



GATES CHILI

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fall Newsletter 2022

Outdoor learning: created for students, by students

The hard work of one afterschool club is on track to impact hundreds of students at Gates Chili Middle School.

Spartans there have spent the last several months growing their love of learning *and* the environment through the design and construction of an outdoor learning space. This student-led project is being guided by members of the Outdoor Club, an opportunity that first began this past spring.

"It seemed like a fun experience to try," said club member Katelyn B.

As all scientists do, students began this project by conducting research on outdoor learning spaces. They quickly formed their mission: to provide a natural, inclusive space for students to be educated in all content areas, practice social-emotional learning, and have opportunities to manage and explore the space.

During the design phase, they began exploring the creation of a pollinator habitat to help rebuild declining pollinator



populations. Pollinators, such as bees, hummingbirds and beetles, help many flowering plants produce their seeds and thus, ensure the continued existence of millions of plant species, and in turn, of most animal species, including humans.

Students turned planning into action this summer when they began construction. Katelyn and others shared that "it was hard work, but it was also a lot of fun. I also learned a lot about like different pollinator plants and perennial flowers. It was really cool."

Once complete, the outdoor learning space will feature a large seating area with logs and a sun sail for outdoor lessons, a pollinator garden, and an herb and vegetable garden, all maintained by students in the Outdoor Club. Middle school teachers and Outdoor Club Co-advisors Dorothy Brenneis and Lisa Dorofy are excited about the far-reaching impact of this outdoor learning space in their school.

"Science classes can benefit from an outdoor classroom to conduct lessons about ecology, ecosystems, pollinators and more, but an outdoor learning space provides so much more than a space for science," said Brenneis.

"Other subject areas are already using the space," Dorofy continued. "English and art teachers plan to use it to switch up students' learning environment and as an inspiration for assignments; family and consumer science (FACS) classes will be able to use the vegetables and herbs grown here. The possibilities are endless."

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Letter from the Superintendent



Dear Gates Chili School Community,

November is a time of gratitude and reflection, a time to focus on the good in our lives and remain

hopeful of what is yet to come. As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I wanted to send each of you a sincere word of thanks and my warmest wishes for a happy and safe holiday season.

On behalf of the Gates Chili Board of Education and district leaders, it is also my privilege to express our appreciation for the continued, unwavering dedication of our school

administrators, teachers, staff and families. Your commitment to our students, spirit of cooperation and support for each other have allowed us to persevere in our shared educational mission that together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners. Providing a safe place to work, learn and grow remains our top priority.

We are a student-centered school community and, with that in mind, I would also like to encourage all of us to celebrate each of the students in our lives. The changes and adversity our community together experienced these last few years have been especially hard on our young people. So, no matter what your holiday

celebrations look like this season, please take time to acknowledge and encourage the students in your family. Let them know you are proud of their courage and are rooting for their well-being above all.

Thank you for partnering with us to make the 2022-23 school year the best year yet!

Go Spartans!

Christopher J. Dailey
Superintendent of Schools



@GatesChiliSuper

New substitute rates!

The Gates Chili Board of Education has approved an increase in daily rates for instructional substitutes. The new daily rates for substitutes are as follows:



- \$125 per day for days 1-40
- \$140 per day for days 41-60
- \$150 per day for days 61-90
- \$160 per day for days 91+

In addition, when an instructional substitute works 15 or more days consecutively filling in for the same instructional staff member, that substitute shall be entitled to \$200 per day for the duration of that assignment. This rate is applicable to building substitutes. Other notable increases include: Teaching Assistant substitutes at \$115 per day; Clerical substitutes at \$16 per hour; and Teacher/School Aide Substitutes at \$14.20 per hour.

Gates Chili has been recognized as a national and local Top Workplace for two years running. To apply for these positions or others, go to gateschili.org/jobs.

Budget Ambassadors wanted!

To gain valuable feedback during the budget development process, the district is again offering the Budget Ambassador Program for the 2023-24 school year budget. To apply to participate in this program, complete the form at gateschili.org/BudgetAmbassador by Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 at 5 p.m.

