



GATES CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Graduation Newsletter 2020

Congratulations Class of 2020!

In the same way that education was reinvented this school year, so were the commencement ceremonies for the Gates Chili High School Class of 2020. With only two weeks until the scheduled ceremony date, safety guidelines were loosened enough to allow the district to hold five smaller outdoor ceremonies on June 26.

The pomp certainly looked different this year, an obvious result of the circumstances. Still, it did not dampen the spirits of 310 newly-minted Gates Chili High School graduates. Students walked across the bleachers-turned-stage at Spartan Stadium as family members, friends and faculty proudly watched from the perimeter of the field.

Recorded speeches played on the scoreboard at each of the five ceremonies. Graduates heard from their peers Valedictorian Katelyn Weeks, Salutatorian Sara Firnstein,

**“ The Class of 2020 has shown
that they are stronger and more
committed than any class before
to celebrating each other. ”**

- Valedictorian Katelyn Weeks

Class President Anna Quan, Class Vice President Julian Quatela, Class Secretary Darcy Butler and Class Historian Brianna Silco. Each spoke about the effects of the pandemic that altered their senior year.

“The Class of 2020 has shown that they are stronger and more committed than any class before to celebrating each other,” Weeks said. “We may not have had the experiences of a traditional class, but because of that, our class

has become all the more special. The Class of 2020 has shown innovation and resilience, emphasizing and crafting significant character in these trying times.

“If this year has shown me anything, it’s that despite the challenges we’ve faced, we have the education and fortitude to adapt and overcome hard times in life,” shared Firnstein.

Superintendent Christopher Dailey, Principal Ken Hammel and Assistant Principal Richard Pound also shared messages of resiliency. Between ceremonies, Gates Chili facilities staff cleaned and sanitized graduate seating and spectator areas to ensure health and safety. To see a mashup of the entire day’s five ceremonies, go to gateschili.org/Commencement2020.

For a complete list of Class of 2020 graduates, see pages 4-5.



Together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners.

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Gates Chili Community,



I never could have imagined the impact of COVID-19 this year, yet I am so grateful and proud of how we all pulled together as a Gates Chili community. Thank you all for working so closely with us to provide at-home learning and support for our students. While much remains uncertain regarding the reopening of school, we remain optimistic and continue our planning in hopes that students will be able to return. We will continue to work with our local health department and follow guidance from the governor. We will share plans via email with families and post important information to gateschili.org/Coronavirus.

As we begin to think about moving forward from this pandemic, I want our community to know we are committed to systemic change, which includes combatting disproportionality and continuing culturally-responsive training of all staff. We recognize that it is our responsibility

as educators to be leaders in the conversation, as well as advocates for implementing change. Our Root Cause team will continue to meet and share next steps and plans for how the district will continue its critical work.

Our district faced quite a few obstacles this year, but I am proud of how we came together to overcome the adversity and challenges in order to support our students. Gates Chili is unlike any other community in which I have worked, and I am grateful every day for the opportunity to be a Spartan.

Go Spartans!

Christopher J. Dailey
Superintendent of Schools



Planning for the reopening of school

Gates Chili CSD has assembled a task force of administrators, faculty, staff and parents to collaborate on a plan to reopen schools this fall. This task force will look at how reopening will affect the areas of school operations and logistics, teaching and learning, public health and safety, transportation, and social-emotional and equity issues. Updates from the COVID-19 Reopening Task Force and its subcommittees will be posted at gateschili.org/Coronavirus.

Thank you,
Gates Chili community

The Gates Chili Central School District 2020-21 school budget was approved by district residents in a 2,340-1,558 vote. In addition to the budget proposition, district residents approved a bus purchase proposition. Thank you to the Gates Chili CSD community for its continued support of our students, staff and programs.

GCCSD elects new BOE members

On June 16, Gates Chili CSD voters elected three Board of Education members. Catherine Coffee (incumbent), Robert Long and Jeffrey Pettenski (incumbent) will each serve a three-year term that will end on June 30, 2023. At its re-organizational meeting on July 7, the board elected Jeffrey Pettenski and Dr. Christine Brown Richards as president and vice president of the board, respectively.



Catherine
Coffee



Robert
Long



Jeffrey
Pettenski



Dr. Christine
Brown Richards



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

Capital Project Update

Several phases of the Gates Chili Capital Project are moving right along despite labor and material shortages due to COVID-19.

