

ARTS Partners has the *Golden Ticket!*

How do you build a set of experiences that transcend the classroom and bring an entire district together to celebrate pure imagination? You renew a past partnership and bring students and the theatre together, better than ever!

The Arts Reaching and Teaching in Schools (ARTS) Partnership is back at Gates Chili, and this year, students in grades 2-4 interacted with "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory", a musical based on the Roald Dahl story of the same name, hosted by the Rochester Broadway Theatre League (RBTL).

The program adapts themes from traveling Broadway shows into classroom and group lessons across all subject areas. This year, GC teachers used the central themes of imagination and creativity from "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory" to connect to the existing curriculum and seamlessly integrate arts education into everyday experiences that are consistent across the entire district. Students had an opportunity to attend the show at the Auditorium Theatre in November. Student artwork based on the lessons was on display at the Auditorium Theatre, where it was seen by thousands of show-goers.



Holly Valentine, the RBTL's Director of Education and a former Gates Chili teacher, said that the themes in "Charlie" are a natural fit for elementary school classrooms, "this show...what a wonderful opportunity for all of us to renew our imagination of how we want this world to be," said Valentine. After the COVID-19 pandemic put the partnership on pause for 2020-21, Valentine said the story of "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory" is exactly what students need.

"Letting them think about what the world could be—that's what we're doing with this story this year," Valentine explained. "We're bringing back a sense of hope and wonder that's been taken away from them."

Walt Disney Elementary School art teacher Kelly Hanning said that the theme of "pure imagination" captured students' attention and helped them envision a world outside of their everyday life.

"We're presenting them with the essential question: how does imagination enrich our lives?" Hanning said. In her second-grade classes, students created maps of places that can only exist in their imaginations. Third-grade students made blueprints of magical rooms in a Wonka chocolate factory.

At Neil Armstrong Elementary School, fourth-grade teacher Angela Rogers taught her students to engage with the lyrics of a song from the musical and to interpret what they think the lyrics may mean. Students drew pictures to illustrate the lyrics and presented them to their classmates. *(continued on p. 7)*



ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

National DE&I ranking	pg. 2
Elementary economics	pg. 4
E-sports coming soon	pg. 6
24/7 tutoring for students	pg. 8
Class of 1961 reunion	pg. 9

Letter from the Superintendent



Dear Gates Chili Community,

I hope you are all comfortably settling into the 2021-22 school year. This fall is the first time all our students have been back together

in person since March 2020, and we could not be more excited to have them back. Thank you to all the faculty, staff and administrators who helped make it possible.

Though we are all back together in person, we are still dealing with unique requirements and challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, Gates Chili remains committed

to maximizing student growth by being responsive to academic and social-emotional needs of the learning community. In addition, as we continue along our equity and inclusion journey, the district will cultivate a welcoming, affirming and equitable environment where barriers are removed, empowering growth, learning and success for all.

Throughout this issue, you will see stories of how we are working together to meet these goals. You'll also see several honors and recognitions of the work that has been done thus far, including a national ranking for diversity, equity and inclusion practices from Top Workplaces USA. We are proud to support and celebrate all our Spartans and their achievements

and look forward to many more opportunities to do so.

Please continue to be vigilant about hand hygiene and mask-wearing while we remain in the high and moderate transmission zones for COVID-19. We thank you for your partnership in doing all we can to provide a safe and healthy environment for our school community.

Go Spartans!

Christopher J. Dailey
Superintendent of Schools

 @GatesChiliSuper

GCCSD ranked No. 5 in the nation for DE&I practices



Gates Chili is again being hailed as a leader in diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I); this time, by Top Workplace USA. On Oct. 20, it was announced that the district earned a Top Workplaces National Culture Excellence award for DE&I practices, ranking fifth nationally for its diversity, equity and inclusion practices in the category for companies with 500-999 employees.

This national award celebrates organizations that have implemented practices and standards to make their workplaces more diverse, equitable and inclusive. The award is based on a combination of questionnaire scores, in addition to meeting or exceeding the overall Top Workplaces national benchmark.

Earlier this year, the Democrat and Chronicle recognized Gates Chili locally as a Top Workplace and awarded the district a diversity award.

Interested in joining our Spartan family?
Go to gateschili.org/jobs to see our current openings.

Budget communication efforts *awarded*

Gates Chili Central School District has been recognized by the New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPRA) in the 42nd Annual Communication Awards. The district received an Award of Excellence for its video series about budget and an Award of Honor for the budget issue of the district newsletter. There are three levels of distinction; Excellence is the highest, followed by Honor and Merit, respectively.



