

Gates Chili budget adds academic, mental health supports; does not exceed tax cap

Dear Gates Chili Community,

As we begin to look ahead to the 2022-23 school year, we must also reflect on the many successes we have celebrated, as well as the challenges we have overcome, during this school year. This has been yet another unprecedented year of pandemic-related changes, but our students and staff have taken these obstacles in stride, coming together to help one another persevere. The strong community connection we have here in Gates Chili is something that will carry us into next school year and beyond.

As we forge ahead into 2022-23, and hopefully begin to emerge from the pandemic, we will continue to maximize student learning and support the social-emotional needs of all students and staff. The district will do this by continuing to offer rigorous instruction, supporting students with academic intervention services and increasing access to mental health services. The proposed district budget also supports a list of programs and services that are vital to our students' educational experience but are not deemed mandatory by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). These items include: kindergarten, teacher aides, elementary school librarians, elementary art and music instruction, school plays/musicals, instrumental lessons, extracurricular clubs, grades 7-12 interscholastic athletics, intramurals, and dual-credit and advanced placement (AP) courses.

While federal funding helped the district to enhance special education services and maintain staffing that allows us to have reasonable class sizes UPK-12, these COVID-19 relief funds are restricted and separate from revenues that support the general expenditure plan.

Therefore, to support the continued health, safety and education of all students, the Gates Chili Board of Education adopted a proposed spending plan for the 2022-23 school year of \$122,337,409 at its April 13 meeting. Under the proposed plan, the overall spending would increase by \$4,455,364, a 3.8% increase over the 2021-22 budget. However, the proposed tax levy increase is \$58,213,112, which is an approximate 2.2% increase, and therefore does not exceed the tax cap.

This newsletter contains information about the 2022-23 budget on pages 2-5, information about candidates running for the Board of Education on page 6, as well as many stories of the outstanding successes and opportunities available to our students and staff. Please review it ahead of the May 17 vote. On behalf of the Gates Chili Board of Education, faculty and staff, we thank you for your continued support.

Go Spartans!

Christopher J. Dailey
Superintendent of Schools

@GatesChiliSuper 

BUDGET VOTE

6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
HS Field House

Tuesday, May 17, 2022



INSIDE THIS ISSUE: RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Gates Chili CSD is grateful for the community's continued investment in the district. While the return on investment isn't measured in dollars, it can be measured in success and achievement. Throughout this issue, you will find how your investment is reaping great returns for students.

Three-Part Budget Summary

New York State requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories – administrative, program and capital.

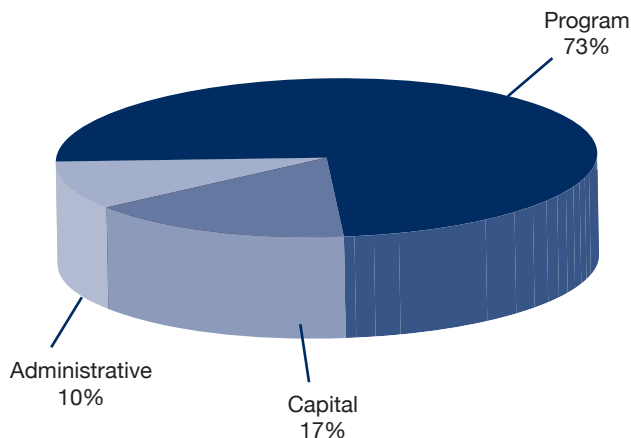
Total Budget: \$122,337,409

Administrative	2021-22	2022-23
Amount	\$11,589,456	\$12,032,572
Percent of Budget	10%	10%
Provides overall general support and management services including employee benefits for administrative and clerical support staff, costs for administration and supervision of each of the six schools, staff development, business operations and central administration.		

Program	2021-22	2022-23
Amount	\$86,547,987	\$89,211,398
Percent of Budget	73%	73%
Provides instruction and educational support services for the district's students. This includes the transportation costs, special education services and benefits for the instructional and non-instructional program staff.		

Capital	2021-22	2022-23
Amount	\$19,744,602	\$21,093,439
Percent of Budget	17%	17%
Provides maintenance and custodial services for six schools, the surrounding property, utility services, debt service payments and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.		

Proposed 2022-23 Three-Part Budget



What's on the ballot?

Residents will vote on the following propositions:

Proposition 1 – School Budget

The school budget proposition authorizes the Gates Chili Central School District to spend \$122,337,409 for school purposes during the 2022-23 fiscal year and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

Proposition 2 – Bus Purchases

This proposition authorizes the purchase of 15 school buses at a total cost of no more than \$1,869,913. New York State reimburses Gates Chili approximately 75% of the cost of bus purchases.

Proposition 3 – Establish Capital Reserve for Security Infrastructure

This proposition would authorize the creation of a capital reserve fund to finance maintenance and replacement of security infrastructure. This fund shall not exceed \$4,000,000 with a 10-year life.

Proposition 4 – Use of Capital Reserve Funds Audiovisual Technology Equipment Supplies

This proposition would authorize the transfer of up to \$300,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to the District's General Operating Fund to finance, in whole or in part, the acquisition and/or lease of equipment, including computer equipment, as well as training and staff development in the use of said equipment. Approval of this proposition would not increase the proposed tax levy.

Board Candidates

Residents will vote to fill three Board of Education seats for three-year terms. Candidates, in ballot order, are: Michael A. Bailey (incumbent), Frank Muscato (incumbent), Lynn M. Knauf, Dr. Christine Brown Richards (incumbent), Robert E. Lee III and Cherie Stuhler.