At Gates Chili Middle School, crews are nearly finished. Crews completed the exterior brick work, gym floor, ceramic tile in the boys' locker room and restoration of the courtyard. Finishes in the core area including paint, trim, casework and ceilings are ongoing. Plumbers also continue work on sinks and water closets, meanwhile other crews are working on front lobby and core area flooring. This phase of the project is still on schedule to be largely completed just before the start of school. Some minor work will continue into September.

Across the street at Gates Chili High School, all aspects of the project are progressing nicely. Crews there have poured more than 750 yards of concrete during the installation of new auditorium foundation walls. Electricians and plumbers continue work in the crawl spaces and the mason is laying block for the masonry.

Meanwhile, work at Neil Armstrong and Walt Disney elementary schools is in the early stages. Crews there have finished up abatement and now demolition and site work are underway. Site preparation will continue at both locations, making sure each site is ready for new foundations.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed in fall 2021. The latest developments can always be found on the Gates Chili website at gateschili.org/capitalproject.



Neil Armstrong Elementary School



Walt Disney Elementary School



Gates Chili Middle School



Gates Chili High School

Fitness equipment for sale

The Gates Chili Athletic Department is selling used equipment and machines from the Gates Chili High School Fitness Center. The equipment will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Go to gateschili.org/EquipmentSale for details. Please note: availability is not updated in real-time so quantities may vary.



Gates Chili High School

Jazlyn M. Adams △
 Lisandro Aguilar
 Mary Jane Alam
 Hala J. Allen *
 Monira S. Al-Mansoor ♡
 Orlando Almeida Jr.
 Julia M. Altobelli * >
 Yusiah Q. Amiger •
 Justin P. Angelo ♦
 Jacob F. Antinelli ▲♦
 Mikayla R. Archie-Jennings
 Maxmillian S. Arendt •
 Daniel A. Arias Flores
 Emma E. Armstrong
 Nadia K. Arsova ♡
 Orion V. Ashley ♡
 Hannah L. Bafford *\$♡
 Ciara E. Bailey ▲♦\$♡
 Allmon Elijah Bailey II
 Evan J. Balasubramaniam ▲♦\$
 Johansson J. Banks ♡
 Cuneyit Barut
 Riya Bassi
 Ajay Bhattacharyya ▲••
 Urmila Biswa ♡>
 Day'arri A. Blocker
 Mikayla Janae Bond
 Malek Anzel Boxx
 Xavier Brown
 Janiece Z. Browne
 Jayden P. Budinger *
 Giuseppina Maria Burgio *♡
 Steven K. Burgos-Reynell
 Darcy Adele Butler *\$
 Darnell T. Butler
 Caitlyn L. Caccamise *
 LaJhonte Audineke Canty *
 Christina L. Carlson
 John D. Catalano Jr.
 Chance D. Catherman
 Dallas LeYonna Chambers
 Nazzaih Unique Cheeks △
 Mivette Clavijo
 Samuel J. Colson
 Brayden P. Cook •
 Zanyah A. Cowart ♡
 Shaelyn C. Crispino ♡
 Julia L. Crocker ▲
 Jacob W. Cropo
 Trevor J. Daniel △
 Janay R. Daniels
 Gianna G. Datsko ♡
 William L. Davis II
 Colin P. Deaton ♡
 Michaela L. Deaton *♡

