on expected topics via ParentSquare Posts, Direct Messages and/or Alerts. Please note that emergency communications may occur after hours. Families will also receive communication on additional topics that may come via secondary communication channels, such as print and digital newsletters shared in ParentSquare, district or school website and/or social media platforms.



*Student progress*



*School closures/delays*



*Student attendance*



*Injury, harm or health concerns*



*Specialized services*



*NYS updates and info*



*Emergency notifications*



*Class relocation*



*New educator or principal*



*Major construction*



*Transportation delays*



*Power outages*



*Routine safety drills*



*Program news and updates*



*Building and district events*



*...and much more!*

# School-To-Home Communication

## Attendance

☰ 7110

A record of attendance is maintained for each student registered in the district. Parents/guardians are asked to ensure regular attendance for their student(s) as excessive absences can interfere with the educational progress of the student.

If it becomes necessary for a student to be absent from school due to illness or for other reasons, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to report the absence via phone during the first hour that school is in session.

Absences and tardy arrivals and early departures will be categorized in one of two ways:

- **Excused:** an absence, tardy arrival or early departure due to personal illness, illness or death in the family, impassable roads due to inclement weather, religious observance, quarantine, required court appearances, attendance at health clinics, approved college visits, approved cooperative work programs, military obligations or other such reasons as may be approved by the board of education
- **Unexcused:** an absence, tardy arrival or early departure that does not fall into the above categories (e.g., family vacation, hunting, babysitting, haircut, obtaining learner's permit, road test, oversleeping)

Students are required to provide documentation regarding their absence on the day they return to school. The note or email should be signed or sent by a parent/guardian and should include the date and reason for the absence. Students who have been absent from school due to illness should not participate in school-related activities on the day(s) of illness. Any absence for which an excuse is not submitted within five (5) school days after the student returns will be considered unexcused.

Upon returning to school following a properly excused absence, tardy arrival or early departure, it is the responsibility of the student to consult with their teacher(s) regarding arrangements to make up missed work, assignments and/or tests in accordance with the time schedule specified by the teacher.

A student is truant if they are absent from the school building and/or scheduled instruction without permission of their parent/guardian. Truancy will not be tolerated, and truant students will be subject to disciplinary measures.

## Emergency Closings

☰ 3510

The superintendent of schools may close schools, delay opening schools, dismiss students, faculty and staff early or cancel afterschool activities when hazardous weather or other emergencies threaten the health and safety of students and personnel. In these cases, Gates Chili will provide information and updates via ParentSquare using phone calls, text messages and/or app notifications, in addition to updates shared on the district website and social media, and local television and radio stations.

The decision to delay or cancel school for the day due to weather conditions is made with consideration of current conditions, temperature and weather forecasts. The district will make every effort to announce school closings by 6 a.m. Should it be necessary to close school during the day, an announcement will be made as soon as possible through these same communication channels.

Families whose homes are unattended during the day should make prior arrangements for their students to be properly supervised should an early dismissal occur. Additionally, there is no private or parochial school transportation provided when GCCSD is closed.



To ensure you receive emergency notifications, please update your information through SchoolTool. Visit [gateschili.org/UpdateContact](https://gateschili.org/) for directions on how to login to the SchoolTool Parent Portal to make changes to your contact information.

☰ Denotes corresponding policy number

To report an absence, call (585) 247-5050 then dial the following extensions or send a direct message the corresponding account in ParentSquare.

Florence Brassler	51101	FB Attendance
Neil Armstrong	41101	NA Attendance
Paul Road	81101	PR Attendance
Walt Disney	61101	WD Attendance
Middle School	31101	MS Attendance
High School: Last Names A-K	21101	HS Attendance A-K
High School: Last Names L-Z	21102	HS Attendance L-Z

# General Information

## Equity and Inclusion

☰ 3430

The Gates Chili Central School District is dedicated to creating a welcoming and affirming environment for everyone. As such, the district is committed to strengthening equity and inclusion for all. Through the Strategic Plan for Equity, the district will remove barriers that hinder growth and learning, so student success is achieved at equitable levels across the district.