Estimated Tax Rate

Estimated 2022-23 tax rates use 2021 tax rolls. Equalization rates are estimated to be 91% for the towns of Gates and Chili.

2020-21 Tax Rate	\$24.05
Estimated 2022-23 Tax Rate Based on Increased Assessments	\$24.58

Where does the money come from?

REVENUE SUMMARY

Revenue Sources	2021-22 Adopted Budget	2022-23 Proposed Budget
Appropriated Fund Balance	2,800,000	2,800,000
Capital Technology Reserve	300,000	300,000
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve	100,000	100,000
Employee Retirement System Reserve	1,550,000	1,550,000
Federal Aid Interfund Aid	135,000	135,000
Forfeitures and Refunds	1,440,000	1,350,000
PILOT Agreement	2,600,000	2,580,000
Sale of Equipment, Material and Other	65,000	105,000
Sales Tax	4,000,000	4,000,000
State Aid	45,457,194	48,796,297
Tax Cert Reserve	100,000	100,000
Tax Levy	56,958,890	58,213,112
Teachers Retirement Reserve	800,000	800,000
Tuition, Fees, Interest	1,575,961	1,508,000
Total	\$117,882,045	\$122,337,409



Where does the money go?

EXPENSE SUMMARY

Budget Category	2021-22 Adopted Budget	2022-23 Proposed Budget
Administrative Component - \$12,032,572 or 10% of budget		
Board of Education	28,670	34,495
Central Administration	301,349	341,317
Central Services	161,030	907,500
Employee Benefits	3,894,060	3,343,798
Finance	1,039,791	1,120,091
Instructional Administration and Staff Development	810,101	834,538
Speciality Items	1,683,745	1,712,390
Staff	851,645	924,550
Supervision of Schools	2,819,065	2,813,893
Administrative Budget	\$11,589,456	\$12,032,572
Program Component - \$89,211,397 or 73% of the Total Budget		
Community Services	495,653	546,187
District Transportation	4,684,732	5,001,933
Employee Benefits	24,901,932	27,315,718
Instructional Administration and Staff Development	233,900	528,025
Instructional Services	55,971,770	55,559,535
Transfer to School Food Service Fund	-	1,092
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	260,000	258,908
Program Budget	\$86,547,987	\$89,211,398
Capital Component - \$21,093,439 or 17% of budget		
Central Services	5,130,910	5,475,903
Employee Benefits	1,827,213	2,011,478
Speciality Items	4,000	10,000
Transfer to Debt Service Fund	12,682,479	13,496,058
Transfer to Other Funds	100,000	100,000
Capital Budget	\$19,744,602	\$21,093,439
Total Budget	\$117,882,045	\$122,337,409

Learn more at gateschili.org/vote **PROPOSED BUDGET INFORMATION**

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$117,882,045	\$122,337,409	\$120,907,370
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$4,457,364	\$3,025,325
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.8%	2.6%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$56,958,890	\$58,213,112	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Available**			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$56,958,890	\$58,213,112	\$58,213,112
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$3,490,544	\$3,497,332	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$53,468,544	\$54,715,781	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$53,468,544	\$54,715,781	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$11,589,456	\$12,032,572	\$11,055,323
Program Component	\$86,547,987	\$89,211,398	\$88,955,303
Capital Component	\$19,744,602	\$21,093,439	\$20,896,744

* If a contingent budget is required, the Board of Education will review all areas of the budget to develop a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, pursuant to §2023 of the Education Law. Should the 2022-23 budget be defeated, the following items may be deleted: equipment purchases, free public use of buildings, instructional and non-instructional positions, to be identified.

To authorize the school district to undertake the acquisition of school buses at an estimated net aggregate cost of \$1,869,913 after such trade-in value, potential rebates, and/or incentives, and that such costs, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$1,869,913 shall be issued, or the school district may enter into an installment purchase contract if the board of education determines that it is in the best interest of the school district to finance the purchase in that method.

To authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to §3651 of the Education Law, to be known as the "2022 Capital Reserve Fund Security Infrastructure," for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, maintenance and replacement of security infrastructure, and costs incidental thereto; not to exceed \$4,000,000 with a 10-year life.

To authorize the transfer of up to \$300,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to the District's General Operating Fund to finance, in whole or in part, the acquisition of technology equipment, digital classroom displays; and to take any and all action necessary to effectuate the appropriation and expenditure, as described herein.



	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$737

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Gates Chili Central School District, Monroe County, New York, will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at the Gates Chili HS Field House, 1 Spartan Way, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. or by mail-in ballot. Mail-in ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 17 in order to be counted.

STAR Exemption

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program provides eligible homeowners in New York State with relief on their property taxes. Whether you receive the STAR exemption or the credit, there are two types of STAR benefits:

Basic STAR

- available for owner-occupied, primary residences;
- the income limit for the Basic STAR credit is \$500,000 (the income limit for the Basic STAR exemption is \$250,000);
- based on the first \$30,000 or \$30,020 of the full value of a home

Enhanced STAR

- provides an increased benefit for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with qualifying incomes:
 - \$90,550 or less for the 2021-2022 school year,
 - \$92,000 or less for the 2022-2023 school year
- based on the first \$74,900 of the full value of a home for the 2022-23 school year

For more details about STAR exemptions and credits, go to gateschili.org/STARExemption

	2022-23 Estimated STAR Values	
	Gates	Chili
Basic STAR Exemption	\$30,000	\$30,020
Enhanced STAR Exemption	\$74,900	\$74,900

Veterans' Exemption

This exemption provides relief to wartime, combat and disability veterans. Veterans must apply for this exemption with their town assessor's office. For more details, go to gateschili.org/VeteransExemption

	Assessed Value	Maximum Assessment of
Wartime Veteran Exemption	15%	\$9,000
Combat Exemption	addtl 10%	\$6,000
Disability Exemption	per individual	\$30,000



It's a wrap on year two of Budget Ambassadors!