Zachary A. Demanchick ♡
 Chad Michael DeWitz △
 Hardeep S. Dhaliwal *
 Alexis Marie Diaz
 Cameron Elijah Dickerson *
 Nicholas T. D'Imperio
 Michael A. DiNorma >
 James W. DiVincenzo
 Stacey A. Do ▲♡>
 Chau B. Doan ♡
 Nina M. Dowd
 Emily V. Ecija ▲♡
 Simal Ekmekci ▲♡
 Carson R. Emhof ▲♦\$
 Shyenne L. Every ▲♦\$
 Brooke A. Ferrante
 Sara M. Firnstein ▲♦♡
 Jenna Nicole Fisher *\$♡
 Reynier J. Fontanez Cruz
 Ellie M. Ford *\$♡
 Elysa M. Forte >
 Haley L. Foti
 Austin K. Franclemont *♡
 Zachary C. Frank
 Evan M. Fuhry
 Nicolas J. Furino *
 Alexander L. Gabhart ♡
 Natallie Daniella Gangemi
 Michaela N. Garbato ♡
 Michael Anthony Garcia •
 Emma C. Gardner ▲♦\$♡
 Deepika Gautam ♡
 Lillian G. Gawens
 Jamie M. Giannoccaro *
 Yasmine K. Gill \$>
 Alianna Giudice ♦
 Taylor C. Giuliano
 Caitlin E. Gould ▲♦\$
 Jillian T. Graves *
 Meagan Mariah Green
 Dylan Scott Hall >
 Jada Cheyenne Hall-Monroe
 K'Vaun K. Halstead
 Kera N. Hampton ♦ △♡
 Mitchell X. Harris *
 James Lewis Harris IV *♡
 Austin Jordan Xavier Hart IV *△
 William J. Hart Jr. >
 Ethan H. Hartman *♡
 Zachary J. Henchen
 Adele R. Henry *+□♡
 Michael A. Herweg ▲*
 Jenna L. Hewitt *
 Vincent S. Hodge
 Jamie L. Hogancamp ▲♦

Nyasia N. Holt
 Xander M. Hoock
 Layla H. Hoskins
 Anthony J. Howard
 Derek D. Huck
 Erica L. Huck *
 Mikayla M. Hughes
 Sayown A. Humaid
 Emma Christine Hurley \$♡
 Mohamed T. Ibrahim ♡
 Makayla B. Jackson
 Naomi D. Jackson ♡
 Alexander Jax Jarrell •
 Kevin T. Jiang
 Brandon K. Jobes *
 Lyric A. Johnson
 Silas River Johnson *
 Aviana M. Jones
 Dante D. Jones *
 Johnae M. Junious *
 Chandra Kadel
 Ashley Keller
 Sinaiya J. Kerns ▲♦ ♡
 Kassidi A. Kirkpatrick *
 Alexa R. Kretchmer ▲*+ ♦ ♡
 Adam R. Kruspe ▲♡
 Nicole E. Kuntz
 Jamaría D. LaBord *♡
 Emily E. LaDeau
 Audrey R. Lamendola ▲♦\$
 Samantha C. LaMotte-Gravante *
 Valencia M. Lamphron *
 Dontae J. Lawson •
 Tuan A. Le ▲
 Brianna Lengo
 India A. Leslie ♡
 Sincere D. Leslie
 Gia D. LoBello >
 Austin S. Lockhart *+
 Akash Lohani
 Lucas C. Lombardi *
 Geoffrey A. Louis
 Ryan M. LoVullo *
 Andrew Luedetmoonsone
 Ana C. Lugo Nuñez
 Caleb A. Lumba
 Rose E. Lyon ♡
 Anjan Maharjan ▲♦\$
 Matthew Mahns ••
 Christian J. Maio ••
 Yazaé Lisé Maldonado *
 Alexa M. Manuse ♡
 Ariel A. Marshall ••
 Ryan C. Martin
 Carlos M. Martinez Bodon *

Class of 2020

Carlrenix M. Martinez Bodon
 Timothy M. Masetta +>
 Dae-Sean T. Mathis *
 Paul D. Mattice III +
 Chynia A. Maybell *
 Misbah Mazhar ▲
 Ashley R. McCullough *
 Korey K. McKinsey
 Jake Anthony Merica * >
 Nathaniel W. Merry
 Ashley M. Meyer * **
 Vanessa C. Miceli
 Isabella R. Milla
 Leonard Minzoni *~
 Demetrius M. Mitchell Jr. *
 Madison M. Monaghan ▲*◆\$
 Gianna R. Montalbano
 Amaya A. Montalvo △
 Katlyn D. Moore
 Trinity S. Moorehead
 Adrim M. Moreno Lopez
 Mair J. Morrison *
 Jayden P. Mowers
 Nico D. Mundy III
 Alana Arielle Murphy
 Mackenzie L. Murphy
 Bruce W. Myers III
 Nadia D. Nazario-Bouey
 Alexandra D. Neu
 Andrew J. Newman
 Anthony K. Nguyen *
 Emily H. Nguyen *
 Steven M. Nguyen •
 Jade J. Noble △
 Vanessa Y. Nowicki ▲*◆\$
 Maia Imani Nowlin **
 Jonathan M. O'Connor
 Laura A. Oechsle
 Rachel Jordan O'Hara *
 Emmanuel N. Olivera
 Elenia V. Ortiz
 Xavier L. Padilla
 Blake Rocky Palozzi *
 Chelsea L. Pappa ▲◆
 Adam T. Patanella ▲◆
 Erin E. Patterson *
 Luz M. Peña
 Maddison V. Perez *
 Sara N. Perri
 Makayla L. Perry ▲*◆\$>
 Claudia M. Peterson
 Tayllor Ann Petroff *
 Hannah Rose Pfeifer *
 Kaitlyn E. Phelan
 Christopher R. Phillippsen

