

GATES CHILI

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Graduation Newsletter 2019



Congratulations Class of 2019!

Gates Chili High School added 321 graduates to its alumni as the Class of 2019. Students walked the stage on June 26 as hundreds of family members, friends and faculty proudly watched at the Rochester Institute of Technology Field House.

The event included performances by Gates Chili musical groups and speeches from the valedictorian and salutatorian.

Salutatorian Maya Charcholla reflected on the string of events that led the students to sharing their journeys together. She acknowledged that many parts of life have been decided for them, but now they are moving on and making their own choices.

"How are we supposed to decide what we want to do or where we want to go when we've never had a choice like this before?" said Charcholla. "Although it is scary, it is the one thing for certain that we have in common. We have no idea what we

are doing. But we are going to not know together. And maybe it's good we do not know for once."

Valedictorian Danny Le then spoke about his 13 years as a Gates Chili CSD student including the friendship he and Charcholla built. He thanked teachers, friends and family for their impact on the Class of 2019 and ended with words of encouragement for his peers.

"I urge you to never lose sight of who you are as individuals as you begin to unlock your potential to succeed in the real world," said Le. "Stay true to yourself and stay true to your own words, as your actions will undoubtedly speak for themselves. Don't forget to love yourself and remember that you are always more than enough."

"But most of all, never forget the lessons you learned as you walked the halls of Gates Chili. Because once a Spartan, always a Spartan," added Le.



“ I urge you to never lose sight of who you are as individuals as you begin to unlock your potential to succeed in the real world. ”

- Danny Le, Class of 2019 Valedictorian



Together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners.

Letter from the Superintendent



Dear Gates Chili Central School District Community,

It is a tremendous privilege and honor to serve as your superintendent of schools. I look forward to meeting and working with you as we collaborate in the development of our talented students for many years to come.

Gates Chili is a diverse community that holds education as its highest priority. The excellence of the district lies in its eager learners, supportive parents, involved community members and highly-trained professional staff members.

The district prides itself on its long-standing traditions and innovative methods for creating a comprehensive learning environment. This is the foundation of our commitment to our students: to teach and inspire excellence for all learners. As part of that mission, students are offered numerous opportunities for success in academics, arts, athletics and beyond. These opportunities, coupled with a rigorous curriculum and strong relationships, help develop our graduates into strong leaders who will go on to represent Gates Chili CSD for years to come. It is my hope to not only continue these traditions, but to collaboratively build on them.

I want to thank the Gates Chili Board of Education, administration, faculty, staff and community for selecting me as the next superintendent of schools. My mission is to celebrate the excellent programs, activities and services that contribute to student success and outstanding pride that set our schools apart. I commit to modeling the character, integrity and fairness expected of a leader as we write the next great chapter in the story of the Gates Chili Central School District.

I am excited to meet all of our students and to hear their thoughts and ideas so that we can provide the best education possible for their future. I look forward to seeing and talking with you in the schools and community. I'm certain that the 2019-20 school year will be outstanding. Enjoy the remaining weeks of the summer!

Proud to be a Spartan!

Christopher J. Dailey
Superintendent of Schools



@GatesChiliSuper

Meet and Greet with
Superintendent Dailey
Tuesday, Aug. 13
5-6 p.m.
Field House Atrium

Welcome new administrators



Suzanne Goff is the new coordinator of professional development & community engagement. Goff comes from the Brockport Central

School District where she was director of teacher and student success.



Tom Hammel has come aboard as a new assistant principal at Gates Chili High School. Hammel comes from Dansville Central Schools where he served as an

assistant principal at Dansville High School.

Thank you, voters!

The Gates Chili Central School District 2019-20 school budget was approved by district residents with a 511-197 vote. In addition to the budget proposition, district residents approved a bus purchase proposition, the establishment of a technology capital reserve fund and the establishment of a vehicles/equipment capital reserve fund.

Thank you to the Gates Chili CSD community for its continued support of our students, staff and programs.

Newly-elected board members

On May 21, Gates Chili CSD residents elected four board of education members. Dr. Christine Brown Richards (incumbent), Francis Muscato and Michael Bailey will serve three-year terms that will end on June 30, 2022. Immediately after the vote, Raymond Banks began serving a one-year term that will end on June 30, 2020.



