

# GATES CHILI

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Newsletter 2019



### Board of Education adopts budget with tax levy lower than tax cap

Dear Community,

The Gates Chili Central School District is proposing a 2019-20 school budget that maintains high-quality programs for our students while being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.

We are proud of the offerings we provide students and for being recognized on the local, state and national levels for our programs. Our students have opportunities to:

- participate in 16 Advanced Placement courses and more than 20 dual-credit courses;
- earn diploma endorsements in career and technical education, business and finance, early childhood education and the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB);
- participate in a variety of athletics, music and arts programs;
- experience a wide variety of extracurricular activities at all three levels; and
- benefit from built-in programs and structures that support our students' social-emotional health.

The 2019-20 budget has been carefully developed through a zero-based approach to ensure spending efficiencies are maintained, while continuing to provide quality opportunities to our students. The Gates Chili Board of Education approved a proposed operating budget of \$110,180,670 and a 3% tax levy increase. This is less than the district's 2019-20 allowable tax cap of 3.87% and the budget-to-budget increase of 3.3%.

In addition to the operating budget, three additional propositions will be on the ballot. These propositions include the purchase of buses and two new reserves, one for equipment and one for technology. The community budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 21 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Gates Chili High School Field House.

This newsletter is filled with information about the 2019-20 budget, along with many highlights that make Gates Chili Central School District a great place for all learners to achieve excellence. On behalf of the Gates Chili Board of Education and district staff, we thank you for your continued support.

Carol Stehm  
Gates Chili Interim Superintendent



### BUDGET VOTE

**6 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Gates Chili HS**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019**



*Together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners.*

## 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: \$110,180,670**

Administrative	2018-19	2019-20
Amount	\$10,190,722	\$10,718,519
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.

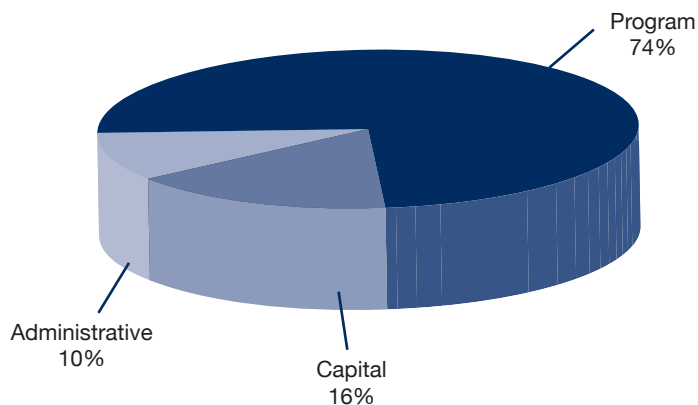
Program	2018-19	2019-20
Amount	\$81,026,899	\$81,868,646
Percent of Budget	75%	74%

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	2018-19	2019-20
Amount	\$15,476,029	\$17,593,505
Percent of Budget	15%	16%

Provides maintenance and custodial services for six schools, the surrounding property, utility services, debt service payments and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.

## Proposed 2019-20 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 for school purpose during the 2019-20 fiscal year \$110,180,670 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

### Proposition 2 – Bus Purchases

This proposition would authorize the purchase of 15 buses at a total cost of no more than \$1,851,000. This would include six 66-passenger buses, eight 35-passenger buses and one 35-passenger bus with three wheelchair stations. New York State reimburses Gates Chili approximately 74% of bus purchases.

### Proposition 3 – Establish Capital Reserve Fund for Information/Audiovisual Technology

As the district focuses on digital learning and the expansion on STEAM curriculum, it will use the reserves to improve infrastructure and purchase non-recurring instructional equipment and hardware. This fund shall not exceed \$1 million with a 10-year life.

### Proposition 4 – Establish Capital Reserve Fund for Vehicles and Equipment

The district will use the reserve to finance the purchase of maintenance vehicles and equipment, and other vehicles for school district use. This fund shall not exceed \$500,000 with a 10-year life.

### Board Candidates

Residents will vote to fill four Board of Education seats – three three-year terms and one one-year term. Candidates are Dr. Christine Richards, Francis Muscato, Raymond Banks and Michael Bailey.

## Estimated Tax Rate

Based on an average full value assessment of \$120,000 and assuming a 1.5% increase in assessments:

2018-19 Tax Rate	\$26.35
Estimated 2019-20 Tax Rate Based on increased assessments	\$27.01

# Where does the money come from?

## REVENUE SUMMARY

Revenue Sources	2018-19 Adopted Budget	2019-20 Proposed Budget
Tax Levy	\$52,933,230	\$54,521,227
PILOT Agreements	2,580,000	2,580,000
Sales Tax	4,250,000	4,500,000
Tuition, Fees, Interest	1,966,500	1,984,040
Forfeitures and Refunds	1,031,919	1,759,853
State Aid	39,682,000	40,725,750
Federal Aid and Interfund Transfers	450,000	100,000
Transfer from Unemployment Reserve	1,800,000	1,055,000
Transfer from Retire Contribution Res		354,800
Transfer from Tax Certiorari Reserve		100,000
Transfer from Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve		100,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	2,000,000	2,400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$106,693,649</b>	<b>\$110,180,670</b>