Somvylay Johnny Phothirath *□
 Hailey C. Piccarreto
 Jessica L. Pierson
 Aldo Pinelli *~
 Dylan E. Pisano +
 Makayla N. Pizzo
 Logan M. Plizga *
 Brandon J. Poindexter △
 Marcos J. Porterfield
 Amari C. Postell *
 Thadeus T. Powell
 Anna Buu Quan ▲*◆
 Julian T. Quatela ▲◆
 Olivia G. Ramos
 Dylan Renehan
 Nicholas W. Ricotta
 Chrystopher J. Rivera
 Monet L. Rivera
 Victoria L. Roberts
 Alonie A'Lee Rodriguez
 Kiana L. Rodriguez
 Tia Janelle Rolle *
 Brandon A. Roman *+◆>
 Raylena Evette Rusin ▲◆
 Saleh M. Saif
 Abdullah S. Saleh
 Eric Santiago
 Vanessa R. Santini
 Daniel S. Sarkis ▲*◆
 Katie S. Sattora \$
 Martin P. Scheidt
 Ariana Kylin Schell
 James Steven Schmidt ▲*◆\$
 Elisabeth Ann Schumacher ▲*◆
 E'Lisia Marie Scott >
 Ryan M. Sears
 Samuel A. Servati *
 Maya Elizabeth Sheets
 Ishraj S. Sidhu ◆
 Brianna N. Silco ▲+◆
 Simeon Sebastian Sinclair *
 Bhagirath Singh
 Maethavee M. Siphakongviseth *
 Leanna A. Smith
 Xavier M. Solivan ▲*◆\$
 Wilson I. Soto
 Ian William Speidel *
 Noe' E. Stephens ▲*◆\$
 Jeremy M. Stuver *
 Priskila Subba
 Alexis J. Sword •
 Taylor L. Szczepanski
 Sarah M. Szudlo
 Daniel C. Tantalo *
 Emmah R. Taylor >

LeiLani Marie Thomas
 Serdrick L. Thomas Jr. ▲*◆△
 Miguel A. Torres *
 John S. Tracy
 Rebekah I. Tracy
 Kiet Q. Tran
 Jose D. Trejo Jr. ▲*\$
 Shawn K. Trim
 Christine N. Trouerbach
 Jaelyn A. Turner ▲△
 Jesse E. Turner
 Noah T. Valdez
 Lars E. Vanham
 Yatin Vij *
 Brianna A. Villanueva
 Giovanni A. Villegas *
 Thomas J. Viola *
 Jacob J. Vitale *
 Kevin C. Vo
 Destiny C. Walker
 Leah A. Walker
 Terrace Edward Walker *
 Thomas C. Walter ◆>
 Devin D. Walton *
 Sandra M. Waydelis
 Katelyn J. Weeks ▲◆
 Brandon Elliott Weise
 Aviana V. White ▲◆
 Elijah J. White >
 Emily L. White
 Ryan A. Williams
 Brendan M. Williamson *
 Julianna E. Wolf ▲◆\$
 Breanna Melody Wood
 Samuel E. Wright IV *
 Alexis J. Xomvimane
 Emily N. Yackel
 Jillian A. Yates ▲*◆\$△
 Michael W. Yohance >
 Alissa M. Zimmer *
 Ashley D. Zimmer >
 Antonio M. Zona *

- ▲ Academic Varsity Letter
- * Athletic Varsity Letter
- < Award Recipient
- + Career and Technical Education Endorsement
- National Business Honor Society
- ◆ National Honor Society
- > National Technical Honor Society
- \$ Tri-M National Music Honor Society
- > Seal of Biliteracy
- △ Urban League Black Scholar
- ~ Foreign Exchange Student
- August 2019 Graduate
- ** January 2020 Graduate

Nine students earn NYS Seal of Biliteracy

Nine members of the Gates Chili High School Class of 2020 have earned 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).