The district identified five improvement areas outlined in a strategic, multi-year plan to improve outcomes for all students. The following five areas emerged as districtwide areas in need of improvement in order for students to achieve success equitably across the district: teaching and learning; recruitment, hiring and retention; multi-tiered systems of support; restorative practices; and data systems.

This work is underpinned by the district's moral imperative, adopted by the Board of Education in October 2020:

*The Gates Chili Central School District has a moral duty to serve its students and families. Every student must be able to receive an equitable education where they are represented, protected and able to thrive. The district acknowledges the presence of white privilege and bias and how this perpetuates systematic racism. The Gates Chili Central School District is committed to the necessary growth required to develop and sustain equity and dismantle disproportionality.*

For more information on the district's equity journey, including ways to engage in this ongoing work, go to [gateschili.org/Equity](https://gateschili.org/Equity).



## Non-Discrimination Policy

☰ 3420

The Gates Chili Central School District hereby advises students, parents/guardians, employees and the general public that it offers employment, educational and vocational opportunities without regard to actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, age, weight, marital status, military status, veteran status, political affiliation, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, ancestry, predisposing genetic characteristic, domestic violence victim status, gender identity or non-conformity, disability, or any other status protected by law.

Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to the district's civil rights compliance officers. Non-discrimination grievance procedures can be found in Board of Education Policy 3420 Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the School District.

## Dignity for All Students Act

☰ 7550

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), also known as the Dignity Act, seeks to provide the state's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. In addition, the Dignity Act prohibits harassment, bullying and/or discrimination that occurs off school property where such acts create or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that such acts might reach school property. This also includes cyberbullying, which is defined as harassment or bullying which occurs through any form of electronic communication.

The Dignity Act protects against all forms of harassment, particularly those based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, mental or physical ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex.

Additionally, the district creates the foundation for a positive school culture through classroom curriculum on diversity, sensitivity, civility and citizenship, and professional development on culturally responsive teaching.

In accordance with the Dignity Act, the district will take necessary steps to address matters related to harassment, bullying and/or discrimination of students. If you have questions/concerns related to suspected harassment, bullying and/or discrimination of students or if you wish to make a report, please contact your building's coordinator.

### 2024-25 Dignity Act Coordinators

Florence Brassler: Kylie Smith  
Neil Armstrong: Lindsey Georger  
Paul Road: Kimberly Doty  
Walt Disney: Costa Tavelaris  
Middle School: Michelle Dossier  
High School: Jennifer Kern

### Gates Chili Central School District Civil Rights Compliance Officers

#### Primary:

Michaela Perrotto, Esq.  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Human Resources and  
Labor Relations

#### Secondary:

Tonya Dickerson  
Coordinator of Recruitment,  
Hiring and Retention

3 Spartan Way  
Rochester, New York 14624  
(585) 247-5050  
[civilrightscompliance@gateschili.org](mailto:civilrightscompliance@gateschili.org)

☰ Denotes corresponding policy number

# General Information

## Code of Conduct and Support

The Gates Chili Central School District Board of Education (BOE) is committed to providing a safe school environment where students may receive, and district personnel may deliver, quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other district personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The Board of Education has clearly defined these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property in the BOE-adopted Code of Conduct and Support. This code is restorative in nature and is anchored by the Spartan Way values of Respect, Responsibility, Compassion and Hard Work. The district's complete Code of Conduct and Support is available for review at each building's main office, as well as on the district website at [gateschili.org/CodeOfConduct](http://gateschili.org/CodeOfConduct).



**The Spartan Way**  
Respect - Responsibility  
Compassion - Hard Work

## Registration and Assignment to School

Families who are new to the Gates Chili Central School District will enroll their students through a centralized registration process at the district level. Registration packets are available at the district office or can be found online at [gateschili.org/register](http://gateschili.org/register).

Those registering new students must provide the following:

- proof of a student's address (mortgage statement, rental or lease agreement, tax receipt).
- documentation of age (birth certificate, record of baptism, passport);
- record of immunizations and current physical; and
- custody/guardianship/adoption documents, if applicable.