The Gates Chili Budget Ambassador program wrapped up on March 28 after another productive year of budget development education and discussion. Ambassadors met with Superintendent Christopher Dailey, Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Mitchell Ball, District Treasurer Sally Sanford and Payroll/Benefits Manager and Budget Analyst Anna Lamb for two three-hour sessions. During each session, participants engaged in discussion on the budget development process and where funds are generated and allocated in the budget each year.



Bit of Budget gets an encore!

Questions about the budget process and all the information in this newsletter? Check out the district's award-winning video series, "A Bit of Budget with Dr. Ball!"



In the six-part series available on YouTube, Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Mitchell Ball breaks down various aspects of the budget, to help district residents make an informed decision at the polls on May 17. To watch the series, go to gateschili.org/BitOfBudget or use your phone's camera to scan the QR code.



Candidates for Board of Education

Three candidates will be elected to the board at the annual district vote on May 17, 2022. Each will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Below are statements from each candidate, in ballot order, about their experience and interest in serving on the board.



Michael A. Bailey

"Mike joined the Board of Education in December 2013. He currently sits on the Policy Committee and has sat on many committees since he held a seat on the Board. Mike feels that he has contributed to providing a great education for all students in the district and will continue to do so. Mike has been a Gates resident since 1998, and he works for RG&E as a Lead Analyst – Materials Planner. He has two sons, Justin and Logan, which Justin graduated in 2019 and joined the United States Air Force immediately after graduating. Logan attends Gates Chili High School as a junior."



Francis (Frank) Muscato

"I have been a resident of the Gates Chili Central School District for over 45 years. My three children all graduated from the high school. Professionally, I spent 32 years in the field of K-12 education as a teacher and administrator. My involvement with the district began in the 1992-93 school year when I was a member of the Enrollment Audit Committee. In May of 1993, I was elected to my first term as a board member. I resigned from the Board in June of 2009 and was re-elected in 2019. I am seeking another term to the Board of Education because I believe my experience as a board member for various groups brings a level of governance skill that can be of value to the district. I have had extensive experience in budget preparation and strategic planning, having done both serving on several boards. A major issue facing school board members is the time needed to be fully informed about governance needs and being prepared for board meetings. Balancing family, work and school board commitments can make for difficult choices. I believe I have the time needed to be an effective member of the Gates Chili School Board."



Lynn M. Knauf

"I am a proud Gates Chili graduate. My husband and I have lived in the Gates Chili school district for 19 years, where we were blessed to raise our three sons. I am currently employed as a Sales Development Manager for Windstream Enterprise and am also a small business owner and health coach. I have served as the President of the Gates Chili Boys Lacrosse Booster Club for three consecutive years and have participated in many volunteer and fundraising activities. I have also volunteered as a team manager and treasurer for my son's many sports travel teams and have recently joined the Gates Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary. Many of you have probably seen me at the high school selling fundraiser tickets or volunteering in some capacity. I care deeply about the success of our school district and the future of our students. Volunteering in the community has enabled me to form relationships with parents, students, and community members, which is always a needed asset for the school board. Should I be elected to the Gates Chili School Board, I will bring the same level of enthusiasm, work ethic and commitment to ensure the success of our students and school district."



Dr. Christine Brown Richards

"I am a proud daughter, wife, mother of two GC graduates, sister and friend who has grown up with the philosophy 'you're never too old to learn.' I am a Rochester native and a graduate of Wilson Magnet High School, with extensive education including a Master of Education and Human Development; Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration; and Education Doctorate in Executive Leadership. I am a member of professional organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Black Women's Leadership Forum, and the Greater Rochester MLK Commission. I've been a facilitator/speaker for workshops and trainings on the local and national level. Education is in my blood, and I am grateful to use my skills to work for our families. I am excited to serve the community by putting our children and their education first! In my current tenure as a board member, we have accomplished great things for our students and families. We have made great strides with our equity work; pushed our curriculum and instruction forward and continued to move forward doing what is best for all students and families. If given the opportunity to serve again, I will continue to do the work that sets Gates Chili apart!"



Robert E. Lee III

"Robert Lee has been a Gates resident for nearly 20 years. A former Army Ranger, Rob is passionate about his country, and getting the job done. He currently works as a Senior Associate at CoreLogic, researching and paying escrow taxes, with a financial background in banking and mortgage underwriting. Rob has served as youth leader, board member and trustee for his church and associated youth camp, and has coached football, soccer, and basketball for various community leagues. He and his wife Christina have five children, and Rob is also a non-parental custodial parent. Their children range in age from 11 to 19, and are either enrolled in public school, home-school or working full-time before attending vocational school. The Lees also have children within the special education programs at Gates Chili, and are very grateful for the support the teachers, counselors and staff have given their children over the years."



Cherie Stuhler

"I have a master's degree in education and worked in the Special Education field for 16 years and have been a Gates Chili resident for 17 years. I am passionate about ensuring a safe and high-quality education for all children. It is important that our children learn the fundamentals in life. Remember how crucial playing with other children and problem solving are in developing healthy relationships. I have actively been involved and advocated for children and resources to be provided both inside and beyond the school walls. Our children need normalcy and safety. We need to creatively engage with our community and ensure we are providing resources for all students to help them overcome the last few years. My experience personally and professionally, with Special Needs children provides me with unique perspectives. It equipped me to be creative in the provision of solutions. From experience working in the counseling field, I gained knowledge of resources in the community. I believe parents have the right to be involved in their child's education and that transparency is key to a better future. I respectfully ask for your vote, with a promise of transparency and the best interest for students and families."