In all, 403 entries were received with approximately 30% of those receiving awards. NYSPRA accepts submissions in 14 different categories and the entries are judged by communication professionals across the country. The winning items and communication staff members who worked on them are:

Budget/Bond Newsletter: Gates Chili Newsletter - Budget Issue
Iva Petrosino, *Gates Chili Director of Communications*
Lindsey Reddig, *BOCES 2 Communication Specialist*
Lisa Constantine, *BOCES 2 Graphic Designer*

Strategic Campaign: "A Bit of Budget" Video Series
Iva Petrosino, *Director of Communications*
Dr. Mitchell Ball, *Assistant Superintendent for Business*

Capital Project Update

Despite labor and material shortages as a result of the pandemic, construction on the capital project continues to progress.

Staff and students at Neil Armstrong and Walt Disney elementary schools were greeted with updates to those two buildings on the first day of school. Items included a freshly-paved driveway and parking lot, heated sidewalks, and several interior renovations. Crews are now making their way through final punch list items in both of these buildings, and they are expected to conclude all work this fall.

Meanwhile, this summer and into the fall, construction on the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center advanced. Masonry and ductwork are complete, and roofers have been busy working on edge detail as weather permits. The west parking lot and exterior lighting is finished, and car charging stations have been installed and are ready for use.

Inside the performing arts center, drywall and painting is nearly complete in several areas, including the new band and music rooms. Meanwhile, storefronts and glazing are underway, and electricians are working on the wiring for audio.



Charging Station

The entire project is currently on budget and, barring any additional unforeseen material and labor shortages, it is expected to be completed by spring 2022.



Neil Armstrong Elementary School



Vocal Music Room



Performing Arts Center



Walt Disney Elementary School



Instrumental Music Room



Performing Arts Center

Building Brighter Futures

The Gates Chili Central School District is exploring its next potential capital improvement project. In September 2021, the district hosted three community input forums to present the research and planning that happened to that point. Forum times varied to provide multiple opportunities and fit into multiple schedules. Community members were provided the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions about the project.

The district will take the inquiries and feedback from these forums as they review and refine designs ahead of a Board of Education resolution later this year. To see the forum presentation and learn more about this and our current capital project at gateschili.org/CapitalProject.

WANTED: Budget Ambassadors

To gain valuable feedback during the budget development process, the district is again offering the Budget Ambassador Program for the 2022-23 school year budget.

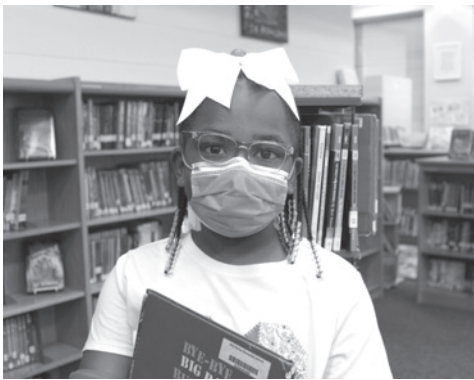
To apply to participate in this program, complete the form at gateschili.org/BudgetAmbassador by Monday, Jan. 3, 2022 at 5 p.m.



Business is booming at elementary *school libraries*

Students are back in the libraries in the Gates Chili elementary schools and they're eager to explore what the facilities have to offer!

At Walt Disney Elementary School, that means a vast range of books to investigate during library time, and to take home and enjoy. Librarian Beth Larter says that circulation for the first two months of this school year is leaps and bounds ahead of last year's totals, now that students can browse, pull a book off the shelves and enjoy it.



"The biggest thing is just giving them access...because it's their library," said Larter. Students also have access to STEAM-based educational toys and stations to explore while their classmates browse the shelves and check out books. Librarians also credit the spike in circulation to the full-time aides assigned to the various libraries, who helps students check out and return books every time they visit.

These aides also help manage the checkout process so that librarians can be as hands-on and engaged with the students as possible during their time in the library. Paul Road Librarian Stacey

Porter said that a year of students interacting digitally with library services has left the older elementary students with a great skill set for reserving and looking up books on their computers.

"The neat thing is, we did so much on the computers last year, now they know how to use the computer systems and we're mixing that with having to go find books on the shelf," said Porter. But the thing Porter is most excited about for her students?

"Really, it's just being back in the library and physically seeing the books."