Michael Bailey



Raymond Banks



Francis Muscato



Dr. Christine
Brown Richards

Capital Project Update

The warmer weather has allowed for considerable progress on the Gates Chili CSD Capital Project. The bulk of the work has been happening at the Gates Chili High School work site, where contractors continue to make headway on the new Spartan Field. The stone base for the new track and the foundation for the second scoreboard are complete. Workers have completed the water-line for irrigation, turf anchors and stone have been laid, and turf installation is underway. Meanwhile, electricians are now busy pulling wire for the press box and lights.

Demolition has begun a few hundred yards away at Gates Chili Middle School. The pool has been filled and ongoing work includes leveling of the old pool deck and locker room floors.

The elementary schools are starting to see things come together. At Florence Brasser Elementary School, interior wall framing has finished up and drywall has begun to be hung. Electrical and plumbing rough-in is nearly complete and new windows have been installed. Meanwhile at Paul Road Elementary School, new playground equipment has been placed, and foundations for the new entryway are complete and demolition of the boys' locker room has wrapped up. Interior metal stud framing is in the works. Drywall and electrical/mechanical rough in are nearly finished.

The phase involving the Gates Chili High School auditorium will go out to bid in September and construction is expected to begin in January 2020. 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.



First-ever GCHS students receive NYS Seal of Biliteracy

Fifteen members of the Gates Chili High School Class of 2019 are the first in school history to earn the NYS Seal of Biliteracy on their graduation diplomas. This prestigious designation means that students have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English.

The intent of the NYSSB is to encourage the study of languages, identify high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers and provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission. To earn the seal, students must meet criteria set by New York State as well as the district to prove language proficiency at the intermediate high level or above, as defined by the American Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

“By learning a language, you gain not only another skill, but a deeper understanding of the culture,” Merrill DiPonzio said. “Two seals of biliteracy looks great on a diploma and will certainly help in my future endeavors as an international relations major.”

Several students were able to earn the seal for their knowledge of their native language and English.

“As an immigrant I see this Seal of Biliteracy as a badge of honor,” said Eduard Kulazhonak. “Many from the immigrant community have forsaken their native language and culture, but being able to obtain the seal means that I still have

part of my native culture that I am able to contribute to the melting pot of this land.”

In 2012, New York became the second state to offer a seal of biliteracy. This is the first year Gates Chili CSD has offered this diploma endorsement. In addition to the NYSSB, Gates Chili offers two other diploma endorsements, including career and technical education and business and finance.



Back l-r: Ruslan Nesenчук (Ukrainian), Kynesha Milwood (Spanish), Ayanna Porter (Spanish), Eduard Kulazhonak (Russian), William Levesque (Italian), Brittany Turcotte (Spanish). Front l-r: Julia Quan (Spanish), Bianca Cilento (Italian), Merve Duyar (Turkish), Elena Phillips (Spanish), Merrill DiPonzio (French, Italian), Freshta Masoud (Persian-Dari, Pashto), Savannah Martin (Spanish), Zara Sadki (French). Not pictured: Cheyenne Cave (Spanish)

BOCES 2 CTE students *awarded scholarships*

Class of 2019 members Madelyn Crowley, Emily Hobbins and Kayla Nero are the Gates Chili CSD recipients of the Make All the Difference Scholarship from the Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation. The foundation awards scholarships to students who have taken a non-traditional path through their K-12 schooling, and who plan to continue on to college or pursue career training. The students were presented with \$5,000 scholarships at the foundation's annual reception on May 30.

All three students attended WEMOCO Career and Technical Education Center. Crowley studied Laboratory Technology, Hobbins was in the Computer Technology program and Nero participated in Certified Nurse Assisting.

Awards abound for GCHS students

Students in grades 9-12 were honored for their academic, athletic and community service achievements during the annual Gates Chili High School Awards Ceremony. The 2019 event took place on May 23 in GCHS Auditorium. More than 320 certificates, plaques, medals and scholarships were handed out to students.



— Two GCHS seniors named '*outstanding*' —

Each year the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents (MCCOSS) recognizes one senior from every high school and the two BOCES in Monroe County at the Dr. Michael O'Laughlin Outstanding Senior event. Seniors are selected based on academics, leadership and service. Two Gates Chili CSD seniors received this distinguished honor at this year's event on May 22.

Breanna Reeves is the 2019 recipient of the award for Gates Chili High School. Reeves is a member of the National Honor Society, a leader within Multicultural Club and president of SAAVY, a girls support group focused on creating friendships, fostering respect for others, developing leadership skills and creating a sense of unity. She plans to attend the University at Buffalo in the fall to study nursing.