For additional examples of acceptable proof of address, documentation of age or any other questions, contact the district registrar.

(585) 247-5050 ext. 12224  
[registrar@gateschili.org](mailto:registrar@gateschili.org)

Gates Chili District Office\*  
3 Spartan Way  
Rochester, NY 14624

*\*Please note that during this school year, the Gates Chili District Office will be moving from the Administration Building at 3 Spartan Way to Gates Chili High School at 1 Spartan Way.*

## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration is held during February and March of each year for students entering kindergarten that fall. To register, students must be 5 years old by Dec. 1 of the calendar year in which they begin kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration information will automatically be mailed in February each year to any eligible families currently in the district census database. If your student is eligible for kindergarten and you have not received registration information by the end of February, or if you are a new district resident, please contact the district registrar.



## Student Information Change

Personal information is handled confidentially by the district and needs to be accurate. Change to a student's personal status should be reported to the district immediately.

- Changes in name (family or individual) and residence (within or outside of the district) must be reported to the district registrar at [registrar@gateschili.org](mailto:registrar@gateschili.org). Please note that changes in address may result in students being assigned to a different elementary school based on the new residential area.
- Changes to email addresses and phone numbers can be submitted to the district using the SchoolTool Parent Portal or by going to [gateschili.org/UpdateContact](http://gateschili.org/UpdateContact). Please note it may take up to 48 hours for these changes to be reflected in ParentSquare.

# General Information

## School Nutrition

**MEALS  
ARE FREE  
AGAIN!**

Gates Chili Central School District is pleased to announce the district will provide free meals to all students again in the 2024-25 school year!

The Gates Chili Central School District believes one of the most important ways to help students perform better in the classroom is to provide them with the nutrition necessary for the healthy growth of their minds and bodies. In the 2024-25 school year, under the Community Eligibility Program (CEP), all students enrolled at and attending Gates Chili schools are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch on school days at no charge.

Despite all meals being free, it is imperative that families still complete an Income Eligibility Form, which is tied to other important benefits for students such as fee waivers for advanced placement exams, dual-credit tuition assistance, state funding and more. To complete that application, go to [gateschili.org/IncomeForm](https://gateschili.org/IncomeForm).

Individual breakfast and lunch items such as snacks, ice cream and other items will still be available for purchase using student meals accounts. Those accounts are managed through MySchoolBucks. Accounts can be accessed online or through the MySchoolBucks app available for both Apple and Android devices. This service allows families to view account balances, deposit funds using a credit card or electronic check and view purchase history.

Families can also add funds to student meal accounts at no additional charge by sending in cash or check. For questions about free meals or school meal accounts, go to [gateschili.org/SchoolNutrition](https://gateschili.org/SchoolNutrition) or call (585) 247-5050 ext. 31402.



## Transportation

The Gates Chili Central School District Transportation Department is proud to travel more than one million miles each school year while safely and efficiently transporting students each school day. Gates Chili Transportation is also proud to be leading the way in sustainable practices by being one of the first districts in the state and region to add electric school buses to its fleet.

Buses are provided and maintained by the district for each student, including those transported to private and parochial schools and specialized programs. During these trips, Gates Chili bus drivers have the responsibility of transporting students safely to their destinations. Students have the responsibility of cooperating with the bus conduct guidelines:

- Keep your feet out of the aisle
- Stay in your seat with your seat belt on
- Use your inside voice and be respectful to the driver
- Keep your hands to yourself

All district-provided buses are also equipped with lap-shoulder belts to ensure every student is transported to and from school safely.



# General Information

## Safety and Security

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at Gates Chili. The district routinely evaluates its safety plans and procedures and practices emergency drills regularly. The district makes adjustments as needed and is always strengthening preparations and possible responses to crises.

Community support has allowed the district to install an enhanced security camera system that allows monitoring of students, staff and visitors at all times. In addition, the district is in the process of enhancing its internal emergency notification system with the introduction of a new emergency response platform. This platform will provide internal stakeholders with the ability to instantly and effectively communicate during emergencies.

