



GATES CHILI

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Graduation Newsletter 2021

Congratulations Class of 2021!

For the second year in a row, Gates Chili seniors marked the end of their high school careers with a commencement ceremony on their home turf.

A mild, sunny day on June 23 brought dozens of students, family members and friends, with lawn chairs and blankets in tow, to Spartan Stadium to watch their graduates cross the stage, turn their tassels and become alumni of Gates Chili High School. Three-hundred and twenty-nine members of the Class of 2021 earned their high school diplomas, overcoming the challenges of hybrid and/or remote learning in a pandemic.

Recorded speeches and a performance by members of GCHS Concert Choir and Advanced Women's Choir played at each of the four ceremonies. Graduates heard remarks from Valedictorian E. Nadine Herweg, Salutatorian and Class Vice President Ashtyn Zoli, Class President Brendan Culhane, Class Secretary Shayla Chau, Class Treasurer Sierra Fernandez and Class Historian Michael Daly. Each reflected on the unique junior and senior years they endured to make it to graduation day and shared messages of praise, encouragement and advocacy.

"Through the pep rallies, spirit weeks, every other event, we have shown our Spartan pride and have demonstrated the qualities that this district strives to embody," said Zoli. "The compassion towards our fellow students as we face each obstacle, respect towards each other and our teachers in the most difficult of times, an increasing sense of responsibility as



“ I encourage all of us to be ourselves no matter what; be brave enough to stand up for yourselves and others. ”

- Valedictorian E. Nadine Herweg

we learn to be more independent, and unwavering hard work to get to where we are now. The future looks promising, and our legacy is not over yet.”

“During these challenges, we learned how to raise our voices and fight for ourselves and others. These experiences have taught us to rely on each other, persevere, and to be ourselves,” shared Herweg. “In these times of social and political unrest, I encourage all of us to be ourselves no matter what; be brave enough to stand up for yourselves and others, because in the end, that is all that matters.”

Superintendent Christopher Dailey, Principal Ken Hammel and Assistant Principal Thomas Hammel also shared messages of strength and perseverance. To see all four of the day's ceremonies compiled in one video, go to gateschili.org/Commencement2021.

For a complete list of Class of 2021 graduates, see pages 6-7.



Together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners.

Letter from the Superintendent



Dear Gates Chili Community,

Collaboration, innovation, perseverance and dedication; these are just a few of the words that come to mind when I reflect back on the 2020-21 school year. Our students, faculty, staff and administration amazed me, as they always do, with their accomplishments inside and outside of the classroom during

this difficult time in education.

Our schools continued to focus on the social-emotional well-being of students by creating and fostering cultures of kindness and inclusion. Our teachers, staff and administrators adapted like never before. With the constant shifts due to the ever-changing orders from Albany, we continued to find a way to make it work.

As a district, we were required to reimagine and rethink how learning for all students can take place inside and outside of traditional classrooms. We recognized when things were not perfect, and we continue to never lose sight of how we can improve and continue to work together to better serve our students and families. Outside of the classroom, our

students and school communities banded together to make a difference and give back.

June always brings with it a feeling of change. It is the end of a year with a much-needed break for all. As we reflect on the year that has passed, we look ahead to the future, too. We are planning for all students to return to school full time in the fall.

Thank you for your partnership as we work together to ensure phenomenal educational experiences for all students. I end this school year with the utmost gratitude and pride to be the superintendent of the Gates Chili Central School District.

Go Spartans!

Christopher J. Dailey
Superintendent of Schools



@GatesChiliSuper

Inaugural meeting of the District Equity Team

The District Equity Team met for the first time ever on June 15. This team will serve as an advisory group and accountability partner with the district to ensure progress towards achieving the goals within the Strategic Plan for Equity. To read more about the district's journey to equity, including frequently asked questions, go to gateschili.org/Equity.



Thank you, voters!

The Gates Chili Central School District 2021-22 school budget was approved by district residents on May 18 in a 452-233 vote. In addition to the budget proposition, district residents approved propositions for bus purchases, the establishment of a capital reserve fund, and the use of capital reserve funds for audiovisual technology equipment. Thank you to the Gates Chili CSD community for its continued support of our students, staff and programs.

Welcome new BOE members and district clerk!

Newly-elected board members Nicole Littlewood, Kerri Keyes (incumbent) and Andrea Hinchey Unson (incumbent) will each serve a three-year term that will end on June 30, 2024. At its re-organizational meeting on July 8, the board re-elected Jeffrey Pettenski and Dr. Christine Brown Richards as president and vice president of the board, respectively, and appointed Condenessa Brown as the new district clerk, effective Aug. 1, 2021.



Nicole
Littlewood



Kerri
Keyes



Andrea
Hinchey Unson



Jeffrey
Pettenski



Dr. Christine
Brown Richards



Condenessa
Brown

Capital Project Update

Warm, dry spring and summer weather means great progress at the three remaining construction sites around the district.