# Where does the money go?

## EXPENSE SUMMARY

Budget Category	2018-19 Adopted Budget	2019-20 Proposed Budget
<b>Program Component</b> <b>\$81,868,646 or 74% of the Total Budget</b>		
Instructional	\$54,187,739	\$55,210,625
District Transportation	4,854,839	5,093,100
Community Service	420,957	468,400
Transfer to Special Aid Fund		260,000
Employee Benefits	21,563,364	20,836,521
<b>Program Budget</b>	<b>\$81,026,899</b>	<b>\$81,868,646</b>
<b>Capital Component</b> <b>\$17,593,505 or 16% of the Total Budget</b>		
Operations and Maintenance	\$5,214,308	\$5,090,950
Debt Service and Transfer to Capital reserve	8,532,289	9,577,500
Transfers to Reserves		1,155,000
Employee Benefits	1,729,432	1,770,055
<b>Capital Budget</b>	<b>\$15,476,029</b>	<b>\$17,593,505</b>
<b>Administrative Component</b> <b>\$10,718,519 or 10% of the Total Budget</b>		
Board of Education	\$10,175	\$20,675
Central Administration	294,971	292,150
Finance	812,224	790,400
Staff	588,382	704,100
Central Services	777,190	811,000
Specialty Items	1,529,674	1,576,500
Instructional Administration and Staff Development	1,222,670	978,200
Supervision of Schools	2,266,231	2,632,500
Employee Benefits	2,689,205	2,912,994
<b>Administrative Budget</b>	<b>\$10,190,722</b>	<b>\$10,718,519</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$106,693,649</b>	<b>\$110,180,670</b>

## 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 May 21, 2019 vote is eligible. You do not need to be registered to vote, but you must bring identification and proof of residency.

## 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.

## 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 Joanne Doud 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 21, 2019.



<b>Overall Budget Proposal</b>	<b>Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year</b>	<b>Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year</b>	<b>Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year</b>
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$106,693,649	\$110,180,670	\$108,592,703
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$3,487,021	\$1,899,054
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.30%	1.78%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2019-20 school year		\$54,521,227	\$52,933,230
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$52,933,230	\$54,521,227	\$52,933,230
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)	\$52,933,230	\$54,521,227	\$52,933,230
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$3,005,000	\$3,171,240	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$49,928,230	\$51,809,870	\$49,761,990
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)	\$49,928,230	\$51,349,987	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**		\$ 459,883	
Administrative Component	\$10,190,722	\$10,718,519	\$10,164,607
Program Component	\$81,026,899	\$81,868,646	\$80,834,560
Capital Component	\$15,476,029	\$17,593,505	\$17,593,536
Public School Enrollment	3,794	3,686	
Consumer Price Index	1.32%	2.44%	

*\*If a contingent budget is required, the Board of Education will review all areas of the budget to develop a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. Should the 2019-20 budget be defeated, the following items will be deleted: bus purchases, equipment purchases, free public use of buildings, instructional and non-instructional positions, to be identified.*

Proposition 2: To authorize the school district to undertake the acquisition of six (6) 66-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$125,000 each, eight (8) 35-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$121,000 each, and one (1) 35-passenger school bus with three (3) wheelchair stations at an estimated maximum cost of \$133,000, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$1,851,000, less trade-in value, if any, 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 \$1,851,000 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.

Proposition 3: Resolves to establish a "Capital Reserve for Information/Audiovisual Technology Equipment and Supplies," for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, the purchase of information technology equipment and supplies and/or audiovisual technology equipment and supplies, such as, but not limited to computers, laptops, classroom display and audio solutions, and other hardware needed to support these devices, not to exceed \$1,000,000, for a time period of 10 years. The reserve can be funded through budgetary appropriations, interest earnings, and proceeds from the sale of obsolete equipment.

Proposition 4: Resolves to establish a "Capital Reserve for Vehicles and Equipment," for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, the purchase of vehicles for student transportation, maintenance vehicles and equipment, and other vehicles for school district use, and to be funded up to an amount of \$500,000, for a time period of 10 years. The reserve may be funded through budgetary appropriations, sale proceeds of equipment, and interest earnings

	<b>Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year</b>
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$829

<sup>1</sup> 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 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Gates Chili Central School District, Monroe County, New York, will be held at Gates Chili High School, in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Gates Chili High School Field House, at which the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.



# Schedule of Reserve Funds

Reserve funds provide a mechanism for legally saving money to finance all or part of future infrastructure, equipment, and other requirements. Reserve funds can also provide a degree of financial stability by reducing reliance on indebtedness to finance capital projects and acquisitions.