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday May, 17, 2022

Capital Project Update

Construction on the final phase of the district's ongoing capital improvement project is officially complete! The Gates Chili Performing Arts Center opened in March 2022, complete with an impressive auditorium, state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment, box office, upgraded music classrooms, new parking lots, electric car charging stations and more. While crews will still spend a few more months completing their final list of finishing touches, students and staff have been utilizing the new spaces for rehearsals and concerts alike. To read about the grand opening celebration of the GCPAC, see page 12.



Going green at Gates Chili

For several years, Gates Chili has made a concerted effort to reduce its environmental impact. Two recently-awarded grants are set to help those efforts in "going green" while also providing a cost-savings to district taxpayers.

This spring, the district was awarded funding that makes Gates Chili one of the few districts in the state to add electric school buses to its fleet. Two awards totaling \$400,000 provided by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will allow the district to purchase two electric school buses. These school buses will be purchased in place of conventional diesel school buses that would have been replaced on the district's regular bus replacement plan.

The district has also received grant funding that will help with bus charging stations. This grant will cover nearly all of the costs associated with Rochester Gas & Electric (RG&E) running power to the transformer that powers charging stations at the transportation department. Both grant funds make it possible for the district to lessen its carbon footprint without added cost to taxpayers.



"Usually, organizations must invest money up front when establishing green business procedures, that then turn into cost-savings over time. However, in Gates Chili, grant funds



for both electric bus purchases and powering our new electric charging stations offset this early investment, meaning an even greater cost-savings for the district," said Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Mitchell Ball.

Additionally, the district has implemented several other green efficiencies in collaboration with NYSERDA over the last few years. There are two new public electric vehicle charging stations, located near the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center, that can charge four vehicles at the same time. They charge at about seven kilowatts per hour and are available for use 24/7 using the ChargePoint app. These stations, coupled with new solar panels on the roof of the Gates Chili Middle School, lighting upgrades, and a new power management system, are making the Gates Chili Central School District a front-runner in reducing education's carbon footprint.

"With an operation the size of Gates Chili, it's important to pave the way to more sustainable energy sources. We will continue to look for opportunities to limit our environmental impact and create a better future for our students," said Superintendent Christopher Dailey.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Facilities

- This school year, the facilities team switched over its maintenance work order management and meeting reservation system to MasterLibrary, allowing for streamlined operations and efficiency.
- Facilities team members are working to provide better air quality in schools and buildings by maximizing ventilation systems for a greater air exchange.
- Crews will be adding a parking lot on the main campus this summer that will provide additional space for district staff and visitors to campus events and athletic contests.



Transportation

- During a time of national staff shortages, particularly driver shortages, Gates Chili has welcomed eight new drivers to the team and provided them with training since August 2021.
- This school year, every Gates Chili school bus was outfitted with an upgraded GPS device, which helps with more precise locations for bus tracking.
- More than half of Gates Chili bus drivers and attendants, approximately 57%, are from our neighborhood— they are residents of the towns of Gates or Chili.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

UPK-5

- This year, elementary staff provided afterschool academic tutoring in literacy and math twice a week for small groups of students in need of additional help.
- After an extensive vetting process with a district math task force, students in grades K-1 join their fellow students in grades 2-5 in fully engaging in the district's comprehensive new math program, Everyday Math.
- More than 30 elementary clubs and extra-curricular activities are back up and running for the first time since 2020, including art clubs, service clubs and intramural sports.



Library

- The Gates Chili school library program provides inquiry and research instruction, technology integration, and serves the literacy needs of all staff and students.
- With more than 100 library resources available, Gates Chili staff and students have checked out 58,457 print books, 7,344 ebooks, and 86,935 uses of digital databases during the 2021-22 school year.
- The library program provides hands-on inquiry experiences through the use of Minecraft, robots, and computer coding.



'Panther Pride Club' expands student horizons

Paul Road Panthers are showing their school spirit and expanding their horizons with the new Panther Pride Club. The club's mission? To explore different races, cultures, traditions, and orientations to gain a better understanding of the Paul Road school community.

This winter and spring, students in the club researched diverse groups and created displays for the whole school to enjoy. During Black History Month, students researched the cultures and contributions of Black Americans and made posters celebrating what they learned. Then during Women's History Month in March, students in Panther Pride Club took a closer look at the role of women in society and created displays to show their peers. The club is reaching out to other members of the Gates Chili Central School District community to benefit from their expertise! Autism Spectrum Disorder Specialist Adam Mattice worked with students and advisors to learn more about neurodiversity and famous figures in history who are considered neuro diverse.



Brasser Bears learn about dental health

A community partnership with local orthodontic practice Lazzara Smiles will have a big payoff for Florence Brasser students: the foundation for a lifetime of dental health! Specialists from Lazzara Smiles visited Brasser this spring as part of the school's health curriculum and spent time with students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. Students learned about parts of the mouth and good dental hygiene. Students also had the chance to enter a t-shirt design contest by Lazzara Smiles.



Author visit inspires Armstrong Stars

Imagine taking all your questions about your favorite book right to the source: a one-on-one conversation with the author themselves.

The fifth-grade students in Laurie Ashodian's class at Neil Armstrong Elementary School had that chance during a virtual Q and A with award-winning author Avi, who joined the class from his home in the Rocky Mountains. Avi is the author of dozens of books for children and young adults. Ashodian has been teaching Avi's books and reading them with her classes for 25 years.