School access is controlled utilizing a single point of entry to screen visitors prior to entrance into the building. This means all visitors to the district must present a government issued ID, such as a driver's license, which will be scanned into the district's visitor management system. Emergency Responses

### Emergency Responses

In the event of an emergency, Gates Chili utilizes the SHELL emergency response system, which is used by schools throughout New York State to provide administrators, teachers, students, parents/guardians, law enforcement officials and community residents with a common language to understand what is happening and how to respond.

The district will notify families as soon as possible about any emergencies or drills. This is why it is vitally important to keep your contact information up to date. For a more detailed look at what types of messages you can expect to receive and communication platforms, see page 4.

Please take a moment to review the responses outlined on this page and take note of the directives for families during a lockout and lockdown.



### See something? Say something!

The Safe School Helpline is a convenient, confidential way for anyone to report information about situations that may affect safety. Use the Safe School Helpline to report threats of violence, suicide and illegal activity that could harm children in our school. Your call is private, confidential and anonymous.

#### Ways to report:

Call 1-800-418-6423 ext. 359

Text TIPS to 66746

Visit [safeschoolhelpline.com](http://safeschoolhelpline.com)

**S - Shelter in Place:** Used to shelter students and staff inside the building. Typically used during severe weather.

**H - Hold in Place:** Used to limit movement of students and staff while dealing with short term emergencies, such as a medical emergency or a maintenance issue.

**E - Evacuation:** Used to evacuate students and staff from the building because it is safer outside than inside, such as during a fire or hazardous material spill.

**L - Lockout:** Used to secure school buildings and grounds during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school, such as a wild animal in the school vicinity. Typically, regular indoor activities may continue. No one will be permitted to enter or exit the building until this designation is lifted. Parents/guardians and community members are reminded not to come to school or wait outdoors at school for their own safety.

**L - Lockdown:** Used to secure school buildings and grounds during incidents that pose an immediate threat of violence in or around the school. Students and staff take cover, remain silent and out of view. During a lockdown, it is important for parents/guardians and community members not to come to school until they receive notice that the lockdown is clear.

# Health Information

Every school has a school nurse who coordinates health care in the school setting, answers routine medical questions, gives immediate first aid, provides medical care according to the medical regimen prescribed by the private health provider, performs and coordinates mandated NYS screenings and advises parents on immunization and mandated physical examination requirements.

## School Nurse Extensions

Call (585) 247-5050 and use the building extensions below

Florence Brassler .....	51200
Neil Armstrong .....	41200
Paul Road.....	81201
Walt Disney .....	61200
Middle School .....	31201
High School.....	21200



## Screening Exams

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires certain screening examinations at certain ages or grades of students as listed to the right. The New York State Department of Health also requires that a private health care provider reports and the school district collects information on your student's Body Mass Index (BMI) and Weight Status Category (WSC). Families may fulfill these legal obligations by having personal physicians conduct the screening exams privately. If a family has not provided a certificate or notified the nurse of a plan to have the screenings done privately by the time the nurse conducts the school screenings, the district will follow NYSED mandates and will conduct the screening as scheduled. Please communicate regularly with the school nurse to avoid confusion.

The following screening evaluations are conducted by the school nurse who will advise on any concerns:

1. Distance visual acuity and near visual acuity for all new entrants and for students in kindergarten, grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11 and at any other time deemed appropriate.
2. Color perception for all new entrants within six months of entrance.
3. Hearing acuity for all new entrants and for those in kindergarten, grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11 and at any other time deemed essential.
4. Scoliosis screening (curvature of the spine) for girls in grades 5 and 7 and for boys in grade 9.



## Medications

 7513

The school nurse has the primary responsibility for administering any medications to students. A written order from the student's primary care provider must be on file in the school's health office for prescription and over-the-counter medication, as well as a written request from the parent/guardian. The medication should be delivered to the school nurse by the parent/guardian in the original prescription container, marked clearly with the full name of the student who is taking it. Over-the-counter medication must be in the new and unopened container it was sold in. Parents/Guardians will also need to sign a consent form giving the nurse permission to administer the medication. Students may not transport medications to or from school, including over-the-counter medications.