Reserve Type	Reserve Name	Reserve Description	March 31, 2019 Actual Balance	June 30, 2019 Estimated Ending Balance	Intended Use of the Reserve in the 2019-20 School Year
Capital	Capital Reserve #2	To pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued	\$2,509,781	\$4,310,000	District will seek voter approval to offset the costs of future capital projects
Unemployment Insurance	Unemployment Insurance	To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund	\$2,905,942	\$1,105,942	\$1,055,000 to be transferred to the Capital Reserve #2 in 2019-20
Tax Certiorari	Tax Certiorari	To pay for tax certiorari settlements	\$966,705	\$966,705	\$100,000 to be transferred to the Capital Equipment Reserve and to cover any refunds due to taxpayers who prevail in Tax Certiorari cases
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability (EBALR)	Employee Benefit Accrued Liability (EBALR)	For the payment of accrued employee benefit due to employees upon termination of service	\$1,165,570	\$1,165,570	\$100,000 to be used to cover the cost of Retiree Benefits
Retirement Contribution	Retirement Contribution	To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System	\$5,907,907	\$5,907,907	\$355,610 will be used to cover 2019-20 Employee Retirement Expenses

## STAR Exemption

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program provides eligible homeowners in New York State with relief on their property taxes.

If you're a STAR recipient, you receive the benefit in one of two ways:

- the STAR credit program (open to any eligible homeowner whose income is \$500,000 or less)—you receive a check in the mail from the Tax Department to apply to your school taxes
- the STAR exemption program (now closed to new applicants)—you receive a direct reduction on your school tax bill in the form of a property tax exemption

Enhanced STAR, which provides increased savings, is available to qualifying senior citizens ages 65 and older in both the credit and exemption programs.

### What's new

Due to recent changes in the law, beginning this year:

- the value of the STAR credit may increase by as much as 2% each year, but the STAR exemption cannot increase; and
- the income limit for the Basic STAR exemption is now \$250,000.

### Who must switch

- If your income is more than \$250,000, you must switch to the STAR credit to continue receiving your benefit.
- If your income is \$250,000 or less, you have the option to switch.

### How to switch to the STAR credit

- Notify your assessor that you wish to withdraw your STAR exemption.
- Register for the STAR credit at [www.tax.ny.gov/star/](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star/)

## Veterans' Exemption

The Gates Chili Board of Education approved the veterans' tax exemption resolution during its Feb. 26 meeting. The exemption provides relief to wartime, combat and disability veterans. Veterans must apply for this exemption with their town assessor's office.

	Assessed Value	Maximum Assessment of
Wartime Veteran Exemption	15%	\$9,000
Combat Exemption	25%	\$6,000
Disability Exemption		\$30,000

## Fund Balances

Year-end fund balances of school districts are the result of the recognition of revenues in excess of amounts estimated and expenditures that are less than the total amount of appropriations.

	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Estimated
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$13,455,905	\$14,794,572
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,000,000	\$2,400,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$4,222,778	\$4,420,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4%	4%

### 2019-20 Estimated STAR Savings

Basic STAR Exemption	\$829
Enhanced STAR Exemption	\$1,711

## Board of Education Candidates

Four candidates will be elected to the board at the annual district vote on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. Three will serve three-year terms beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. One will serve a one-year term beginning May 21, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Below are statements from each candidate about their interest in serving on the board and their experience.



### Dr. Christine Brown Richards

"I am an Educator, Counselor, Facilitator, Motivational Speaker, Entrepreneur and much more.

I am a Rochester native and a graduate of the Wilson Magnet High School in Rochester, NY. I attended Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio where I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice; my Master of Education and Human Development was earned at the University of Rochester; my Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration at the State University of New York at Brockport; and my Education Doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College.

I am a member of various professional organizations including: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Black Women's Leadership Forum, and the Greater Rochester MLK Commission. I have been a facilitator/speaker for workshops and trainings on the local and national level. I have also been the recipient of various honors and awards.

I am a proud daughter, wife, mother (of two Gates Chili students), sister and friend who has grown up with the philosophy "you're never too old to learn." I am excited to serve the Gates community by putting our children and their education first!"



### Francis 'Frank' Muscato

"I have been a resident of the Gates Chili Central School District for over 42 years. My three children all graduated from the high school. Professionally, I've 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.

I am seeking a return to the Board of Education because I believe my experiences as a board member for various groups can bring a level of governance skill that I believe is lacking on the current board. I have had extensive experience in budget preparation and strategic planning, having done both while serving on several boards. A major issue facing school board members is the time need 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."



### Raymond R. Banks

"I am an independent contractor, an entrepreneur, a freelance journalist, freelance photographer, an idea creator, and a brewer. I am a retired US Army Officer and I am also a retired Department of Defense Officer. I graduated from Washington State University.

My wife and I have eight boys and two girls. I have nine children that have finished college and are working as lawyers, engineers, finance advisors, accountants, RNs, and business managers. They are all entrepreneurs. I was able to pay some of their college educational expenses.

Serving as a School Board member is a great way to help create a shared vision of high academic standards for all students. I can represent a different group in the community as to ensure that Spanish Speaking students have a voice in making educational and administrative decisions. I have a personal interest in improving the quality of education as I have a son who is a student at GCSD. I believe in quality public education for our children."



### Michael Bailey

"My name is Michael Bailey (Mike) and live at 245 Miramar Road in Gates. I have two sons, Justin and Logan that attend the Gates Chili School District. Justin is a senior and will graduate in June of 2019, then will be joining the Air Force as a Para Jumper. Logan will be entering 9th grade in the high school next year

and will concentrate on computers and technology.