Madelyn Crowley is the 2019 recipient of the award for Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES. Crowley is a student in the BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education Laboratory Technology program and WEMOCO Student Ambassador. She also serves as the SkillsUSA WEMOCO Chapter President and New York State Area 1 Vice President. She plans to attend Nazareth College in the fall to study clinical laboratory sciences.



Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Carol Stehm with Outstanding Senior recipients Breanna Reeves (left) and Madelyn Crowley (right)

For a complete list of our award winners,

GCMS students inducted into NJHS



Thirty-nine Gates Chili Middle School students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on June 6. Membership is based on the five pillars of NJHS: scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship.

Excellence honored at GCMS awards ceremony

More than 120 students were recognized for their achievements in academics and leadership during the 2019 Gates Chili Middle School Awards Ceremony. Students received awards in core subjects such as math, English, social studies and science, as well as recognition for exploratory courses including health, technology, foreign languages, music and art. GCMS students were also honored for exemplifying the Spartan Way.



Fifth-graders celebrate the move to middle school

Awards celebrations at all four elementary schools recognized scores of students outstanding in all areas of academics and co-curriculars. It also honored leadership, character and personal integrity, as well as the commencement of the fifth-graders' years as elementary students. Congratulations to all of the award winners.



go to www.gateschili.org/awards2019.

Brasser welcomes 20 new US citizens

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) presented 20 citizenship candidates originating from 13 countries to the Monroe County Family Court at a ceremony at Florence Brasser Elementary School on Flag Day, June 14.

The event began with Justice James E. Walsh providing opening remarks. He was followed by welcome speeches from Justice Charles Siragusa, Brasser Principal Timothy Young and Gates Chili Interim Superintendent Carol Stehm.

“Just like our great nation, Gates Chili is diverse and full of opportunity,” said Stehm. “We are honored to be a part of your story and your journey to citizenship.”

Students in grades K-5 then led the citizens and guests in the singing of “This Land Is Your Land.”

A motion was then made by a USCIS officer, followed by the administration of oaths from

Monroe County Clerk Adam Bello, making the citizenship candidates official US citizens. The room of American citizens then recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The presentation of certificates of citizenship came next and the entire event was wrapped up with a final song by the fifth-grade band students who performed “America the Beautiful.”

Having the ceremony held in the Gates Chili Central School District made it an extra special day for Gates Chili Middle School Food Service Worker Samirah Whalen. The newly-naturalized citizen and mom of four Neil Armstrong Elementary School students came to the US nine years ago from Indonesia.

“I’m proud to say I’m now an American citizen,” said Whalen. “Having my girls there watching me take my oath made it even more memorable. They know where I am from, and they know what an incredible journey it has been for me to get and make the US my home.”



Samirah Whalen with her daughters, Armstrong UPK students Allison and Natalie, and first-graders Nicole and Ashley

Girvin recognized for work as bus driver

Gates Chili Bus Driver Arthur Girvin was honored for his contributions to the district at the Rochester Area Transportation Supervisors Association luncheon. Girvin has worked for the district for 37 years as a driver and received the award for his positive demeanor, willingness to help, dedication to safety and unwavering reliability.



GCHS students honored for DWI prevention work

Monroe County holds a public service announcement (PSA) contest each year, asking high school students to create informative media pieces to educate about the dangers of driving while intoxicated (DWI). The Stop DWI Radio Contest provides a creative opportunity for students to help lead the fight against impaired driving.

Gates Chili High School students Maya Blackwell, Zionah Campbell and Kynesha Milwood took top honors in 2018 for their DWI PSA. Their hard work earned them recognition by the Gates Chamber of Commerce at its annual awards gala. Blackwell, Campbell and Millwood earned the 2019 Youth Leadership Award which “acknowledges a youth group or individual (21 years or younger) who lives or works in the Gates and Chili area who has provided leadership in a business or business association, community service to others and serves as a role model among their peers.”

In the 2019 DWI PSA competition, GCHS students swept the top three honors with the group of Jamie Hogancamp, Kassidi Kirkpatrick and Alexa Kretchmer earning first place. Ciara Bailey took second place with Raylena Rusin receiving third-place honors. Students received monetary awards for their achievements.



Zionah Campbell, Kynesha Milwood and Maya Blackwell



Building a **CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE**

Gates Chili CSD student-athletes are charged with giving it their all each time they play. For some of them, that's three seasons out of the year. Playing three sports is no small feat, so in recognition of their tireless efforts, the athletic department awarded 72 modified, JV and varsity athletes with three-sport athlete shirts.