 Denotes corresponding policy number

## Physical Exams

 7512

Physical examinations are state mandated in prekindergarten or kindergarten, grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 and for eligibility to participate in interscholastic sports. A health certificate signed by a duly licensed New York State health care provider must be provided to the health office for new entrants to the district or for any student entering in any of the above grades. Health appraisals need to be presented within 30 days of entry. They are valid for 12 months, through the last day of the month in which the physical was completed. It is recommended that students have their annual physical with their primary care provider since that person knows the student's health and medical history the best. Physical examinations are also available at school free of charge, if necessary. Examinations are conducted by the school physician/nurse practitioner on selected days during the school year.

# Health Information

## Immunization of Students

 7511

Per New York State law, non-medical or religious exemptions are no longer permitted as an alternative to the requirement that students are to be vaccinated against measles and other diseases to attend prekindergarten through grade 12 in a public, private or parochial setting or to be enrolled in daycare.



Immunizations	Prekindergarten (Child Care, Head Start, Nursery, 3K or UPK)	Kindergarten-Grade 5	Grades 6-11	Grade 12
Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP)	4 doses	5 doses or 4 doses ONLY if the fourth dose was received at age 4 years or older or 3 doses ONLY if the child is 7 years or older and the series was started at age 1 year or older	3 doses	
Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis booster (Tdap)			1 dose (on or after age 11 years)	
Polio (IPV/OPV)	3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years or older	4 doses or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years or older	3 doses
Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)	1 dose	2 doses		
Hepatitis B	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses or 2 doses of adult Hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax HB) if the doses were received at least 4 months apart between the ages of 11 and 15 years	
Varicella (chickenpox)	1 dose	2 doses		1 dose
Meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY)			Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10: 1 dose	2 doses or 1 dose ONLY if the first dose was received at age 16 years or older
Haemophilus influenzae type B conjugate (Hib)	1 to 4 doses Depends on child's age and doses previously received			
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)	1 to 4 doses Depends on child's age and doses previously received			

 Denotes corresponding policy number

# Instruction

## Academics

The district mission statement articulates the fundamental purpose of the Office of Instruction, which collaborates with stakeholders to support the mission and prepare students to be future-ready. The Office of Instruction also instills the Spartan Way values of Respect, Responsibility, Compassion and Hard Work.

Together, teachers and administrators have established a robust curriculum foundation aligned with New York State standards. This curriculum comes to life in the classroom through instruction that is rigorous, engaging and student-centered. From early childhood education to an array of secondary electives, students are both challenged and supported throughout their academic journey.

Students engage with core academic programs such as science, English, mathematics and social studies, along with diverse subject areas including physical education, the arts, business, family and consumer science (FACS), health, world languages and technology. At the secondary level, students have access to dual-credit courses and Advanced Placement (AP), providing opportunities to earn college credit while still in high school. This comprehensive approach ensures that all students receive a well-rounded education, preparing them for future success and fostering a lifelong love of learning.

## Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), sometimes known as Response to Intervention Support Services, involves all staff, including a school-based intervention team that collaborates within each school. The goal of MTSS is to provide high-quality instruction and support for all students while identifying those who need targeted intervention plans for additional academic, social-emotional or behavioral support. Teachers, speech therapists, counselors, psychologists, social workers and administrators work with referred students and parents/guardians to promote student success. For more information, contact your student's school principal.

## Music and Arts

Gates Chili provides all students with the opportunity to study music, art, dance and theater, offering experiences that promote lifelong participation and enjoyment of the arts. Integrating the arts into the classroom fosters creativity, encourages critical thinking, and connects the outside world with the classroom.

### Elementary School Programs

Starting in fourth grade, students can take instrumental lessons and join our band and chorus programs, allowing them to develop their musical talents and collaborate as part of an ensemble. Each elementary school also offers an art club and showcases students' work through online portfolio platforms, as well as through building-wide art shows.