I am a Materials Manager for a company called Roechling Medical Rochester, which is located on Ridgeway and Mt. Read Blvd.

I have been a Gates resident for 21 years and have previously serve the Board of Education for over 5 years. Due to my employment at that time, I had to resign my position on the board. I am now employed locally so feel that I can again, serve on the board to support the district and community.

During the 5 years that I previously served on the board, I held a board member position as well as Vice President, and President. I sat on and led various committees, such as Finance, Adhoc, Information Exchange, and Presidents Committee."

### Return on Investment: Community

- High school and middle school artists made five large canvas murals for the Rochester Ronald McDonald House.
- Gates Chili teachers, students and community members are working to complete large flower pots for the town of Gates that will be displayed along Buffalo Road this summer.
- Gates Chili Central School District has participated in Relay for Life since 2012 and has raised more than \$250,000 for The American Cancer Society.





# Capital Project Update

Things are heating up on several construction sites around the district and it's not just the mercury. Significant progress has been made on several phases of the capital project including Gates Chili High School and new athletic field, Florence Brasser Elementary School and Paul Road Elementary School.

Foundations have been laid for the scoreboard, ball stoppers and bleachers, and installation of the bleachers is officially underway. Crews continue to work on underground drainage and installation of stone on the turf field.

Inside Brasser, crews finished the masonry walls and installed most

of the new speaker wire in all the classrooms. Meanwhile, the beginnings of a playground are being established outside.

At Paul Road, the demolition of old offices is nearly complete and structural steel will be installed so that interior wall framing may begin. The demolition work for the boy's locker room is well underway and on time.

Meanwhile, other phases of the capital project are just beginning. At Gates Chili Middle School, letters of intent and contracts have been issued to the respective contractors for the project. After completing the most recent bid process for the GCMS portion of the capital project, the district made the

decision to move the technology wing addition to Phase 1A of the project. This decision means that the district will not have to allocate funds to create a temporary space for the music department. Phase 1A of the capital project will include a new music area, music classrooms and technology wing at GCMS, along with renovations to the technology classrooms at the high school and secure entrances at the elementary schools.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed in fall 2021. The latest developments can always be found on the Gates Chili website at [www.gateschili.org/capitalproject](http://www.gateschili.org/capitalproject).



*Florence Brasser Elementary School*



*Paul Road Elementary School*



*Spartan Stadium*



## Return on Investment: Transportation and Facilities

- 340 tons of rock salt and ice melt are used by maintenance and custodial staff annually to keep the roads, parking lots and sidewalks free of snow and ice all winter long
- 1,000,000 miles are driven by bus drivers this school year without any significant accidents or incidents
- Gates Chili CSD facilities are monitored by safety and security 24 hours a day





## A Superintendent's Conference Day surprise

Instead of sleeping in on their day off, several students helped to kick off Superintendent's Conference Day on April 8 with a surprise performance. Stars of Gates Chili High School's "Guys and Dolls" performed select scenes from the musical for their teachers and other staff members. They came in on the weekend to rehearse and their hard work clearly paid off when they were rewarded with a standing ovation by the crowd of about 650 people.

After their performance and a short presentation by Interim Superintendent Carol Stehm, teachers and staff took part in professional development courses. They attended sessions such as Function-Based Thinking, which provided insight on how to use the behavior pathway to change their approach to classroom management, and Academic and Community-Building Circles, which provided an overview of how restorative practices build stronger communities of care. Other sessions offered included Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) Introduction; Resiliency, Stress and Self Care; Mindfulness; and Safety in the Science Classroom.



## Welcoming a new Spartan



The Gates Chili Board of Education has selected Christopher Dailey as superintendent of the Gates Chili Central School District.

"I am excited and honored to have been chosen as the next superintendent. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Board of Education, staff, parents and community to provide a phenomenal education to our students," said Dailey. "My mission is to celebrate the excellent programs, activities and

services that contribute to the student success and outstanding pride that sets Gates Chili schools apart. I commit to modeling the character, integrity and fairness expected of the leader as we write the next great chapter in the tremendous story of the Gates Chili Central School District together."

Dailey is currently the superintendent of the Batavia City School District. He will begin in Gates Chili on July 1.



## Join the GCCSD Team!

Employment opportunities are available including instructional and non-instructional positions.

For more information, visit [www.gateschili.org/hr](http://www.gateschili.org/hr)



### *Return on Investment: Professional Development and Staff*

- More than 245 courses, collegial circles, out-of-district trainings or conferences were attended by faculty and/or staff in the 2018-19 school year.
- Staff members manage more than 10 official social media accounts to share student success and news with parents and community members.
- More than 15 staff members showed off their basketball skills against the Harlem Wizards, helping to raise \$3,500 for the Gates Chili Educational Foundation.





# Celebrating Public Schools

As part of Celebrating Public Schools Week, March 25-29, the district welcomed local leaders to Paul Road Elementary School for a reception to learn more about the Early Childhood Program. The Celebrating Public Schools campaign is a way to promote great things happening in schools every day. Gates Chili is proud to offer a high-quality, publicly-funded Universal Pre-Kindergarten program for district residents. The grant-funded program is in its fifth year of operation and serves 156 students districtwide each year.