Outdoor learning: created by students, for students

(continued from cover)

The outdoor learning space has also attracted the attention of local and national gardening experts. This fall, Gates Chili Middle School became one of 20 districts nationwide to win the Little Seeds Pollinator Pals Grant, which will fund the students' planned pollinator garden. Other local grants awarded to the school have piqued the interest of the Gates Garden Club. That interest is now blossoming into a beautiful partnership between the garden club and the school.

"Our club's mission is to promote education around gardening and environmental issues," said Gates Garden Club President Sue Cecere.

"A big piece of that involves working with our community's youth to share knowledge and foster a love for gardening and the environment."

That love continues to grow for students like Katelyn, who said, "I just hope that future students can go out there and have fun. With that space, students can go outside more and nature and stuff."

To keep up with the Outdoor Club's progress and some of the learning already happening there, check them out on Twitter @gcms_outdoor.

GC students make history on new *electric buses*!



When the district's two new electric buses hit the road on the first day of school, some Gates Chili students made history, becoming the first students in upstate New York to ride an electric bus to school!

The district unveiled the two new electric school buses earlier this year. The zero-emissions school buses can go more than 100 miles per charge, and feature LED fixtures both inside and outside the bus. The district is in the process of purchasing three additional electric school buses with the assistance of grant funding from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The next of those buses is expected to arrive before the end of the calendar year.

A RETURN TO PAID MEALS

Online service that allows families to:

- make payments for student meals
- set up recurring payments
- track and review meal history
- create low balance alerts

MY SCHOOL BUCKS

Online service that allows families to:

- complete a secure free and reduced meal application

MY SCHOOL Apps

Please take a moment and go to gateschili.org/SchoolNutrition to check your student's meal account balance and/or complete a free and reduced meal application.

Capital Project Update

More than 150 new parking spots are now available by use for students, staff and visitors to the district's main campus and Spartan Stadium! This lot is one of the final items remaining in the district's \$68 million capital project approved by voters in 2017.

The final component of that capital project is the completion of a professional learning center at the high school. With band and chorus both having received new instructional spaces as part of this project, crews are reworking the space that was once the high school band classroom to create the Gates Chili Professional Learning Center (GCPLC). When completed, the GCPLC will be utilized for staff training and development as well as Board of Education meetings.

Meanwhile, the capital project approved in February 2022 is now in the planning and design stage. Gates Chili faculty, staff and administrators have been meeting with architects and construction managers to discuss various programmatic and space needs related to the first phase of the project. The first phase includes redesigning the current administration building to become a UPK center, renovating the high school to house the administration building staff, new technology department learning spaces in the high school and middle school, new family and consumer science rooms at the high school and new music department spaces at the middle school. It is anticipated that work will begin in the spring or summer of 2024.



Bears take an active role in advocacy, civic responsibility

Some Brasser Bears are putting their passion for advocacy and participation in government into action as the newest members of the Brasser Student Council.



Student council provides opportunities for student-led leadership throughout the building and in the Gates Chili school community. Advisors Sarah Amesbury, fourth-grade teacher, and Lauren Ewart, fifth-grade special education teacher, said having a student council that is reflective of the student body and inclusive for all students was a key focus for them. This year, they redesigned the application process to be inclusive for all students.

"Students had the choice of either completing a traditional paragraph or speech, making a short video explaining why they would be a good candidate, or drawing a poster to show why they'd be a great student council representative," they shared. "This process gave students who have a variety of skill sets the opportunity to participate."

The council meets monthly and focuses on leadership and listening to the needs and concerns of their fellow students.

"I am excited to be a member of student council because I want to make our school a better place," said Tim W., president of the Brasser Student Council. "We will work to be role models for our peers."

While they haven't voted on anything yet, the students are considering several projects, such as raising money for recess supplies, a pen-pal or buddy program with senior citizens, having a carwash to raise more money to provide healthy snacks for students who do not have them each day and more!

Dragons doing the math to support all learners

What do you get when you add together dedicated teachers and a consistent curriculum focused on building important math skills? The sum is students who are independent problem-solvers!



Staff at Gates Chili elementary schools are using the Everyday Mathematics program to build powerful mathematical thinkers. While this is the third year of implementation, it's the second year where all grade levels are utilizing this curriculum. The program was phased in with grades 2-5, then grades K-1. Everyday Math is formatted the same way across all grade levels, by using real-life examples, repeated exposures to mathematical concepts and multiple problem-solving strategies.