### Middle and High School Programs

As students transition to middle and high school, they continue to explore their interests and refine their skills through additional co-curricular and elective programs. These include jazz band, show choir, drama, musical theater and a variety of art courses. Each provides unique experiences that give students opportunities to create, perform, produce, respond and connect to the arts.

### Arts Integration

Gates Chili integrates the arts across the curriculum to enhance student learning. As part of the ARTS (Arts Reaching and Teaching in Schools) Partners Program, a partnership with the Rochester Broadway Theatre League (RBTL), topics and themes related to

touring Broadway shows are adapted into age-appropriate classroom lessons. Students also have the opportunity to experience live theater by attending a Broadway production at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre.

### Recognition and Awards

In 2019, Gates Chili received the Magna Award for equity in education from the National School Boards Association (NSBA) for removing barriers to achievement for vulnerable or underserved students. Additionally, Gates Chili has been in the Best Communities for Music Education since 2023, demonstrating an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education.

Through these programs, students gain not only musical and artistic skills but also build confidence, discipline, and teamwork. The district believes in nurturing the artistic abilities of students and providing them with the resources and support they need to thrive and enjoy the enriching world of music and arts.



## Spartan Athletics

The Gates Chili Central School District Athletic Department believes athletics is an important part of the total educational program. It allows students the opportunity to challenge themselves both physically and mentally. The athletic department believes student-athletes develop skills they will use throughout their lifetime. Dedication, commitment, determination, perseverance and teamwork are all values that guide decision-making and behavior that is expected of student-athletes.

Gates Chili offers 80 different athletic teams for students in grades 7-12 at the varsity, junior varsity and modified levels. Gates Chili also takes great pride in its commitment to inclusion through the offering of multiple Unified sports opportunities. Athletic participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community and to the student as an individual.

Read more about the achievements of the athletics department in the "Building a Championship Culture" section of each district newsletter issue.

# Student Support Services

Student Support Services is committed to providing high-quality educational opportunities for all students. The department partners with families to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities in the least restrictive environment while providing the appropriate academic, social, emotional and behavioral supports. As a district, GCCSD offers students a wide continuum of services and works diligently to provide students with the skills needed to be successful and productive citizens. Through the use of specially designed instruction, students are provided individualized supports in an attempt to ensure success for all learners.

The department also supports the students of the district who qualify for an Individualized Education Program (IEP). An IEP can provide students with needed accommodations and/or modifications to help ensure that they have the supports needed to succeed. Special education teachers utilize Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) to ensure that instruction is provided in an explicit, intentional and systematic way. Student progress is closely monitored and teaching practices are altered accordingly to best meet the needs of individual learners.



## Speech/Language Services

Speech language services are provided to facilitate language development for students in the areas of expressive language, receptive language and/or articulation. These services are available to students based on recommendations made by the Committee on Special Education (CSE).

## Substance Use Services

Students and their families can contact mental health staff members at each building for details on where and how to find substance use-related services. Information provided by students and parents/guardians is confidential and will not be used in any school disciplinary proceeding.



## Mental Health Support

Mental health staff members, including social workers, caseworkers, school counselors and psychologists, work collaboratively with families and school teams to improve student success in school through targeted interventions and consultation. Their goal is to assist students in gaining the social-emotional skills needed to succeed in school and beyond the school walls.

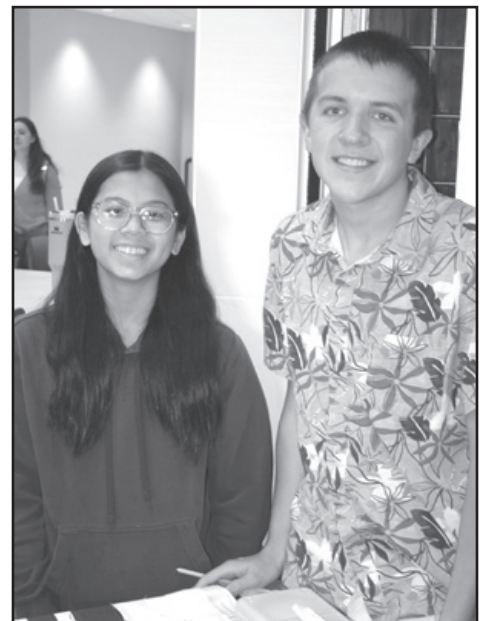


## Occupational/Physical Therapy Services

The focus of occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT) services in a school setting is to promote functional independence and participation within the educational environment through purposeful and goal-directed activities.