This is the second year Gates Chili CSD has offered this diploma endorsement.

Thomas named Outstanding Senior

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. The COVID-19 pandemic shifted this year's celebration to a television program on June 29 where Superintendent Christopher Dailey recognized Serdrick Thomas, Jr.



Thomas is an exceptionally gifted student who was a member of the National Honor Society and a varsity basketball athlete. As a ninth-grader, he conducted a study to test the effects of cellular radiation. He even created his own mobile app to monitor time people spend on cell phones. Thomas plans to attend RIT in the fall to study management information systems.

GCMS celebrates with a drive-up ceremony

Gates Chili Middle School students and their families drove through the middle school bus loop on May 29 to collect awards and honors they may have earned. Donning masks and face coverings, staff stood in the rain for a chance to be reunited with students at a safe distance. Spartacus was even there to pose for photos.



Fifth-graders say good-bye to elementary school

Fifth-graders took part in various drive-up ceremonies the week of June 15 as they bid their elementary years good-bye. Although it was a bittersweet end to an unusual year, they are excited to move to Gates Chili Middle School. Staff and counselors there have been hosting virtual information sessions and tours to get them ready for sixth grade.



Annual bus driver award goes to *Cantella*

Gates Chili Bus Driver Pauline Cantella was honored as Bus Driver of the Year. Cantella has worked for the district for almost 17 years as a driver and received the award for her positive demeanor, willingness to help, dedication to safety and unwavering reliability.

"Pauline is an essential member of our team," said Matt Helmbold, transportation supervisor. "She is a true team player, always willing to help out."



Pauline Cantella (center) pictured with Transportation Supervisor Matt Helmbold (left) and Director of Transportation and Facilities George English (right).

Disney's *Hanning* honored by NYSATA

Walt Disney Elementary School's own Kelly Hanning has been awarded the Raymond C. Henry award from the NYS Art teachers Association. Hanning was recognized and awarded a \$500 grant for a proposal about teaching students to use art to promote social justice.

"Implications of teaching social justice art education include the ability for students to see themselves as artists and agents of social change," Hanning wrote. "By introducing social justice art education at the elementary level, students will learn that their voice matters within the context of the world, no matter their age."



Become a Spartan! Substitutes needed.

To view openings for this and other positions, visit gateschili.org/hr.

Congratulations Retiree Class of 2020

Gates Chili honored its Retiree Class of 2020 with a special parade on June 19. Staff and families from around the district drove by, honking, waving and sending best wishes for retirement.

Congratulations again to this year's retirees:
Kirk Aderman, Colleen Antonio, Michelle Barno, Deborah Beauvais, Alan Bennett, Sueellyn Blackwell, Karen Brown, Sally Bull, Oberia Burden, Susan Case, Kimberly D'Acquisto, Patricia Delaney, Karen Engle, Diane Fuentes, Meena Gehani, Richard Girvin, Karen Hall, Sandra Hill, Linda Kinnard, Bonnie Litteer, Suzanne Loucks, Sheila Lukacko, Cheryl MacDaniels, Susan Marciano, Nancy Mazzochetti, Mary Mosher, Gail Perna, Rita Radell, Marianne Rayo, Peggy Rybacki, Steven Street, Nancy Swanson, Carol Vattimo and Maryanne Walker.





GATES CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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150,000+ meals served during COVID-19 school closure

Among the many heroes that kept things going during the school closure this year were Gates Chili School Nutrition team members. They served more than 150,000 free meals to children from March 16 until the end of the year, at times serving 1,000 meals a day!

Thank you to this hardworking team of staff members for being on the frontlines and ensuring children had access to hot meals with fresh fruits and vegetables.



FREE meals for the summer **July 6 - Aug. 21**

Gates Chili Middle School • Paul Road Elementary School

Pick up breakfast and lunch each weekday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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.

Be sure to catch the Spartan Eats bus at Westgate Park and Lions Park this summer!

For more information go to gateschili.org/SpartanEats.

Stay Connected!



@GatesChiliInfo #GCPrize #GCCares