"The goal is to foster independent problem-solving skills," said Sara Mucino. "These skills are a critical foundation for students to use in applying to real-world scenarios."

At Walt Disney Elementary School, staff are using the data collected from student monitoring for continuous evaluation of their methods in order to support all students' individual needs. Teachers in each grade level meet regularly to identify obstacles to building independent problem-solving skills, then generate solutions to determine how to help all students achieve.

"Math instruction is not a one-size-fits-all formula," said Building Math Teacher Peter Sacheli. "Collecting data alone is not effective until we take action on it. These discussions offer teachers the time and guidance to make instructional decisions based on data that will improve student outcomes."

Everyday Math helps support families at home too. Parents/guardians receive a message each time students begin a new unit. These messages offer descriptions of content and skills, vocabulary and definitions, do-anytime activities and how to support students with their homework.

REMINDER FOR ELEMENTARY FAMILIES

Progress reports are coming soon! Gates Chili will share your student's progress report online only through the SchoolTool Parent Portal on Dec. 5. Please take a moment to log in to the SchoolTool Parent Portal before that date, to ensure access. For more information on portal access, go to gateschili.org/ParentPortalAccess.

Panthers show the *Spartan Way* with annual food drive

Paul Road Panthers are making sure families in our community have food for the holidays through the school's annual food drive.

This annual food drive is a well-oiled machine that has been running for more than 25 years. Everyone in the building is doing their part by donating and organizing food, helping to set up space and boxes for the items, and even purchasing gift cards for additional food items needed.

"Kindness, support and enthusiasm is visibly bubbling in the building throughout the holiday season," said Kim Keyser, Paul Road social worker. "So many members of the Paul Road school community truly help to make this the most wonderful time of year for our families who need it."

Over the past several years, Paul Road's food drive has supported between 20-30 families each holiday season.



Stars provide safe drinking water to students in *Uganda*

Hundreds of students in Uganda now have access to safe drinking water thanks to the help of students here at home.

Last spring, Neil Armstrong Elementary School fifth-graders, who are now GCMS sixth-graders, raised more than \$3,900 to fully-fund a rainwater collection system through the Ugandan Water Project. This local non-profit organization installs water catchment and purification systems in communities without consistent access to potable water.

The collection system sponsored by the students is now up and running, and according to the Ugandan Water Project, is providing clean water to 728 students and teachers at the St. Luke C/U Nyimbwa Primary School in the Central Region of Uganda. Previously, community members in that area traveled more than five miles round trip to get water from an off-site well. Kudos to these outstanding students for showing the Spartan Way and changing lives halfway around the world!



Shop for elementary gear 24/7, 365

Brasser Bears, Disney Dragons, Paul Road Panthers and Armstrong Stars can now purchase gear any time of day or night!

The district recently opened official online stores for all four elementary schools, featuring their new logos, which were designed by Gates Chili graduate Nick Capostagno ('16). Like the Gates Chili Spartans official online store, these new online shopping platforms will be open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Gear available in the stores includes t-shirts, hoodies, hats and more with the full-color Bear, Dragon, Panther and Star icons. Gear can also be personalized! Access each store using the URLs below each icon.



gateschili.org/shopFB



gateschili.org/shopNA



gateschili.org/shopPR



gateschili.org/shopWD

GCMS students *cleared for launch*

Gates Chili Middle School students became space explorers during the Challenger Learning Center's first Mission to Mars this school year!

Middle school science students took an out-of-this-world journey through space at the Challenger Learning Center of Greater Rochester, which is located inside the Kodak Center. The Monroe One BOCES program was created to inspire students' interest in science and math and allows students to fly their Mission to Mars while having fun and exercising STEM process skills.

Gates Chili students entered the spacecraft and mission control simulator, led by commanders who walked them through a series of interactive science activities. From building a robot rover, to testing out response times and putting together a probe launch plan, the students collaborated for a successful Mission to Mars.

The Challenger Center began as a living memorial to the original Shuttle Challenger crew and serves as a way to continue the educational goals of teacher and astronaut Christa McAuliffe. For more information, visit monroe.edu/Challenger.



Welcome new administrators!