In the play-based UPK classrooms, talented teaching teams design learning experiences to strengthen language skills, small and large muscles, social skills, early math and literacy skills, and creativity. A big thank you to County Legislator Frank Allkofer, The Strong Assistant Vice President for Education Deborah McCoy and Board Trustee Kelly Glover, who spent time visiting UPK classrooms and learning more about the Gates Chili early childhood vision: children love learning when they wonder, play, explore, discover and create.



**ROCKET ON, KID-STRONAUTS!**

*School is Out of this World!*



**Come meet Pete the Cat and some of our UPK and kindergarten teachers**

Gates Chili High School Field House  
1 Spartan Way  
Tuesday, August 13 • 6-7 pm

## REGISTRATION REMINDER

To register new students for the 2019-20 school year go to [www.gateschili.org/registrar](http://www.gateschili.org/registrar)

**If you have questions contact:**

Nichole Valdez, District Registrar  
[nichole\\_valdez@gateschili.org](mailto:nichole_valdez@gateschili.org)



## Return on Investment: Grades PK-2

- Kindergarten teachers are utilizing flexible instruction time (FIT), a developmental approach to learning using intervention services in conjunction with academics.
- The district-hosted Ready, Set, Learn Night was a fun and engaging evening for incoming kindergarten students and their families.
- Students as young as preschool take part in fun STEM projects like programming and coding Ozobot robots.



## Disney student recognized for doing the right thing

Fifth-grade student Christian Major received a round of raucous applause at the Do the Right Thing Award Program on April 11, recognizing his role model behavior. Two Walt Disney Elementary School classes joined their peer at the Public Safety Building for the ceremony.



After watching a special on television about a girl who committed suicide, Major and his parents had a discussion about this difficult topic. About a week later at school, one of Major's classmates made a statement that caused Major to be concerned for his friend's well-being. Major immediately went to a trusted adult at school and explained what happened. As a result, Major's friend was able to express their feelings to the appropriate school staff and family members.

The Do the Right Thing Award program has been part of the Rochester Police Department since 1995. The goal of the program is to foster positive relationships between the Rochester Police Department (RPD) and young people in the community.

## Young artistic talent on display



From digitally-altered graphics to ceramic creations, the art skills of Gates Chili Middle School students were on display during the annual Middle School Art Show on April 11. The hallways and library were abuzz with students, families and friends, all taking in the fantastic student work. The art show displayed approximately 1,200 pieces of art from more than 500 students.

## A market in the classroom

For a short time on March 21, Lyndsay Barravecchia and Sara Collom's second-grade classroom at Florence Brasser Elementary School was changed into a farmers' market. Students became farmers and customers, interacting with each other, providing customer service and totaling their purchases. This activity followed a visit from Andrea Lista from the Cornell Cooperative Extension. She visited the classroom to talk about agriculture in the area and to read the students "On the Farm, At the Market" by G. Brian Karas.



## Broadening literacy through technology at Armstrong

Books let you travel without moving your feet. That was certainly the case with Michelle Mika and Maureen Fundis' fourth-grade class at Neil Armstrong Elementary School. They read Laurie R. King's "Boys of War: Daniel at the Siege of Boston 1776" as part their lesson on the American Revolution. Mika, impressed with the conversations the book sparked during read-aloud sessions, reached out to the author about connecting with the students virtually to discuss the book. The children's book writer happily agreed, and with the help of Innovation Coach Mike Munski, the class was able to connect to Calkhoven via Skype Classroom. The class' enthusiasm was evident during their 40-minute Skype Classroom call. Students asked Calkhoven questions and discussed important points and themes in the book.



## Return on Investment: Grades 3-8

- Sixth-grade science teachers are currently working on a professional development plan to use Minecraft Education Edition for the 2019-20 school year to teach standards related to Biomes and Climate Change.
- Staff and students regularly use peace circles and other restorative practices to foster relationships and open lines of communication.
- Students have been able to explore ecosystems, layers of the earth, volcanoes and other famous places around the world through the use of Google Expeditions and virtual reality field trips.





## Top of their class



Gates Chili High School recently announced its top 20 seniors based on weighted GPA. The students were invited to a breakfast to celebrate their commitment to academic excellence. Congratulations to these students on their accomplishments!

*Top row, l-r: Natalie Dillon, Hannah Sheets, Joseph Crocker, Nyab Mesfun, Julia Quan, Maya Charcholla, Danny Le, Kyle Lincoln, Brittany Turcotte, Zara Sadki, Elizabeth Roote*

*Bottom row, l-r: Danielle Gatto, Emma Mahoney, Ashley Bigelow, Rachel Potter, Matthew Discavage, Freshta Masood, Savannah Martin, Linda Pham*

*Not pictured: Connor Weihoneig*

## Students shine at leadership conference

Two Gates Chili students participated in the 13th Annual Creative Leadership Conference held at St. John Fisher College April 2-4. Over the course of this three-day conference Adele Henry and Claudia Patterson engaged in creative problem solving, collaboration and innovation by exploring different mindsets, principles and tools.