The fifth-graders recently read Avi's novel "Poppy", the story of a young mouse questing to help her family from under the rule of a tyrannical owl.

"Every time I read [the novel], the students become immersed in Dimwood Forest. They learn powerful vocabulary, voice of characters, animal facts and fictional writing skills that include a vast amount of figurative language," said Ashodian.

Students stood at the head of the class and fired off questions about the characters in the book, and about his writing process. Avi also shared writing suggestions with students.

It was helpful because he gave us a lot of tips that will help us be better writers. For example, he told us not to ask someone to read our own writing, but instead read it to



another person. This way you get to be a better reader and writer," said student Affhia Kami.

Fifth-grader Jayla Rogers said it was "inspiring to talk to a real author, especially if you want to be one someday."

Avi told the students he is writing three books at the moment and that most of his books take a year to write – something students said they could barely believe!

MS students *conquer the kitchen*

Seventh-grade students at Gates Chili Middle School turned up the heat in their Family and Consumer Science (FACS) class this spring with a combined cooking class.

FACS teachers Stephanie Blaesi and Dana Navarro-Lindsay combined two of their FACS classes in the middle school's large kitchen facility. Students had already learned the basics of kitchen safety, sanitation and food prep procedure, and they put those skills into action by whipping up dozens of Buffalo chicken wraps. Students practiced using new kitchen tools like the mandolin and techniques like shredding lettuce. Each student was responsible for cooking and

constructing their wraps, while prep and cleanup were a team effort. Students look forward to cooking classes, which are spread out over the duration of the class.

"The students appreciate cooking and work hard to make sure their work is completed so they can experience the fun in each cooking lab," said Blaesi. "Teaching students how to cook gives them many valuable lifelong skills as well as learning how to make a dish...they use collaboration, math, problem solving, science, critical thinking, and creativity, to just name a few!"



Highlighting careers in demand

Gates Chili students at the middle and high schools are exploring career prospects for the future. The middle school and high school held Careers in Demand events on March 25 and April 13, respectively, that gave students the opportunity to speak with representatives from various industries including health care and business management to information technology and engineering.

At the middle school, eighth-graders spoke with more than 30 representatives in careers that are in high demand. Students had the opportunity to try their hand at some of the skills required in the various professions. Meanwhile at the high school, more than 30 presenters, 12 of whom are Gates Chili alumni, met with students in small groups, allowing them to ask questions, network and explore future job opportunities.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Grades 6-8

- This school year, middle school staff members provided afterschool academic tutoring in literacy and math twice a week for small groups of students in need of additional help, in addition to the 24/7 tutoring available through Paper.
- The middle school launched the Learning Center this year, a new, short-term, referral-based intervention that helps students access their course content work through the use of targeted literacy strategies.
- Students in grades 6-8 read the novel *Towers Falling* and held discussions about the similarities and differences between the impact of 9/11 and the impact of the pandemic, before meeting the book's author during a virtual visit with the entire school.

World Languages

- This will be the fourth year that the district is offering the New York State Seal of Biliteracy to its students, and more than 20 seniors are on track to earn this designation on their diplomas.
- The district improved family communication and access to information with the addition of text messages and messages in families' primary home language.
- The student support services department reorganized the registration process for new families, which included streamlining several steps in the process and the introduction of multilingual forms.

Complete the GC census by May 31!

The Gates Chili Central School District is conducting a community census to assist us in obtaining the most accurate enrollment data for planning future school programs and services. Go to gateschili.org/census or scan the QR code with your mobile device to complete the form before May 31, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact the district registrar at (585) 247-5050 ext. 12224.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Grades 9-12

- In addition to 24/7 academic support and tutoring available through Paper, high school staff members provided increased opportunities for students to engage in credit recovery in order to keep them on track and eligible for WEMOCO, graduation and other programming.
- High school students are eligible to participate in dual-credit enrollment courses with Genesee Community College, Monroe Community College, Rochester Institute of Technology, Roberts Wesleyan College, and Syracuse University.
- Students and staff worked together to enhance the high school career center for increased availability, support and authentic learning opportunities.

Technology

- The tech department is in the process of upgrading each classroom in the district with 4K display technology and Wireless Display (WiDi) capabilities for clarity and ease of use.
- Thanks to careful financial planning, more than 400 teacher devices will be upgraded to current specifications so that staff may better utilize technology in the classroom to enhance student learning/opportunities at no additional cost to taxpayers.
- The district recently implemented Lightspeed Classroom to ensure a secure online testing environment and remove technological barriers to instruction.

Preparing students for life after high school

Seven years in and the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HWSC) only continues to prove its value to the students and community of Gates Chili.

HWSC started at Gates Chili with 30 high school freshmen in the 2015-16 school year. Since then, the program's innovative collaboration with the school district has addressed the goals of increasing student engagement and preparing students for life after high school.



Students participate in a variety of enrichment activities throughout the year, but at its core, the program has a focus on enriching life and social skills and ensuring students are career or college aware and ready. This nationally-recognized youth development program helps students stay in school, achieve academic success and graduate from high school with the skills and confidence they need to be successful at home, at college and at the workplace.

"I appreciate being able to be a part of Hillside because it's helped me in so many ways," shared senior Nazierra Harris. "Hillside has helped me get a job and succeed more academically. Also, Hillside has allowed me to see plays about other cultures and music that I really enjoyed and it's a great opportunity all around."