In addition, six staff members received three-sport coach shirts. Thank you to Jake Johnson, Bill Lewis, Dean Myslivecek, Jake Magiera, Martha Riggi and Derek Yacono for your commitment to building a championship culture. Search the hashtag #BuildingAChampionshipCulture for a look at how our Gates Chili student-athletes and staff are building a championship culture every day.



Coach Martha Riggi (modified volleyball, JV girls basketball, JV softball)



Shakira Jones (fall cheer, winter cheer, track and field)

Fall sports are just around the corner

Gates Chili Athletics is excited to announce that the district is now offering the convenience of online athletics registration through www.familyID.com. FamilyID is a secure registration platform that provides an easy, user-friendly way to register for athletic programs. Registrations will be accepted 30 days from the start of the season. Varsity and JV team sports begin on Aug. 19. Modified sports begin as early as Aug. 26 for some teams. For full details on fall sports, including times and locations, visit www.gateschili.org/athletics.

Free physicals this summer!

Students entering grades 9-12
High School Health Office

Aug. 13-15 and Aug. 20
at 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Students entering grades 7-8
Middle School Health Office

Aug. 21 and Aug. 27 at 9-11 a.m.

Gates Chili hosts 23 districts for Unified sports event

Student-athletes from 23 local school districts converged on Gates Chili on May 22 for a Unified sports basketball event. This was the fifth time Gates Chili hosted this culminating event for Section V, in coordination with Special Olympics NY and the NYS Public HS Athletic Association (NYSPHAA).

Unified athletics work to create opportunities for inclusive youth leadership and whole school engagement activities. Experiences like these ensure that all students can be involved and meaningfully contribute to their school culture.

"We are honored to host the culminating event each year," said Director of Athletics and Physical Education Patrick Irving. "This program exemplifies the positive culture we work to develop in our community."

Next year, the district plans to expand the Unified sports offerings. Gates Chili CSD students will have the opportunity to participate in bowling as part of a pilot program.



Congratulations to our 2019 retirees!

The Gates Chili Central School District thanks you for your years of service and dedication to students. Enjoy your much-deserved retirement!

Sheree Barrett, Barbara Braun, John Bruchwalski, Glenn Brugger, Michael Cafolla, Patricia Dispenza, Christopher Downs, John Driscoll, Robert Everett, Christine Faren, Gail Ferris, Linda Gibson, Theresa Gould, Kelly Hunt, C. Stephen Kalmbach, Linda Kinnard, Tina Laucht, Stephen Longdue, Chris Mandarano, Richard Memmel, Rosalyn Morris, Robert Nichol, William Nielson, Sandra Norris, Corey Pethybridge, Marianne Rayo, Donald Resch, Mary Reyngoudt, Linda Rheaume, Maureen Romeo, Annette Schiano, Petra Sever, David Strachan, James Traver, Eileen Trichanh, Valerie VanScooter, Donna Wrobel



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www.gateschili.org

*Designed and printed at
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Become a Spartan!

Positions open now including

- Bus Drivers
- Cleaners
- Instructional Staff

Additional positions available this fall

- Teacher Aides
- School Aides
- Cafeteria Monitors
- Bus Attendants
- Food Service Workers

To view openings and apply, visit

www.gateschili.org/hr

Stay Connected



@GatesChiliInfo



Gates Chili Schools



**GCCSD parents/guardians:
the district handbook/calendar
is coming this summer!**

Beautiful Buffalo Road

Gates Chili CSD students and staff are doing their part in beautifying the community. More than 150 students and staff members from around the district painted 12 large flower pots, which are now on display along Buffalo Road.

"The Town of Gates is grateful to have an amazing partnership with the school district," said Gates Town Historian William Gillette, who served as project manager. "This has been an opportunity for students to get involved in and work to make our community better. Now all Gates residents and those who visit Buffalo Road businesses this summer can enjoy the hard work of Gates Chili students and staff."



Once students painted the pots, the town worked with The Garden Factory and the Gates Garden Club to design and fill the pots with beautiful blooms. Thank you to all who contributed to the beautification of Buffalo Road.

FREE meals for the summer

The Gates Chili Central School District is proud to continue its partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to serve free meals to anyone 18 and younger this summer.

July 8 - Aug. 16
Gates Chili High School (Door #50)
Paul Road Elementary School
Breakfast: 7-10 a.m.
Lunch: 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.



Be sure to catch the Spartan Eats bus at Memorial Park and Lions Park this summer! For more information go to www.gateschili.org/spartaneats.