The students used their new skills to work with business clients on the final day of the conference, the much-anticipated Client Day. Representatives from Sutherland Global, Eastview Mall and SEI Design Group were among

the clients working with a student team and presenting them with a challenge.

The feedback from the clients was overwhelmingly positive. The professionals shared how invaluable it was working with students on real-life challenges and how much they have to bring back to their companies. Students said the conference helped them build confidence, think differently and understand different processes when it comes to problem-solving.

## Audiences love "Guys and Dolls" a bushel and a peck

Gates Chili High School brought to life gangsters and gamblers, spirited missionaries, Havana dolls and Hot Box showgirls for their production of "Guys and Dolls" March 22-23. The musical comedy about gambling men and the women in their lives starred Evan Bala as master gambler Sky Masterson, Xavier Solivan as fellow gambler Nathan Detroit, Dana Hart as Miss Adelaide, the pride of the Hot Box Club, and Elena Phillips as Sister Sarah Brown.

"Guys and Dolls" features hits that include "I've Never Been in Love Before," "A Bushel and a Peck" and "Luck, Be a Lady." Bringing "Guys and Dolls" to the Gates Chili stage was made possible by Director Heather Candileri, Vocal Director and Choreographer Jessica Stevens Volpe, Pit Director Jeff Welch and Business Manager Chris Varlan.



## Return on Investment: Grades 9-12

- Gates Chili Central School District earned the top spot in the Junior Achievement of Central Upstate New York's first ever JA Stock Market Challenge on March 1
- Students in the Multicultural International Club (MIC) coordinated and hosted Diversity Week at Gates Chili High School March 18-22.
- 13 students participated in the annual Roc2Change Diversity Summit on March 29.





## Arts integration program recognized with 2019 Magna award

Gates Chili Central School District has been awarded the 2019 Magna Award for equity in education by the National School Boards Association (NSBA). The ARTS Partners program was identified as an exemplar for removing barriers to achievement for vulnerable or underserved children. The award was presented at the NSBA Annual Conference in March.

ARTS Partners stands for Arts Reaching and Teaching in School. It is a partnership between the Rochester Broadway Theatre League (RBTL) and GCCSD. The program integrates theater, music, arts, dance and visual media into curriculum across all subject areas, while meeting all major core standards.

“This is a first-time experience for many of our students,” said Valentine. “Listening to the reaction of students at the theater is an experience unlike any other.”

Gates Chili Arts Integration Teacher Holly Valentine’s vision has been to “bring the theater to the classroom and the classroom to the theater.” Over the past three years, Valentine has worked to implement theater-based curriculum into classrooms districtwide, translating major themes from RBTL productions into lessons for students of varying grade levels.



“The brain can’t develop in isolation. It requires constant dialogue and an environment filled with textures and sounds and colors. That’s what the arts

can do,” said Valentine, who also serves as the RBTL director of education.

The program’s impact elevates when real-world interactions develop. Students have written letters to cast members, connected with performers via video chat and/or assemblies and, ultimately, witnessed it all come together during a live performance.

During the 2017-18 school year, the program reached nearly 60% of Gates Chili students with 64% of those students attending a performance.

Art exposure is one piece of the ARTS Partners program. Students are engaged and excited, discussing activities beyond the school day. They are motivated

to put in the necessary work, often needing a reminder for breaks. Students in the program tend to require minimal disciplinary interventions. Most notably, their academic progress is impacted profoundly.

“Each September, I was receiving classes with 30-35% of the students reading at or above grade level. In June, consistently 98-100% of them were at or above grade level,” said Valentine, who delivered curriculum to her students in a similar way prior to the districtwide initiative. “I am absolutely convinced it was because of this work that was going on in the classroom.”

Teachers note the program’s impact and students’ abilities that shine through the curriculum. Non-traditional learning activities allow students who learn differently to flourish.



RBTL’s mission is “to provide opportunities for all people to experience, understand and enjoy the best in arts and performance through its education programs, events and activities.” The ARTS Partners program is the league’s largest and most comprehensive education program.

“We believe in the ability of live theatrical experiences to enrich people’s lives and the sooner you do that, the more likely it continues as they age,” said RBTL Executive Vice President Linda Glosser.

“Before we got into this, we really never dreamed that an administration would be so fully committed to bringing theater into the classroom and the classrooms to the theater,” added Glosser.

Valentine is already developing next year’s curriculum. With the announcement of the 2019-20 RBTL season, Valentine has set her sights on five productions: “Come from Away,” “The Lion King,” “Anastasia,” “Cats” and “Dear Evan Hansen.” Themes such as kindness, responsibility, resiliency, hope and self-image are embedded into these productions.

These are just samples of the themes that will be integrated into curriculum, in addition to the coordinating literature pieces, real-world interactions and memorable theatrical experiences.

### Return on Investment: Arts

- Middle school art students are one of the top contributors in the nation to artsonia.com, having posted more than 1,000 works of art this year.
- Six high school vocalists sang in a master class March 8 with Kai Ann Chee from the national touring company of “Miss Saigon.”
- Two Gates Chili students participated in the live musical theater program Stars of Tomorrow on 13WHAM-TV on April 9. This program is sponsored by the Rochester Broadway Theater League.