A key to this innovative program is students' eligibility for part-time employment at local businesses based on their school commitment and success. This gives students the workforce readiness skills to succeed in entry-level employment after high school and in any future employment opportunities.

Class of 2022 Top 20

Congratulations to the top 20 ranked seniors from the Class of 2022, according to their weighted GPA. The seniors' academic achievements were announced and celebrated at the annual Top 20 breakfast on April 13.



1. Spencer Anderson
2. Emily Huynh
3. Karis Wynings
4. Meredith Hart
5. Emaan Sohail
6. Matthew Firnstein
7. Ari Rivers

8. Daniel Haag
9. Mia Bodulovic
10. Lisa Pham
11. Mackenzie Aughenbaugh
12. Sairus Seng
13. Alyssa Vukosic
14. Shea Perry

15. Alejandro Boxx
16. Grace LeClair
17. Gabrielle Lavallee
18. Seerat Gill
19. Vincent Lucyszyn
20. Kaitlyn Gibble



Building a *CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE*



Building a championship culture can take on many meanings, but for one Gates Chili alumnus, it's about paying it forward.

Anthony Phommanirat is a 2018 graduate of Gates Chili High School, but every Monday and Wednesday afternoon during the spring sports season, he returns to his alma mater to volunteer his time in a program that gave him so much during his time as a Spartan --Unified basketball.

"I had a lot of friends on the team when I was a student. It really felt like a family and we all got the chance to play," Phommanirat said. "I really wanted to come back and keep those special connections going."

"Anthony is so invested in our Unified basketball team and the student-athletes," explained Unified Coach Todd Esposito. "He gets to know our student-athletes on a

personal level, so he can support them both on and off the court."

Phommanirat is so committed, in fact, that he recently completed his New York State coaching certification and is a board-approved volunteer for the program. He logs nearly 100 hours per season helping the team run drills and practice skills. The real value in his contributions, though, is in the intangible things Phommanirat provides to the team.

"After working all day, Anthony comes to practice ready with a smile and encouraging words. His dedication fosters a culture of inclusion and belonging, which makes him a great role model for students," Esposito continued. "He exemplifies the Spartan way values in every way imaginable."

"I love the culture of the team, the excitement, the collaboration and the energy!" said Phommanirat.



Wizards wow crowds, help raise funds

The world-famous Harlem Wizards dazzled a packed house at Gates Chili High School in early March with a fundraising exhibition game. The GCHS Field House was full of families eager to see some tricks, hoops and alley-oops and to raise funds for the Gates Chili Education Foundation, which supports programs and scholarships in the district. The Wizards faced off against a fierce team of Gates Chili's finest, including Superintendent Christopher Dailey and Neil Armstrong Principal Rebecca Scott, along with Gates Police Chief Robert Long and others. The Foundation sold more than 700 tickets to the game, and raised \$3,500 for foundation programs.



New batting cages installed!

The Gates Chili campus now includes outdoor batting cages at the JV and varsity softball fields. Student-athletes will utilize these spaces during practice and in the off season.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Athletics

- This year, the district welcomed back the fifth-grade swim unit, with all elementary students visiting the Gates Chili HS Field House for important water safety lessons.
- A committee made up of students, staff and community members has been assembled to produce a Gates Chili Athletic Coaches Handbook, which will serve as the curriculum for the district's education-based athletic program.
- The athletic department introduced the student-athlete of the week feature, highlighting student-athletes nominated by coaches each week.



Health and Safety

- Gates Chili nursing staff took on the responsibility of testing unvaccinated staff and students, resulting in a significant cost savings due to not contracting with an outside nursing agency.
- Health staff throughout the district expanded health education curriculum to include lessons on student personal body safety.
- The district is in the process of upgrading nearly 30 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to ensure these life-saving devices remain in working order in case of emergency.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Arts

- After a pandemic hiatus, live student performances returned this year in various schools throughout the district, as well as the brand-new Gates Chili Performing Arts Center.
- This summer, the district will again offer its beginner band camp for students starting to learn a musical instrument for the first time, as well as students transitioning to the middle school. The program has helped strengthen the district's instrumental music program over the past few years.
- Local mural artist Shawn Dunwoody partnered with third- and fourth-grade students at Disney to create murals with positive messages focused on fostering a sense of belonging.

Student Support

- The district has added more mental health staff members and has partnered with the University of Rochester to provide staff and students with increased resources for dealing with mental health needs.
- Due to the tireless effort of all members of our student support services staff members, the graduation rate for students with disabilities increased by 15% from the 2019-20 to the 2020-21 school year.
- Mental health staff in nearly every school are utilizing therapy dogs to help support students and create a welcoming and affirming environment.

'Taking the Stage'

for the grand opening of the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center



It was a night to remember as student performers graced the stage of the brand-new Gates Chili Performing Arts Center (GCPAC) for its grand opening on March 31. The event was held on the last day of Music in Our Schools Month and was a celebration of music and performing arts programs across all Gates Chili schools.

All members of the Gates Chili community were invited to explore the new space and take self-guided tours of the cutting-edge facility.

The completion of the GCPAC is the final phase of the 2017 voter-approved capital improvement project. With seating for more than 1,000 audience members, a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system and new rehearsal spaces for Gates Chili student musicians, the new facility shines a spotlight on Gates Chili's dedication to music education.

GCHS student LaVarr Fuller ('23) and GC graduate Elvio Fernandes ('90) served as the evening's masters of ceremonies. Fernandes is most well-known for his roles as guitarist, keyboardist and vocalist for the Grammy-nominated band Daughtry. He and Fuller lead the packed house through an evening of musical performances by the Paul Road Elementary School Band, show choirs from both Gates Chili middle and high schools, the Gates Chili HS Jazz Band and members of the high school theatre program.