Gates Chili welcomed several new administrators this fall! Please join the district in welcoming these new Spartans: Teri Marsh, coordinator of student and staff success; Charles Robinson, assistant principal at Gates Chili Middle School and Tabitha Woody, coordinator of student support services. In addition, Costa Tavelaris transitioned from his role as assistant principal at GCMS to assistant principal at Walt Disney Elementary School.



Teri Marsh



Charles Robinson



Costa Tavelaris



Tabitha Woody

Much-needed time together

Hundreds of Gates Chili Middle School students took a break from their studies to enjoy some dancing, games and fun. The middle school social for seventh- and eighth-grade students was held on Oct. 14 and the social for sixth-graders took place on Nov. 4. Both events were sponsored in part by the GCMS PTO.



Nurturing the next generation of educators

A new club at Gates Chili High School is giving students the opportunity to explore a career path in education. The Future Educators Club (FEC) shows students behind the scenes of education and allows them to explore how the lessons they receive as students come to be, as teachers.

"I want to go into education because, I want to be a difference in a child's life," said Sadie B., GCHS student. "Many children have rough patches going into their young adult life, and I want to be seen as a teacher who can help the student through whatever they may be experiencing."

Members of FEC attend a seminar where they work on important skills like how to interact with colleagues, solve problems and manage their work. They also work on a task related to shadowing a teacher. Then, the following week, students are immersed in a shadowing opportunity with a teacher who matches their content area of interest. There, they can learn more about the profession and even help facilitate activities in the



classroom. Being paired with a teacher in this capacity allows students to ask questions that they may not otherwise have thought of or felt comfortable asking during a typical day in the classroom.

"In the club, you get a real-life perspective on how teaching is in the environment you're surrounded in, you get to see the other side of what you've been a part of your entire life," Sadie explained. "It's interesting to see how different it is, and all the planning that goes into lessons."

For Gates Chili High School Spanish teacher Julie Gangai, participating in FEC as a teacher is an opportunity

to pull back the curtain on the parts of teaching that don't often get the spotlight.

"It seems that the most challenging aspects of teaching are the ones that often end up on the news or being talked about on social media," Gangai said. "There are so many positive experiences that we have as educators that don't always get that same attention. Hopefully the students in this program will get to see a lot of the positive side and be encouraged to continue exploring this career path."

Right now, the club is made up of seven students shadowing seven teachers at the high school and middle school levels. As the program develops and grows, the district hopes to extend opportunities for students interested in elementary education to shadow teachers in grades K-5. In addition, the district is exploring ways to for students to be able to use this experience to earn work-based learning credit towards graduation.

GCHS to host ROC 2 Change Summit this spring

This spring, Gates Chili High School students will welcome hundreds of their regional peers for an annual event centered on combatting racism and fostering a culture of understanding and appreciation of



other cultures. Spartans involved in the Multicultural and International Club are working with their counterparts at Holley Central School District and Rochester City's School of the Arts to plan, co-host and organize the bi-annual ROC 2 Change Student Summit on Race on March 31, 2023.

Since 2016, more than 500 students have annually joined together for student summits on race to engage in a facilitated dialogue with peers and to address topics such as privilege, implicit bias, racial equity and social justice. The focus for spring's summit is Deconstructing Tolerance. Rebuilding Understanding.

Driver Education revs up for winter/spring session

The Gates Chili Driver Education program is getting ready to ride once again! A new session is set to start in January.

The popular course has been part of the district's Continuing Education program for decades and is offered twice a year: winter/spring and summer. Each session includes 16 lectures and 16 group road classes for a total of 32 hours of training. The curriculum covers everything from basic car control and maneuvers to buying and insuring a car and changing a tire. Program instructors Jon DeVecchio, Thomas Fasolt and Daniel Goodwin have more than 50 years of driver education experience combined.

"Our instructors are specifically trained to teach driving skills. The program is a huge help for parents stressing about teaching their children how to drive safely," said Director of Continuing Education Marla Chefalo.

Visit gateschili.org/ContinuingEd for more information.

Disney's Hanning receives state recognition



The New York State Art Teacher's Association (NYSATA) has named Walt Disney Elementary's art teacher Kelly Hanning an Art Educator of the Year for Region 2!