A school-based OT program targets those students who demonstrate a need in the area of fine motor skill development, sensory integration and/or visual perception that impacts their academic achievement.

A school-based PT program targets those students who demonstrate evidence of limited mobility, range of motion, balance, coordination, strength and/or endurance which limits their ability to fully benefit from educational experiences.



# Opportunities for Community Involvement

## Start a Career as a Spartan!

The Gates Chili Central School District is dedicated to fostering curiosity, growth and diversity within our school community. The



district celebrates and embraces differences and strives to dismantle exclusion, bias, racism and prejudice of all forms. A large, diverse district with award-winning programs, it provides resources and support to help employees and students succeed, learn and grow. Join a team that cares deeply for students, is supported by the community and sets the standard for commitment to education.

To view employment opportunities and to check the status of your application, visit [gateschili.org/jobs](https://gateschili.org/jobs).

## Copyright Notice

 5651

The names, logos, symbols and mottos of the Gates Chili Central School District are trademarks or service marks of the district. Such marks may only be used in conformance with state and federal law, in addition to the provisions of board of education policy.

## Gates Chili Education Foundation

The goal of the Gates Chili Education Foundation is to provide student-centered support to the learning community of the Gates Chili Central School District, including the awarding of grants for funding programs and expenditures and the awarding of scholarships. Community members can support the foundation through monetary donations, volunteering on the board, participating in foundation fundraising events and promoting the foundation's goal. For more information, visit the foundation's website at [gateschili.org/GCEF](https://gateschili.org/GCEF).

## Volunteering

 3150

Students whose parents/guardians are involved in their school do better academically and socially. Volunteer opportunities range across grade levels. Parents/guardians who are interested in being a volunteer in their student's school can complete an application at [gateschili.org/volunteer](https://gateschili.org/volunteer). In addition to volunteering in their student's school, family members can get involved with building and district committees and programs including but not limited to parent/teacher organizations and family associations, athletic and music booster clubs, district and school improvement teams and the district's Budget Ambassadors Program, to name a few. Look out for details on these opportunities in district and school newsletters or reach out to your student's main office.

## Virtual Backpack

Area non-profit, community and school organizations can offer activities and events to our community throughout the year. The Gates Chili Central School District will post these activities as e-flyers for families as part of Virtual Backpack. The information is provided as a courtesy service to the community. GCCSD no longer sends paper flyers/promotional material home with students from community groups and organizations. Please note that the district does not sponsor nor endorse these activities/events. These e-flyers can be found at [gateschili.org/VirtualBackpack](https://gateschili.org/VirtualBackpack).

## Facility Use

 3280

The Gates Chili Central School District offers and maintains an array of state-of-the-art facilities that are used for student and staff programs. The development, renovation, and maintenance of all campus facilities are important ongoing, mission-critical activities at Gates Chili. The district encourages and supports the rental and/or use of our buildings and facilities by outside groups and it is proud to partner with many organizations, groups, and individuals, to provide these spaces for events, programs, and meetings.

Organizations, groups and individuals interested in renting spaces should consult the district's Facilities Use Manual, which outlines the protocols for accessing and using Gates Chili facilities. This includes rules, regulations and policies when using Gates Chili facilities, an overview of available spaces for use by groups and rental rates, the process of becoming a new requestor and the process of reserving a space on a particular date and time. To access the Facilities Use Manual, go to [gateschili.org/FacilityUse](https://gateschili.org/FacilityUse).