Fernandes returned to GCHS the day after the grand opening to talk to music students about his experiences as a Gates Chili student and as a professional musician.



Technical theater director joins GC team

The district is pleased to introduce Joe Paris as its new technical theater director. Paris will support the performing arts in Gates Chili by overseeing theatrical and technical aspects of performances in the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center.



Serving up a sense of *belonging*



Fifth-grade students throughout the district worked collaboratively with middle school students to create art pieces surrounding the theme of belonging this spring. The students found inspiration in each other, creating ceramic plates that highlighted something unique about themselves and what they "bring to the table." The colorful plates were on display at an art show at the middle school on April 7.

Fostering community through *storytelling*

Gates Chili staff and faculty participated in a day of learning in mid-March at the Superintendent's Conference. The day's theme was "Gates Chili: A Collection of Stories," and featured speakers Jordan Smith, Dr. Cephas Archie and Dr. Kiera Duckworth.

Smith is an autism-awareness advocate and spoke about his experiences with the autistic community and how to encourage expression and compassion. Dr. Archie, the former Chief Equity Officer for the City of Rochester, spoke about the importance of understanding and compassion, reminding staff that "diversity, equity and inclusion cannot be silent." Meanwhile, Dr. Duckworth, Training Manager at Erie County Medical Center, spoke about the importance of teachers in her life's journey, and how vital it is for educators to be "allies and accomplices" to marginalized communities. Several Gates Chili alumni also shared their stories via video interviews, and reflected on their time at GCCSD.



A Top Workplace in ROC again!

Gates Chili has earned yet another recognition as Top Workplace; for the second year in a row, the district has been honored with a Rochester Top Workplace award!

The list of Rochester Top Workplaces was announced by the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle on March 27. In the issue, it was also announced that Gates Chili is one of three local companies recognized for its diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. To see current job openings and apply for open positions, go to gateschili.org/jobs.



Staff Spotlight



Brent Gillett

**Math Teacher
Leader**

**Gates Chili
Middle School**

Brent Gillett finds joy in a simple equation: helping middle school students find a love for math. While math was always his favorite subject in school, Gillett strives to help his eighth-grade students gain a sense of comfort, even if they have not always enjoyed math.

Gillett always found a prominent place for education in his life. Growing up his father was an elementary school

teacher and basketball coach, while his mother was a school nurse. The impact both of his parents had on others inspired him to follow in their education footsteps. Gillett began his own teaching career

20 years ago in Perry. It was there that he found success in the classroom and after school, as both a basketball and soccer coach. Now at Gates Chili, Gillett serves as both a teacher and department leader, which gives him the opportunity to connect with students and staff.

"One of my favorite events at Gates Chili that occurs each year is when the graduating

class at the high school visits the middle school," Gillett explained. "I enjoy seeing the students that I had taught in middle school grow into seniors who will be moving on to the next step in their lives."

The sum of these experiences, coupled with the valuable relationships he has fostered, are key to Gillett helping students understand where math fits on their path towards growth and maturity.

"I especially love helping students who at the beginning of the year may have not loved math. Working with these students has impacted my life by pushing me to become the best teacher I can be."

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Equity and Inclusion

- Gates Chili was ranked fifth nationally by Top Workplaces USA for its diversity, equity and inclusion practices in the category for companies with 500-999 employees.
- More than 20 community members, including parents/guardians and students, provide oversight on the district's equity efforts by serving on the District Equity Team.
- Gates Chili High School has been selected to host the ROC 2 Change Student Summit on Race in 2023, an event dedicated to engaging students in facilitated dialogue with peers related to race, racism, privilege and positive change.



Professional Learning

- Staff in grades K-2 are engaging in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training, which is focused on promoting student language and literacy skills.
- The Office of Instruction coordinated two national conference-style superintendent's conference days, where all instructional and non-instructional staff came together to focus on how to create a more equitable and inclusive environment.
- From July 2021 through June 2022, Gates Chili teachers, instructional coaches and administrators offered 99 varied professional learning courses, including collegial circles, in-services, workshops and training sessions.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

School Nutrition

- The school nutrition department is made up of 40 hard-working staff members, many of whom are parents or grandparents of Gates Chili students.
- Throughout the school year, school nutrition workers have been able to serve all students free breakfast and/or lunch, with more than 75,000 meals served in the month of March alone.
- On April 1, the school nutrition team began utilizing a new software system for menus and recipes, allowing families to access nutritional information for all meals served in Gates Chili cafeterias.



Community

- In 2021, more than 4,000 district residents utilized the Gates Chili High School fitness center, indoor track, and pool as part of the district's community use membership.
- In its first year, the Gates Chili Community Band has 40 musicians, made up of staff, students and district residents, who come together to rehearse once a week and perform at various events throughout the year.
- Gates Chili Continuing Education offered more than 300 courses for the community this year, utilizing both online and in-person formats, which were attended by more than 1,000 participants.

GC PRIDE Award

Gates Chili CSD is proud to recognize students, staff and community members who go above and beyond on behalf of the district and its students. The GC PRIDE Award stands for and honors professionalism, respect, innovation, dedication and excellence. Congratulations to all of the recipients for February and March.



Feb. 15 recipients

Kayla Maragh, student; Karen Iglesia and Gerard Iglesia, Primetime585



March 22 recipient

Tina Carney, parent/guardian and volunteer

Gates Chili students recognized for *doing the right thing*

Three Gates Chili Students were honored with the Rochester Police Department's "Do the Right Thing Award" this March.