Hanning has been a teacher at Gates Chili since 2016 and serves as art content leader for grades K-5. During her time at Gates Chili, Hanning has led many curriculum projects to rewrite art curriculum to emphasize student choice and agency. She frequently collaborates with other departments to connect art to other content areas and foster students' love of art.

"Kelly has transformed elementary art education in our district," said art colleague Amy Cocuzzi, art teacher at Gates Chili Middle School. "Kelly is the most knowledgeable, enthusiastic and adept educator I know. She is highly motivated and a staunch advocate for art education."

In addition to teaching elementary students at Disney, Hanning is also a practicing artist and an adjunct faculty member at Nazareth College.



History has its eyes on a whole new world at *Gates Chili*

Gates Chili students are not throwing away their shot at an authentic connection to the arts! In fact, they've never had a friend like ARTS Partners! The district is once again partnering with the Rochester Broadway Theatre League (RBTL) for the national award-winning program, Arts Reaching and Teaching in Schools Partners.



The program provides students with arts integration in the classroom through connections to Broadway shows. This fall, the program gave high school and middle school students the opportunity to travel back to 1776 and connect with themes from, Hamilton, Lin-Manual Miranda's hit sung-and-rapped-through musical that chronicles the life of the founding fathers.

"We have been working on a storyboard and comparing the characters in the story, who are real characters from history," shared Semaj S., an eighth-grade student.

As part of the program, middle school students in grades 7-8 and high school students in grades 11-12 studied themes and concepts such as storytelling, seizing the moment and legacy. Students applied these themes to many assignments and projects in the classroom in subject areas such as social studies, English, art and music. Then in early November, more than 600 students, staff and family members had the opportunity to be in "The Room Where It Happens" for a performance of Hamilton at the Auditorium Theatre, where

seventh-grader Christian D. said he was "excited to see what the actors looked like and hear the songs that we talked about in class. We recognized the set when we walked in and it looks so realistic."

For sixth-graders, themes of kindness and paying it forward will also take center stage when they attend a performance of *Come From Away*, the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Projects and assignments around these themes will take them "On the Bus" to the Auditorium Theatre in December.

Though it seems like "A Million Miles Away" right now, elementary students will be getting in on the arts integration fun, too. Students in grades 2-4 at all four elementary schools are participating in activities and lessons related to Aladdin before having the opportunity to attend a performance this spring. Themes such as being true to yourself, valuing what matters and a sense of freedom are helping students discover "A Whole New World" in the arts. The program will wrap up in May when high school English students "Get Down" with a curriculum connection to the Tony Award-winning musical *Six*.

At each show, artwork created by students is also displayed in the Auditorium Theatre lobby for theatergoers to enjoy.



Many voices, one Gates Chili

Modeled after the wildly successful Gates Chili Community Band, Gates Chili Continuing Education is proud to introduce Gates Chili Community Chorus! The group of more than 20 folks from around the district has already had its first rehearsal, but don't worry—it's not too late to join! The group rehearses weekly and will have at least two scheduled performances in the new Gates Chili Performing Arts Center. Go to gateschili.org/ContinuingEd to register.





BUILDING A CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE: Spartan sisters shatter diving records

They're Spartans, they're sisters, and now Heidi Tran and Kailey Tran are Gates Chili record-setters. In recent weeks, the two student-athletes have shattered decades-old diving records.

Breaking a school record is an incredible feat for any student-athlete, but even more impressive for the Tran sisters, who are new to the sport. Sophomore and former gymnast Heidi joined the swim team last year. When coaches saw her wearing a gymnastics shirt, they encouraged her to pursue diving too. Then after finding out that Heidi's sister was also a former gymnast, they encouraged Kailey to join this year's team.

After their first meet of the season, the sisters found out that they were close to beating the school's six-dive record. At the next meet, Kailey pulled it off, breaking the 41-year-old record with a score of 184.25. Two days later, Heidi beat Kailey's record with a score of 184.35. At the next meet, both sisters broke the record again, but Heidi held on to the honor with a score of 191.85.

The sisters went back and forth beating each other's six-dive record for the remainder of the season, with Kailey



going on to beat the 11-dive record, set by Rhyann Nolan in 2021, too. The original six-dive record was set in 1981 by Karen Bloechl, now Nowicki, who was a junior at the time. Nowicki still lives in the district and follows Spartan athletics.