Junior Achievement lessons *on the road*

High school students are heading back to elementary school—not to learn, but to teach! On Tuesdays this school year, Junior Achievement economics students are traveling to various elementary schools throughout the district, providing lessons on financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship as part of the JA High School Heroes Program.

"It was such a cool experience for me teaching a class of current Brasser students because I remember seven or eight years ago sitting in those same exact desks," explained senior Vincent Lucyszyn. "I hope I was able to impact them so in the coming years they get to go back to Brasser and teach the next generation of students just like I was."

Some of the early lessons for students in third grade involve describing goods and services provided by businesses and recognizing city business zones. Students in fourth grade worked on recognizing the impact entrepreneurs have on a region and applying common entrepreneurship traits to their own skills and abilities. Meanwhile, fifth-graders identified characteristics of a market economy and described how pricing of goods and services guide economic decisions.

These valuable lessons provided a basis for financial literacy for elementary learners, but also helped solidify high school students' comprehension of various topics.

"Having students modify and personalize the Junior Achievement instructional materials needed to complete the series of lessons can deepen their own understanding," said Jim Marco, JA Economics teacher. "Over the past 10+ years of the program, it has proved very satisfying and rewarding to the 'heroes' taking part in this JA High School Heroes Program."

"As a JA economics student in my senior year, being a part of something I was once taught as a fifth-grade student in the same school is not only inspirational but holds a special place in my heart," shared Marleah Morrison.



Paul Road kicks off fall with Socktober!

Lending a hand – or foot – to help those in need! Paul Road Elementary School students and families rallied to the cause for Socktober, the school's annual sock drive. New pairs of socks were collected throughout the month of October to be donated to the Scott Spino Foundation, which supports families in need. This year's Socktober theme was "A World of Pure Imagination" as part of the ARTS Partners celebration of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." The drive goal was to collect 1,000 pairs of socks and more than 1,300 were collected in all! Students and staff celebrated the success of the sock drive with a day of costume parties.



Stars trunk or treat under the stars

More than 20 cards, police vehicles and fire trucks lined the Neil Armstrong bus loop on Oct. 28 to greet happy superheroes, princesses, monsters and more! The school's annual Trunk or Treat was an evening filled with fun, candy, raffles and prizes. Students dressed up to trick or treat their way around the bus loop at each decorated car. The event was sponsored by the Neil Armstrong Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization.



Reading together for equity

Working together, reading together and learning together: that's what Brasser Bears are doing to make progress on equity and inclusion. On Nov. 4, they kicked off a school-wide picture book study connected to the district's equity goals.

The kickoff event included a teacher and student read aloud in each class and a live, virtual FlipGrid event that featured an interview with the author and illustrator of the chosen book, "Change Sings" by Amanda Gorman. The story is inclusive of different races, religions and abilities.

This initiative was spearheaded by the Florence Brasser School Improvement Team.

GCMS students experience an *outdoor exploration* and book browse

Sixth-graders had a chance to explore the natural world, from examining crystals to studying animal skeletons and inspecting mountain pinecones, all from the front lawn of Gates Chili Middle School.

Science teacher Dorothy Brenneis and librarian Cynthia Ratajczak created an outdoor exploration and book browse in late September for students to venture out of the classroom and get their hands on items from the natural world. The students made notes about the items they were handling, and then were invited to browse a rack of books featuring the items they observed.

"It was easy to see how these materials would spark the students' interest," said Ratajczak.

"I teamed up with Cynthia on this outdoor experience to give students a spark that would lead them into a book," said Brenneis. "The outdoor experience came from an idea I had at a social-emotional learning symposium by Rochester Ecology Partners, and the book browse came out of conversations with Cynthia and the goal of getting kids back into books."



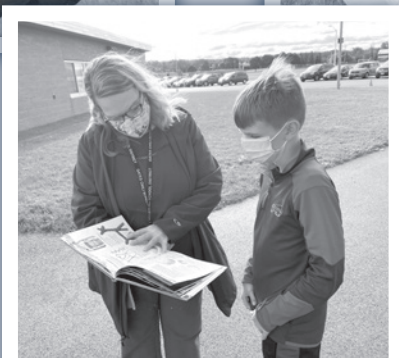
E-SPORTS is on the way

Hardware is now officially in place for the launch of Gates Chili's new e-gaming program. The space, which is located in the high school library, features 15 gaming computers, mice, keyboards and headsets. Gates Chili's e-sports team will begin competing in the spring. The games that will be used for competition are still being discussed by the league. Look for more information in the next issue of this newsletter, which will be mailed out this winter.