## Spartan Ink

Seven Gates Chili Spartans have taken pen to paper to sign National Letters of Intent. The following student-athletes have committed to continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level: **Kiana Annibali** (Keuka College - Soccer); **Kristian Annibali** (Roberts Wesleyan College - Soccer), **Makayla Friery** (Rochester Institute of Technology - Soccer), **Marcus McFadden** (University at Albany - Track and Field), **Dustin Meyer** (University at Buffalo - Track and Field); **Indya Richards** (Norfolk State University - Track and Field); and **Keith Slack** (Daemen College - Basketball).



Kiana Annibali



Kristian Annibali



Makayla Friery



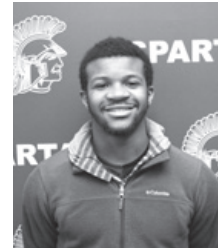
Marcus McFadden



Dustin Meyer



Indya Richards



Keith Slack

## Building a championship culture

Two Gates Chili alumni were honored at the Rochester Press-Radio Club's 70th Annual Day of Champions Dinner on April 3.

Former Gates Chili basketball standout, newly-drafted to the Minnesota Lynx, Cierra Dillard ('14) received the Amateur Athlete Award presented by Executive Director of the Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center Jim Brown. Patrick Staley ('15) served as Honorary Chair of the dinner, representing Roberts Wesleyan College. The dinner was headlined by record-setting Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes. Mahomes received the Coca-Cola Sports Personality of the Year Award.

The Rochester Press-Radio Club has been supporting Rochester-area children's charities since 1949.



Photo credit: Joe Territo

## Athletes recognized for work on and off the field

Each week throughout the school year WHEC-TV acknowledges scholar athletes as part of their Scholar-Athlete of the Week segment. This year two Gates Chili student athletes, seniors Maya Charcholla and Colton Crane, received the honor.

A November honoree, Charcholla has been captain of the girls' varsity soccer team for the past three years. She is a member of the National Honor Society and volunteers her time and talents for events such as Relay for Life. This year

she played an important role in organizing the April 26 event for cancer survivors.

Three months later, Crane was brought into the spotlight for his success in wrestling and the classroom. After winning the 285-pound weight class title at the Section V Wrestling Championship, Crane went onto the state tournament and placed fourth overall. Next year he hopes to study biology with an eye on pre-med at the University at Buffalo.

### Return on Investment: Athletics

- 20 students participate on the district's Unified Sports team.
- 70 students are three-sport athletes across at the varsity, JV and modified levels.
- Three winter sports teams had weighted team GPAs higher than 90% - boys' bowling (92.80), boys' swimming (91.68) and girls' indoor track and field (91.51).





## Spartan Eats honored for being a *Champion of Change*



The Gates Chili Central School District is proud to continue its partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to serve free meals over the summer months.

More than half of Gates Chili students are on free or reduced lunch throughout the school year. The USDA Free Summer Meals program, now in its eighth year at Gates Chili, is a national program seeking to help those families in need. It allows the district to provide anyone 18 years or younger with free meals five days a week.

As part of this program, the district rolled out the Spartan Eats bus. The Gates Chili Transportation Department transformed a used school bus

into a school cafeteria lunch line on wheels. In 2018 the Spartan Eats bus served 2,300 lunches across three locations. The Spartan Eats bus was recently recognized by the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) as part of their Champions of Change for Kids program.

There are no income requirements for USDA Free Summer Meals program and no registration is necessary. Parents/guardians may also purchase a meal to eat with their child. Breakfast is \$2 and lunch is \$4 for parents/guardians. This year's program runs from July 8 until Aug. 16 at Gates Chili High School and Paul Road Elementary School. In addition, the Spartan Eats bus will make stops at Memorial Park and Lions Park this summer. Specific times for meals at all of these locations will be available in early June on the district website.



## All eyes on wellness

Gates Chili Continuing Education proudly hosted a free community mental wellness fair for the second year in a row. This fair included more than 30 vendors, an expert panel discussion and a screening of "Suicide: The Ripple Effect." This event took place on April 4 in the Gates Chili High School Auditorium and was sponsored by Delphi Rise and Kenna's Fight.

## Staff Spotlight



**Eleni Hartman**

**Special Education  
Teacher**

**Gates Chili  
High School**

Students are shaped by the kindness and guidance of teachers. Special Education Teacher Eleni Hartman has been a kind guide to Gates Chili High School students for the past 18 years.

Hartman works with students with disabilities in a variety of settings - as a case manager, teacher, consultant teacher and Learning Center resource.

"I work to develop instruction tailored to meet the needs of students with disabilities so they can learn the same information as their peers," said

Hartman. "I want to equip my students with strategies and develop their skills so that they can reach their goals of becoming successful members of our community."

Hartman works primarily with ninth- and 10th-graders as they transition from middle to high school. The transition could be difficult and challenging. She finds it important to provide social-emotional supports in addition to academic supports.

"As a teacher, we take on many roles and one of the most important things a teacher can do is to provide a safe, warm learning environment," said Hartman.