"I've been teasing [current Gates Chili diving coach] Nancy [Sheridan] all this time that, 'Gee, she would have thought someone would have broken it by now. 41 years is a long time.' But it's so fun," said Nowicki. While Nowicki did not continue her diving career after high school, she said the skills she learned as a student-athlete have helped her throughout her life. Her advice to the sisters is to, "enjoy it while it lasts and take great pride in your accomplishments. Hopefully, your record will last for 40 years too."

While some might think the competition for the record might cause some tension

between the sisters, they say that's not the case. In fact, they said, it's brought them closer together.

"We've always been not super competitive but kindly competitive. We goof around and it's not really about competition but performing together," said Heidi.

"We are always encouraging each other and are always proud of each other when the other one breaks the record because we're always trying to see who can break it first, and we're always just proud of the other one if they end up breaking our record," added Kailey.

At the end of the regular season, both sisters remain record holders. Heidi keeps the six-dive honor with a score of 207.45, and Kailey holds on to the 11-dive record with 310.95 points.



Eight alumni inducted into Gates Chili *Hall of Fame*

Homecoming weekend welcomed back dozens of alumni, including the newest inductees into the Gates Chili Hall of Fame. Eight total inductees, making up two Hall of Fame classes, were recognized at the Gates Chili High School Homecoming Football Game on Sept. 23 in Spartan Stadium.

David Brugno ('85), Gina Capellazzi ('02), Lori Hosmer ('88), Thomas Hudak ('79)* and Shannon O'Mara ('89) were honored as the Class of 2022 inductees. Meanwhile, Lisa LaTrovato ('94), Mark Morningstar ('75) and Steve Tucciarello ('84) were celebrated as

the Class of 2021 inductees, whose induction was on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Gates Chili Hall of Fame honors graduates of Gates Chili High School who have achieved distinction, outstanding accomplishment, or significant contribution within their schools, families, careers, communities or personal lives.

If you'd like to nominate someone for the Gates Chili Hall of Fame, go to gateschili.org/alumni.

**posthumous honor*



(l-r) Lori Hosmer, Shannon O'Mara, Amy Hudak, Steve Tucciarello, Lisa LaTrovato, Mark Morningstar, Gina Capellazzi, David Brugno

Gates Chili hosts NYS Regent, *unites for equity*

Gates Chili staff members converged on the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center on Oct. 7 for the first Superintendent's Conference Day of the school year.

The day, aptly titled United in our Journey to Equity, included more than 800 staff members from across the district, including teachers, teacher aides, school nutrition workers, cleaners, clerical support staff, bus drivers and more. The morning kicked off with student performers singing the National Anthem and GCHS teacher aide and U.S. Navy Reservist Tiara Clark leading her fellow staff members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Staff then participated in a keynote presentation by Regent Ruth Turner of the New York State Board of Regents. In addition to serving on the governing body of the state education department, Regent Turner is also a trained clinical social worker with many years of experience in public education. Her keynote presentation, titled "Courageous Conversations," encouraged staff members to look for ways to connect with students, families and their colleagues and to be vulnerable in order to have opportunity for authentic connection.

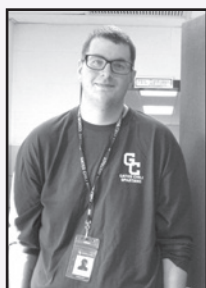
After the keynote presentation, staff members throughout the district continued their learning with an



extension activity around identity, as well as presentations about behavior support techniques to prevent crisis and responding to people with developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs.



Staff Spotlight



**Hunter
Youngblood**

Custodian

**Neil Armstrong
Elementary School**

"Once a Spartan, always a Spartan" is a phrase heard a lot at Gates Chili. For Hunter Youngblood, it rings true every day he comes to work as a custodian at Neil Armstrong Elementary School.

After graduating from Gates Chili High School in 2019, Youngblood began looking at ways to stay connected with his alma mater. His aunt, a Spartan bus

driver, encouraged him to apply to work in the district and he soon became a bus monitor. Then, the pandemic hit, and buses weren't running as frequently. Having studied the Spartan Way values of respect, responsibility, compassion and hard work, Youngblood wanted to see how else he could help his fellow Spartans.