Middle school *welcomes* new assistant principal

Zalika Gomes has joined the Gates Chili Middle School team as an assistant principal. Gomes leads students and staff in the Rhino community. Gomes originally hails from the Rochester area, but prior to joining the Spartan family, she served as an assistant principal in Nevada. Please join us in welcoming this new Spartan!



Students help give career center a *facelift*

More than 50 students at Gates Chili High School are pitching in to help re-model the school's career center. Putting their newly-discovered skills to the test, multiple classes, including business management and marketing, as well as manufacturing systems, joined forces to give the space a makeover.

First, business management and marketing students created a survey that was distributed to their peers. Results from the survey were used to determine how the room should be set up and operated. This real-world business market and research application tied in directly with what these students learn in class.

Once students created their plan, students in the manufacturing systems class brought the plan to life by constructing and installing three shelves to display artwork in the new career center. These students also built and installed whiteboard trim for the career center and for the senior study hall. GCHS engineering and technology teacher Jared Starbird said work on the career center "facelift" gave all of the students a chance to collaborate.

"This provided a great opportunity to give our technology students a chance to show pride in the school community and get real world manufacturing experience," said Starbird.



A move to *Latin honors* for the Class of 2025

Schools across the country are moving away from traditional ranking systems to more universal honors systems. Many districts in Monroe County have already made the switch. After thorough research by a high school-based committee, Gates Chili High School will move to graduation honors based on the Latin system.

Beginning with the Gates Chili High School Class of 2025, students will have an opportunity to earn distinctions at graduation through a Latin honors system. Latin honor designation falls into three categories, each with its own minimum unweighted GPA requirement. These include:

- Summa cum laude (with highest honor): 95.0-100.0 GPA
- Magna cum laude (with great honor): 90.0-94.99 GPA
- Cum laude (with honor): 85.0-89.99 GPA

The Latin honors structure replaces the rank system that positioned students according to their weighted grade point average. This system will give students more opportunities to take academic risks or follow their interests, rather than take weighted courses for the sole purpose of improving their rank amongst their peers.

During the research process, committee members spoke with representatives from colleges and universities from around the country. When asked how this change would affect college admissions or scholarship opportunities, admissions directors shared that colleges and universities do not use class rank as a basis for admissions or scholarships.

The Gates Chili Board of Education adopted the new policy in April 2021. To learn more about the Latin honors system, go to gateschili.org/LatinHonors.

ARTS Partners has the Golden Ticket!

(continued from front cover)

"The kids really pick up on what's happening in the story, and they really identify with the characters...I am amazed at what they are able to come up with from the lyrics," said Rogers.

The ARTS Partners program represents the dedication to creativity and arts education in Gates Chili. The program began through an informal after-school club, then transitioned into the classroom, and eventually building-wide at Walt Disney Elementary School. In 2016, the partnership between RBTL and GCCSD became districtwide.

In 2019, GCCSD received the Magna Award for Equity by the National School Boards Association for the ARTS Partners program for removing barriers to theatre and the arts and increasing access and engagement for students. Said Erin Ugine, director of elementary education, "We hope [with this program] for 'ah ha!' moments from students and teachers...it's the type of experience that makes teachers say, this is why I went into teaching."

District launches on-demand tutoring

Gates Chili has partnered with Paper, an on-demand, high-quality academic support available to students 24/7. Through Paper, students in grades 6-12 will be able to speak to a tutor anytime, anywhere.



Whether they're stuck on homework, studying for a test, or need someone to read and make suggestions to their essays, students can receive on-demand and unlimited help with 200+ subjects in more than four languages whenever they need it.

Thousands of tutors are ready to provide academic assistance for students by reviewing any written work for style, structure, and content, and providing help to excelling students or support for those who need additional help understanding materials.

Students are encouraged to use Paper for tutoring and writing review as much as they need, whenever they need. In the first two weeks of the launch of Paper in the district, students have logged more than 550 sessions with tutors and submitted nearly 100 drafts of written works. To learn more, go to gateschili.org/Paper.

Connecting our community through music

Stanza by stanza and note by note, music has a way of soothing the soul. The beautiful sound of instruments is a form of self-expression that evokes intense emotions. The Gates Chili school community now has the opportunity to enjoy the bliss that music brings with the return of the Gates Chili Central School District Community Band.

Christopher Oldfield is the director of the Community Band. He recognizes the benefits that community band has on the musicians that participate in the band. Band members are given the opportunity to advance their skills and interact with others who have varying levels of experience, while doing what they love.