Students find comfort in Hartman's presence, often challenging themselves to take risks. Hartman supports the students as they learn to overcome

obstacles and self-advocate.

"All students need someone in their corner to push them, guide them, and encourage them," said Hartman. "Without a nurturing environment, students can lose faith in themselves as learners."

"All students deserve the opportunity to experience success and find a path they are passionate about," added Hartman.

Hartman isn't the only Spartan in her family. Her husband Rich is an English teacher at GCHS and their son, Ty, is a first-grader at Walt Disney Elementary School. She enjoys spending time with her family in her spare time, in addition to sports and reading.



### Return on Investment: Pupil Personnel Services

- Gates Chili students continue to have strong participation each spring at the regional Special Olympics event.
- More than 200 students receive speech therapy through the district as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.
- The district has employed additional psychologist staff and counselors to support students' social, emotional and behavioral growth.





# 2019-2020

## Gates Chili Central School District Student/Faculty Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

September 2 (Mon) ..... Labor Day  
September 3 (Tues) ..... Superintendent's Conference Day  
September 4 (Wed) ..... School Opens (P-12)

### OCTOBER

October 11 (Fri) ..... Superintendent's Conference Day  
October 14 (Mon) ..... Columbus Day

### NOVEMBER

November 11 (Mon) ..... Veterans Day  
November 27-29 (Wed-Fri) ..... Thanksgiving Recess

### DECEMBER

December 9 (Mon) ..... No School P-5 Parent Teacher Conf.  
December 20 (Thurs) ..... P-5 Student Half Day  
December 23-31 (Mon-Tues) ..... Holiday Recess

### JANUARY

January 1-3 (Wed-Fri) ..... Holiday Recess  
January 20 (Mon) ..... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
January 21-24 (Tues-Fri) ..... Regents Exams  
January 24 (Fri) ..... Superintendent's Conference Day

### FEBRUARY

February 17 (Mon) ..... President's Day  
February 18-21 (Tues-Fri) ..... Mid-winter Recess

### MARCH

March 24-31 (Tues-Tues) ..... 3-8 ELA Exam Window

### APRIL

April 3 (Fri) ..... Superintendent's Conference Day  
April 6-10 (Mon-Fri) ..... Spring Recess  
April 20-27 (Mon-Mon) ..... 3-8 Math Exam Window

### MAY

May 22-25 (Fri-Mon) ..... Memorial Day Recess

### JUNE

June 1 (Mon) ..... Grade 4/8 Science Exams  
June 2, 17-25 (Tues, Wed-Thurs) ..... Regents Exams  
June 24 (Wed) ..... Graduation Day  
June 26 (Fri) ..... Regents Exam Rating Day  
June 26 (Fri) ..... Last Day for Staff

### Total School Days in Attendance

Faculty = 186    Students = 181

#### KEY

○ School Opens  
□ Regents Exams

▨ No School (Grades P-5)  
▨ Exams (Grades 3-8)

■ No School for Students and Faculty  
▨ Half Day (Grades P-5)  
◆ Conference Day, No School for students

### SEPTEMBER

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29	30					

### OCTOBER

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### NOVEMBER

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### JANUARY

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### MARCH

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### APRIL

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### JUNE

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28	29	30				

*NYSED requires 180 student attendance days.*

**Gates Chili Central School District**

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Gates Chili Schools

**May**

15	Brasser Band Concert	7 p.m.	FBS
15	Disney Chorus and Band Concert	7 p.m.	WDS
16	Grades 7-8 instrumental concert	7 p.m.	HS
17	Secondary progress reports		
21	Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election	6 a.m.-9 p.m.	HS
22	Grades 7-8 chorus concert	7 p.m.	HS
23	High School art show awards	5:30-6:30 p.m.	HS
23	High School Awards Ceremony	7 p.m.	HS
24-27	<b>Memorial Day Recess, No School</b>		
28	Board of Education Meeting	7 p.m.	Admin Bldg.
28	High School choral concert	7 p.m.	HS
29	Sixth-grade chorus and band concert	7 p.m.	HS
30	Middle School Awards Night	6:30-8:30 p.m.	MS

**June**

3, 18-26	Regents Exams		
6	Middle School NJHS Induction	7 p.m.	MS
11	Board of Education Meeting	7 p.m.	Admin Bldg.
24	Last day for K-5 students		
26	Gates Chili High School Class of 2019 Graduation	7 p.m.	RIT Gordon Field House
26	Last day for staff		

*For more events, including ways for parents to get involved, go to: [www.gateschili.org](http://www.gateschili.org)*

**Budget Presentation Schedule**

Voters in the Gates Chili Central School District are invited to attend any of the following 2019-20 budget presentations.

Date	Time	Location
May 13	7 p.m.	Gates Public Library, 902 Elmgrove Rd.
May 14	7:30 a.m.	Gates Rotary Club, RWC Ellen Stowe Room
May 14	12 p.m.	Chamber of Commerce, 425 Paul Rd.
May 16	11:15 a.m.	Chili Senior Citizen Group, 3235 Chili Ave.
May 17	7 p.m.	Westside YMCA, 920 Elmgrove Rd.

**BUDGET  
VOTE**

**6 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Gates Chili HS**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019**