"The supervisor liked me, and he's like, 'why don't you think about moving over [to a building]? I like how you work. You're good, and I think I can use somebody like you,'" said Youngblood.

Youngblood has been at Armstrong as an employee ever since. Every day he comes to work with the intent to make sure that current students have a positive school experience just like he did.

"Hunter is a go-getter and team player," said Custodial Supervisor Joe DeSanto. "He takes initiative and really cares about making Armstrong shine."

Outside of work, Youngblood likes to spend time with family and friends, go to the gym and relax. His favorite thing about the district is the same as when he was a student here: the people.

"I like seeing the kids all happy and stuff," he explained. "I enjoy talking to the teachers. I've become great friends with a lot of the teachers. They've all tried to take me under their wing and teach me things I never knew before, and I like the group of guys I work with."

Paul Road's Conley wins Golden Apple!

Paul Road Elementary School teacher Maureen Conley is the latest GC educator to win a Golden Apple Award! Several students and their families nominated Conley. Students surprised Conley with the award on Nov. 7 with the help of WROC TV Channel 8. To watch the story of Conley's win, go to gateschili.org/ConleyGoldenApple.



Gates Chili wins five NYSPRA awards for communication

Gates Chili is once again being recognized for its communications efforts. The district earned five awards in the 43rd Annual NYSPRA Communications Contest, including two Awards of Excellence, one Award of Honor and two Awards of Merit. There are three levels of distinction; Excellence is the highest, followed by Honor and Merit, respectively. Of the 408 entries judged by communications professionals around the country, about 30% received awards.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

- Gates Chili Central School District Newsletter, Special Edition Issue
- Gates Chili Central School District Newsletter

AWARD OF HONOR

- Energized. Empowered. Equitable. Strategic Campaign

AWARD OF MERIT

- Building Brighter Futures Strategic Campaign
- Words of Wisdom for the Class of 2022 Video



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 the recipients since August 2022.



August recipients:
Joseph Abballe,
Neil Armstrong head
custodian; Victory C.,
GCHS student; and
Glenn M., Paul Road
student



September recipients:
Journee C., Walt
Disney student



October recipients:
Nancy Heim, Brassers building
secretary; Don Voelkl, Brassers head
custodian; and Tim W., Baraah Z.,
Ariana C. and Anna K., Florence
Brassers student council officers



Nov. 8 recipients:
Marcellus A., DeYonna B., JR F.,
Maia L., Polina N., Tiereny R.,
Toufeeq S., and Noah T.,
Neil Armstrong students



GATES CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Fall Family Fest fun!

Hundreds of community members came together on Nov. 10 for the district's annual Fall Family Fest, an event centered on promoting healthy habits and robust school-family community relationships. Attendees took part in games, crafts, photo booths, a bounce house, demonstrations, and enjoyed performances. Nurses were on site to provide flu vaccinations and the Monroe County Clerk's Office held a passport fair at the event.



December

3	FBFA Craft Show	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
5	UPK-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences/No School for Students UPK-5	
5	HS Band Concert	7 p.m.
6	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
7	PR Winter Band and Chorus Concert	7 p.m.
13	MS Grades 6-8 Winter Chorus Concert	7 p.m.
14	WD Winter Band and Chorus Concert	7 p.m.
15	MS Grades 7-8 Band Concert	7 p.m.
16	#GCPride Day	
20	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
23	UPK-5 Conferences - Half Day for Students UPK-5	
26	Holiday (Observance) - District Closed	
27-30	Holiday Recess - No School for Students and 10-Month Staff	

January

2	Holiday (Observance) - District Closed	
10	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
11	NA Winter Band and Chorus Concert	7 p.m.
12	MS Grade 6 Band Concert	7 p.m.
16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - District Closed	
18	MS and HS Jazz Concert	7 p.m.
19	FB Winter Band and Chorus Concert	7 p.m.
20	#GCPride Day	
24	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
27	Conference Day - No School for Students Grades 6-12	

February

7	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
10	Java Jazz	
17	#GCPride Day	
20	President's Day - District Closed	
21-24	Mid-Winter Recess - No School for Students and 10-Month Staff	
28	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.