"It's an opportunity for people to get together and have fun," said Oldfield. "Some of them haven't played in years and that's fine. We are here to get people on their instruments and doing what they love to do."



Along with giving musicians an opportunity to play their instruments, Community Band also brings musicians together. Oldfield believes that music creates a sense of community among musicians.

"There's a bond between musicians, once you play in a band, it's an experience you will always remember and, the connections people make playing music are unlike connections they might have doing something else," said Oldfield.

Doug Gardner is a member of the Community Band and believes that the band fosters a sense of community and gives musicians of varying experience levels the opportunity to connect and perform with each other.

"It creates a sense of community and teamwork," Gardner said. "It's definitely bringing folks together that maybe wouldn't have had a reason to get together beforehand. This Community Band creates an opportunity for folks regardless of skill level or how long they have played or, haven't played."

Along with fostering connections and providing opportunity, Director of Continuing Education Marla Chefalo believes that community band has a positive impact on participants' mental health after being isolated during the pandemic.

"Interaction is especially important coming off of a time where interaction was limited due to COVID-19, I believe it is going to be beneficial to the mental health of the people who have joined us," explained Chefalo.

Members are not required to live within the district. However, discounts are available to those who live within the Gates Chili Central School District. The band currently has 35 members and is welcoming new members with varying levels of experience, the only requirement is a love for music.

For more information, or to sign up for Community Band, visit gateschili.org/CommunityBand.





Building a *CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE*

The Spartans Field Hockey team ended the fall season with a 13-4 record and making it to the Section V Semi-Finals game for the first time in program history. The success they had is even more special, because the team almost didn't get the chance to play. This year's team was made possible by a collaboration with the East Rochester Union Free School District, in which the two teams merged.

"Mergers are a great tool for athletic departments to use when looking to sustain programs," said Dr. Patrick Irving, director of physical education, health and athletics. "For both East Rochester and Gates Chili, this merger allowed our student-athletes to compete."

For the team, combining with another high school gave them the opportunity

to play, but meant they had to learn to compromise. Home games were played at both Gates Chili and East Rochester, giving the team the chance to sport existing GC and ER jerseys, another cost-savings. As for the team itself, student-athletes quickly made new friends, combined team traditions from each school and had the opportunity to compete at a higher level.

"It was overwhelming at first - meeting new people and playing with a new team, but as the season went on we began to play together and the pieces began to fall into place," said GCHS junior Jessica Pham, who has played since she was in ninth grade. "Merging with ER really showed me and the rest of the Gates Chili girls what we are capable of doing when we work as one unit."

"Overall, this year was great; we combined teams and coaches, but we also combined our talent and intensity," said Coach Andrea Tutino. "Our girls did an excellent job balancing it all. I hope the lessons they learned this year stick with them as they continue through high school and beyond."

This merger model is one practiced by other Gates Chili athletic teams, including gymnastics and ice hockey.



GCHS students bring the noise for *Homecoming 2021*



GCHS students filled the field house for a pep rally on the Thursday afternoon before the Homecoming football game to celebrate a successful start to the school year and to settle some class rivalries with games and contests. The Gates Chili High School Band pumped up the crowd before the Varsity athletes took the floor to cheers from their classmates. The Spartans went on to defeat the Churchville-Chili 35 to 7 in the homecoming football game at Spartan Stadium!



60 years of Gates Chili pride



This past August, the first-ever graduating class of Gates Chili High School, gathered to celebrate 60 years since they walked the graduation stage and became alumni.

*Congratulations,
Spartan Class of 1961!*

A day of *learning* and development for GCCSD staff

The learning never stops at Gates Chili, and that goes for all district staff, as well as students. The Gates Chili Central School District staff gathered at GCHS for the Superintendent's Conference Day on Oct. 8.

As a way to meet its goal of fostering an equitable school community, the district invited more than 800 staff members to listen to keynote speaker Dr. Omékongo Dibinga, nationally known for his work on diversity, equity and inclusion and culturally-responsive teaching. Dr. Dibinga is a professor of inter-cultural communication at American University. Dr. Dibinga spoke to the entire GCCSD staff and answered staff questions about how to better serve and support our students as it relates to equity and inclusion. A large part of his message was a focus on relationships and understanding students' culture.

"Really when it comes down to it, we're talking about the future of our children, we're talking about the future of our country," shared Dr. Dibinga. "Be willing to think about situations



and issues with a new or expanded perspective...when we are doing this work, words that we use matter."