Armstrong students Jayla Rogers and Haley Contino and high school student Blake Fennell were recognized as outstanding youth in the community that distinguished themselves as role models for their peers. Rogers and Contino received the award for finding Apple air pods that were left on a school bus and turning them in. Meanwhile, Fennell was the recipient after observing an accident with injuries, calling 911 and providing aid and assistance to deputies when they arrived.



A virtual awards ceremony was held to honor and congratulate the students and their instincts to do the right thing and commit random acts of kindness.



Manges wins WROC's *Golden Apple Award*

Gates Chili High School FACS teacher Kate Manges is the latest GC educator to win a Golden Apple Award!

GCHS student Mercedes Taylor nominated Manges for the award after taking her Intro to Culinary Arts class this fall. She said of her teacher, "Mrs. Manges is kind of like my school mom, telling me the right things to do and making sure I do good in school."

Taylor surprised Manges with the award, which was presented to her at school by WROC TV Channel 8. To watch the story of Manges' win, go to gateschili.org/MangesGoldenApple.



Gates Chili Central School District • 2022-23 • At-a-Glance District Calendar

KEY

	First Day of School for Students (Gr. P-12)
	No School for Students (Gr. P-12), All Staff Report
	No School for Students (Gr. P-12) and All Staff
	No School for Students (Gr. P-12) and 10-Month Staff
	No School for Students (Gr. P-5 only)
	No School for Students (Gr. 6-12 only)
	Half Day for Students (Gr. P-5)
	Half Day for Students (Gr. 6-12)
	Half Day for Students (Gr. P-12)
	NYS Gr. 3-8 Assessments
	NYS Regents Exams

JULY 2022

July 4 (Mon).....Independence Day

AUGUST 2022

Aug. 30-31 (Tues-Wed).....Superintendent's Conf. Days

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sept. 5 (Mon).....Labor Day

Sept. 6 (Tues).....First Day of School for Students

OCTOBER 2022

Oct. 7 (Fri).....Superintendent's Conf. Day

Oct. 10 (Mon).....Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day

NOVEMBER 2022

Nov. 11 (Fri).....Veterans Day

Nov. 23-25 (Wed-Fri).....Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER 2022

Dec. 5 (Mon).....P-5 Parent Teacher Conf. / Conf. Day

Dec. 23 (Fri).....P-5 Parent Teacher Conf. / Conf. Day

Dec. 26 (Mon).....Christmas (Observance)

Dec. 26-30 (Mon-Fri).....Holiday Recess

JANUARY 2023

Jan. 2 (Mon).....New Years Day (Observance)

Jan. 16 (Mon).....Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 24-27 (Tues-Fri).....NYS Regents Exams

Jan. 27 (Fri).....Conf. Day

FEBRUARY 2023

Feb. 20 (Mon).....President's Day

Feb. 20-24 (Mon-Fri).....Mid-winter Recess

MARCH

March 10 (Fri).....Superintendent's Conf. Day

APRIL 2023

April 3-7 (Mon-Fri).....Spring Recess

April 7 (Fri).....Good Friday

April 19-26 (Wed-Wed).....3-8 ELA Assessment Window

MAY 2023

May 2-9 (Tues-Tues).....3-8 Math Assessment Window

May 26-29 (Fri-Mon).....Memorial Day Recess

JUNE 2023

June 15-22 (Tues-Thur).....NYS Regents Exams

June 19 (Mon).....Juneteenth

June 21 (Wed).....Graduation Day

June 22 (Thur).....Last Day for Students

June 23 (Fri).....Conf. Day/Last Day for 10-Month Staff

Required Days in Attendance

Faculty = 187 Students = 180

*If there are more than two emergency closing days, May 26 will be a make-up day where all staff and students are in session.

APPROVED - Feb. 15, 2022

JULY 2022							AUGUST 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
SEPTEMBER 2022							OCTOBER 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							1
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					
NOVEMBER 2022							DECEMBER 2022						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
JANUARY 2023							FEBRUARY 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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29	30	31					26	27	28				
MARCH 2023							APRIL 2023						
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				1	2	3							1
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						
MAY 2023							JUNE 2023						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	



GATES CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

3 Spartan Way
Rochester, New York 14624
585.247.5050

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Director of Communications, Editor

Iva Petrosino

Contributors

Lindsey Reddig
Kylee Ego-Walters

Graphic Designer

Lisa Constantine

gateschili.org

Designed and printed at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES



A NYSPRA award-winning publication

Spartan Eats Summer Meals

Gates Chili is proud to once again host the USDA Summer Meals Program this summer!

Summer meals will kick off on July 5 and run through Aug. 12. Hours, locations and menus will be shared in mid-June at gateschili.org/SchoolNutrition.

A reminder that the USDA has extended free meals for all students through June 2022. The district still encourages families to apply for free and reduced-price meals, as the free meals program may end at any time.



BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday May, 17, 2022

Gates Chili HS Field House
6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Proof of Residency

The school district may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to the Education Law §2018-C. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the school district may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

Voter Eligibility

Anyone who is at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Gates Chili Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the Tuesday, May 17, 2022 vote, is eligible. You do not need to be registered to vote, but you must bring identification and proof of residency.

Absentee Ballots

Residents unable to vote because of disabilities, illness, travel or other reasons listed as valid under election law, may request applications for absentee ballots at Gates Chili Central School District Administration Building, 3 Spartan Way, or by calling the Gates Chili District Clerk Condenssa Brown at 247-5050 ext. 12101. Once the application is approved, an absentee ballot will be mailed or can be picked up. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk's office no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

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