Crews at Walt Disney and Neil Armstrong elementary schools have already turned over several new spaces and staff and students were using them for the last few weeks of school. Ongoing work includes demolition of old office spaces and asbestos abatement in both schools. These buildings are expected to be completed by the start of school this fall.

Meanwhile, work on the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center has seen a major crescendo with the installation of poured

concrete that will hold the elevated seating for audience members. Crews also hung new lighted signage facing both I-490 and Buffalo Road. Work continues in several areas of the GCPAC, including the installation of thin brick, metal stud framing, drywall, scaffolding and edge detail work on the roof.

The entire project is currently on budget and expected to be completed by spring 2022. In the meantime, the district continues to evaluate its facilities and assess where work may be needed as part of future capital projects.



Gates Chili Performing Arts Center



Walt Disney Elementary School



Neil Armstrong Elementary School

Bennett to lead district *facilities* team

William "Bill" Bennett is the new director of facilities. Bennett came to Gates Chili from Spencerport Central School District, where he served as assistant supervisor of building and grounds. Bennett is charged with leading the management and upkeep of Gates Chili facilities, which make up more than 820,000 square feet of building space and approximately 230 acres of land. Additionally, Bennett will assist in the management of ongoing and future capital projects throughout the district.



A return to *Seabreeze* for GC fifth-graders!

This spring brought a much-anticipated return of the fifth-grade field trip to Seabreeze Amusement Park. The annual tradition was halted last year due to the park being closed down for COVID-19. This year, fifth-graders from all four elementary schools took turns commemorating their time in elementary school with rides, games and other fun.

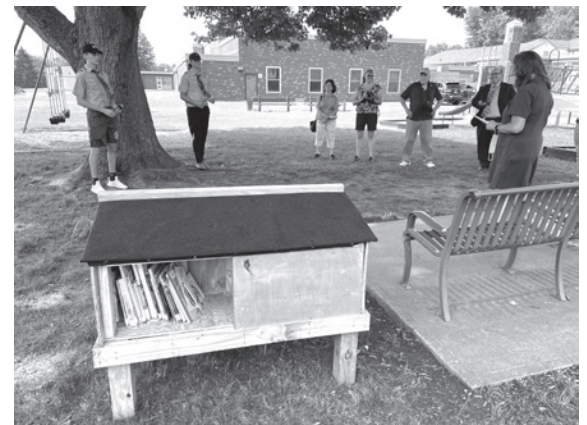


HS students construct a *little library* at Brasser

Two Gates Chili High School students are leaving a legacy of literacy at Florence Brasser Elementary School. As part of an Eagle Scout project, Senior Cody Mayer and freshman Jonathan Vance constructed Little Free Libraries in several spots around the community, and one of them was dedicated in early June on the Florence Brasser campus near the playground.

The Little Free Library at Brasser will house free books for students and members of the community to enjoy, borrow and replace. The Town of Gates Recreation and Parks Department helped facilitate the project. Each library is registered with the "Little Free Library" organization, which has created a map of every free library in the system.

Cody and Jonathan were recognized at the Gates Chili Board of Education meeting in late June and were awarded the GC Pride award for their work.



Junior Achievement *success* for students, alumni

For nearly 40 years, Junior Achievement has been a staple in Gates Chili classrooms. The program gives students the knowledge and skills they need to own their future economic success. Again, this year, it is bringing success to Gates Chili students and alumni.



Senior Reya Thompson was awarded a full-tuition scholarship to Syracuse University for her outstanding work with Junior Achievement. Thompson

participated in multiple JA programs throughout her time at Gates Chili including JA Economics, JA Titan, JA Take Stock in your Future and JA Inspire. She also took part in the JA High School Heroes, a leadership development opportunity where she delivered JA programs to younger students in grades 3-5. She plans to attend Syracuse University in the fall.

“Going into my senior year of high school, I did not have any knowledge on the basics of economics,” said Thompson. “Through Junior Achievement, I was able to understand the basics while getting an interactive experience and being exposed

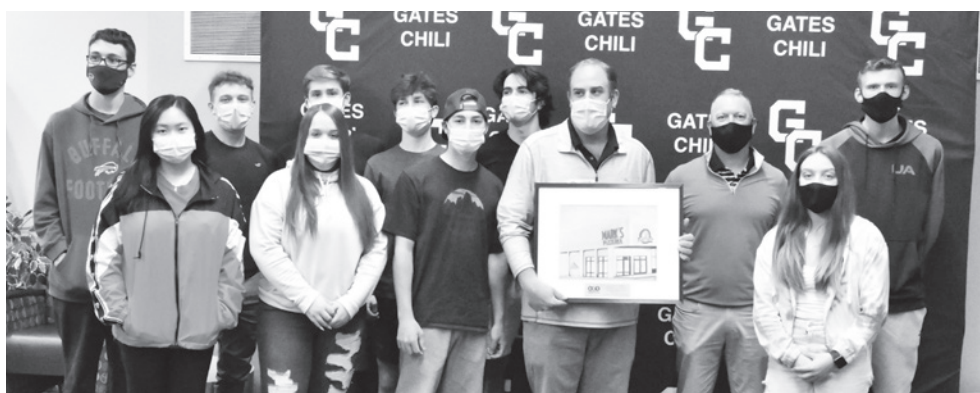
to real life scenarios. I, now, feel very comfortable entering the real world with these learned skills.”