Following Dr. Dibinga's keynote, learning continued when staff members split into breakout rooms for two additional in-depth learning sessions. Topics in those breakout sessions included addressing food insecurity among Gates Chili students, connecting with English Language Learners and their families, supporting students with disabilities, and understanding behavior through a culturally-responsive lens.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with staff sharing they would like more opportunities to deepen their understanding of equity to support all students. Haj Marigh, an ESOL teacher at GCHS said that there were important things to take from the event.

"What's powerful is knowing the students, their cultural backgrounds and understanding them," Marigh explained. "We have the tools to teach them so they can be successful, so they feel welcome, and to create a positive environment for them."

Gates Chili High School students participating in the Peer Leaders class were on hand to help guide staff and faculty to their breakout sessions. Mya Rone, a GCHS student in the Peer Leader program, said that she was glad that all GC staff had a chance to hear Dr. Dibinga and participate in the sessions, "I want to say thank you, it really does make a difference – without this learning and the work you're putting in, the world won't get better and we need that, so thank you."



Steps together towards *equity*

The Gates Chili District Equity Team held its first meeting of the year on Nov. 8, with nearly 30 members in attendance. The group reviewed the professional learning opportunities provided to staff this summer and on superintendent's conference day, and began an analysis of district data that led to the Strategic Plan for Equity. The District Equity Team is the district's accountability partner, charged with ensuring progress towards achieving the goals within the strategic plan.



GC PRIDE Award

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



*Sept. 28 recipient:
Terah Echols,
GCHS student*



*Oct. 12 recipients:
Paul Adams, Paul Road teacher; Jill Fornarola, parent/guardian; Thomas Hammel, GCHS assistant principal; Ana Keller, Paul Road attendance clerk; Stephen Neathawk, Paul Road teacher; Lynne Schmitt, Paul Road teacher; and Tina Sihto, Paul Road teacher.*



*Oct. 26 recipients:
Nehemiah Blair, Disney student; Chloe Chinnici, Disney student; Vincent Manwaring III, Disney student; Willow Norton, Disney student; and Travis Sabernick, Disney student.*



*Nov. 9 recipients:
Cassidy Dailey,
Armstrong Reading Teacher; Jennifer Padulo, Armstrong Math Teacher; and Jaala Wilson, Armstrong student.*

Staff Spotlight



Mary Dromgoole
*Kindergarten
teacher*

Florence Brasser
Elementary School

Kindergarten is a year of firsts for students, but this year is also filled with firsts for kindergarten teacher Mary Dromgoole. This is her first year teaching kindergarten at Florence Brasser and she is excited to share these new experiences with her students.

Dromgoole's passion for teaching stems from her love of school. From a young age, she was certain she wanted to be a teacher. As she grew older, her dreams became more specific, and

she developed a passion for working in early childhood. Since she was a young girl, Dromgoole has always cared for children and enjoyed spending time with them.

"As a child, I wanted to be a teacher because I always liked school," said Dromgoole. "I've always loved children and wanted to be around them. That's one thing that has never changed, I've always had jobs that worked in early childhood."

Seeing her students learn and grow as individuals is what fuels Dromgoole's passion for teaching. She loves to create hands-on activities where students learn to work together to solve problems and develop social skills.

"Creating experiences where the kids can explore and learn at their own pace is important to me. That's why I really enjoy working with young

children. Seeing the kids progress at such a young age motivates me," said Dromgoole.

Outside of teaching, Dromgoole enjoys spending time with her two young children. The family loves to spend time with one another in nature and they often go exploring and hiking. They also collect children's books together and love finding new books to read and add to their collection. Family time is incredibly important to Dromgoole and teaching children is her lifelong passion.





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FREE MEALS for every student, every day

Thanks to an extension of federal funds, all students in the Gates Chili Central School District are able to receive free breakfast and lunch during the 2021-22 school year.

Families should still submit free and reduced meal applications as other benefits and scholarships are often tied to having a current application on record.



Fall Family Fest returns!

Hundreds of community members turned out on Nov. 10 for the long-anticipated return of the Fall Family Fest, an event centered on promoting healthy habits and robust school-family community relationships.

Adults and children in attendance watched live performances by the GC Community Band, Samurai Martial Arts, and local dance studies, took part in games, crafts, photo booths, a bounce house, demonstrations, blood pressure checks and more. Nurses were busy dispensing flu vaccinations and the Spartan Eats bus was on site doling out healthy treats. Thank you to our many community partners who donated time, services and door prizes to promote wellness in the Gates Chili school community.