## Continuing Education

The Gates Chili School Central District Continuing Education program offers a variety of programs for all ages. With more than 400 classes offered annually, classes are fun, educational and affordable. Families can take advantage of language classes, cooking camps, sports camps, swim lessons, driver education, fitness classes, culinary courses, dance programs, music classes, arts and crafts, yoga classes and more. Continuing Education also hosts passport nights, community safety programs and other special events. Through Continuing Education, community members can utilize the Spartan Field House on select evenings and weekends including the fitness center, walking track and pool. For more information and to check out community offerings, visit [gateschili.org/ContinuingEd](https://gateschili.org/ContinuingEd) or email at [continuingeducation@gateschili.org](mailto:continuingeducation@gateschili.org).

# Annual Notices

## Access to Student Records

 7240

The Gates Chili Central School District complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and provides access to parents/guardians of students under the age of 18 to their student's school records. A student 18 or older has access to their own school records. Parents/guardians and eligible students wishing to gain access to student records need to contact the appropriate school for further information.

## Asbestos

 5630

Gates Chili Central School District is required to maintain a list of asbestos management plans, current or planned asbestos inspections, response actions and post-response actions in accordance to the Asbestos Hazardous Emergency Response Act (AHERA). A copy of the GCCSD AHERA Management Plan is available for review in the administration building.

## Child Find

 7650

Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities, screening and evaluation designed to locate, identify, and refer children with disabilities and their families who are in need of Preschool or School-Age Special Education Services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These Child Find provisions extend to all resident and non-resident students attending schools within the District's geographic boundaries. If you believe that your student may be a child with a disability, please contact Jason deJong, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, at (585) 247-5050.

## Disclosure to Military and Higher Education

 7242

The district will comply with requests from military recruiters and institutions of higher education for access to the name, address and telephone listing of each secondary school student, except for any student whose parent/guardian (or the student, if they are at least 18 years of age) has submitted a written request to opt out of this disclosure. To opt out of information disclosure to the military or higher education institutions, submit a written opt-out request to the Gates Chili High School Main Office, 1 Spartan Way, Rochester, NY 14624.

## Pesticides

 5632

The Gates Chili Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour written notification prior to certain pesticide applications. Prior notification of pesticide applications is not required under multiple circumstances, including but not limited to: school unopened for 72 hours following application; anti-microbial product use; nonvolatile rodenticides/insecticidal baits in tamper-resistant stations inaccessible to children; and application of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated biopesticides and exempt materials. If you would like to receive notification of non-exempt pesticide use, please send your request to William Bennett, Director of Facilities, 4 Spartan Way, Rochester, NY 14624.

## Staff Qualifications

 6212


In accordance with the federal law, the district is required to provide parents/guardians, upon request, with specific information about the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers and teaching assistants. If a parent/guardian wishes to file such a request, they may do so by contacting the building principal.

## Student Privacy

The Gates Chili Central School District is committed to ensuring student privacy and recognizes that parents/guardians are entitled to certain rights with regard to their student's personally identifiable information (PII), in accordance with New York State Education Law 2-d and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

**Data Privacy**  5676

As part of its commitment to maintaining the privacy and security of student data under Ed Law 2-d, the district will take steps to minimize its collection, processing, and transmission of PII. Information pertaining to this policy is published on the district website in the Parent's Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security. For questions about data privacy or Ed Law 2-d, please contact the District Data Protection Officer, Jeffrey McKinney, at [jamckinney@gateschili.org](mailto:jamckinney@gateschili.org).

**Directory Information, Photographs and Video**  7241

FERPA generally requires that the district obtain written consent prior to disclosing PII to persons other than those with a legitimate educational interest. The district may, however, disclose directory information for limited purposes without written consent. Directory information is information that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The district defines directory information to include only the following: name, dates of attendance, photograph/image, grade level, participation in officially recognized activities and awards/honors received.

If you do not want the district to disclose this type of information, you must notify the district in writing. Opt-out requests can be sent via email to [communications@gateschili.org](mailto:communications@gateschili.org) or by mail to Iva Petrosino, Director of Communications, 3 Spartan Way, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include the student's full name, school and grade level in the opt-out request. Please note: if your student performs in a school play, in a sporting event or a concert open to the school community and or the public, the district has no control over photographs or videos taken by the media, other parents/guardians or community members in attendance.