Several other Gates Chili students earned top spots in the recent JA Titans of Business contest, a regional business simulation scholarship contest. Congratulations to Shayla Chau (first place), Brady Knauf (second place), Luke Falk (third place), Ethan Knauf (fifth place) and Kalissa Marks (sixth place). Each student won a cash prize and a scholarship to Monroe Community College, St. John Fisher College or Roberts Wesleyan. Chau and B. Knauf also won laptops.

Meanwhile, a former Gates Chili Junior Achievement student is being recognized for giving back in the classroom. Gates Chili alumnus and current Vice President of Mark's Pizzeria Marc Parina was the recipient of the inaugural Community Champion for Public Education Award

from ACT for Education. The award recognizes businesses and leaders who demonstrate great support for local schools and students and act as role models committed to lifelong learning. Parina was selected from 28 nominees for being a proud Gates Chili graduate and for volunteering thousands of hours in the classroom over the past 10 years. In addition to being honored in a small ceremony with students, Parina also received a portrait of his Buffalo Road storefront created by Gates Chili senior Dominic Lipa.

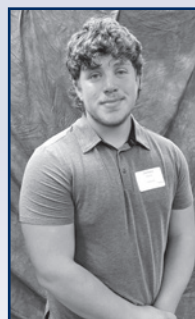
“For many years, we have seen the value of our students’ participation in Junior Achievement,” said Superintendent of Schools Christopher Dailey. “We beam with GC Pride for Reya, Marc and all our JA students. I know they will continue to achieve great things with the outstanding foundation of skills they learned in Junior Achievement.”



CTE *makes all the difference* for GC students

Three GCHS students who attend the BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education Center at WEMOCO were recently awarded scholarships by the Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation. Nurse Assisting and Associated Health Professions students Jeysmarie Alvarado and Alexandra Servati, and Health and Exercise student Zachary Piecuch each won a \$5,000 scholarship.

The Make All the Difference scholarships and awards were created to assist current or past graduates of non-traditional programs. They are intended to help students in meeting their financial need and can be applied toward support services, specialized equipment, transportation, tuition or supplies or another documented need.



Zachary
Piecuch



Alexandra
Servati



Jeysmarie
Alvarado

Gates Chili High School

Kehinde T. Adejumo §↻△
 Taiwo A. Adejumo §△
 Alejandro T. Alberto
 Mustafa Y. Alshuaibi ↻
 Saeed S. Alwishah
 Ivan M. Arias Flores ↻➤
 Waniya Arif
 Kevin J. Arnold Jr.
 Asallah S. Asad
 Xavier E. Ayala ↻
 Anthony J.L. Banach
 Abrar Bargouthi
 Virgil A. Barnes III
 Katie R. Baug
 Thomas S. Beardsley ↻
 Ethan P. Bissinger §
 Jharna Biswa
 Aiden J. Bolam ◆
 Matthew J. Bonfiglio
 Kara E. Brewer ▲◆§↻
 Karlee R. Briggs ↻
 D'avionne E. Brown
 Zion J. Brown •
 Natalee P. Burdette
 Leon E. Burgess IV
 Alexander J. Burk
 Olivia L. Bushart
 Emani S. Calloway △
 Li'Daejha T. Canty
 Quan V. Cao
 Eli A. Cappoli
 Leena Christyne Captain ↻
 Connor J. Carlin
 Rylee E. Cass □
 Ethan S. Castillo
 Colin M. Cedeno ◆§
 Grace I. Cevicelov ◆
 Calysta T. Chamberlain
 Armanie M. Charles
 Hanson Chau
 Shayla Chau ▲◆↻
 Purna Chhetri
 Alivia G. Chivaro
 Elise J. Christopher ▲◆§↻△➤
 Brennan L. Cicchetti
 Nathan J. Clark

Mivelys Clavijo
 McKenzie M. Clifton ↻
 Jamie L. Coates
 Hailey J. Colantoni
 Zachary M. Conn ↻
 Brannon L. Conway ↻
 Connor W. Cook
 Gisella M. Correa
 Emma Crego
 Ashley C. Crider
 Aleigha K. Crowder
 Brendan J. Culhane ▲◆§↻➤
 Molly C. Curley
 Marc A. Curran
 Michael A. Curran ↻
 Nicholas A. Curran
 Michael J. Daly ◆
 Quincy E. Davis
 Anthony N. DeFave
 Sharyann D. Delgado
 Alayna M. Delice ↻△
 Alyssa Diaz ◆
 Davi J. Diaz
 Brian J. DiCesare
 Abbie R. DiCiaccio
 Cierra R. DiMaggio
 Michael L. DiMarco ↻
 Tyler J. DiPonzio ↻
 Erica C. Donath
 Flora A. Doumouxis
 McKenzie A. Duncan ▲◆◆↻△
 Grace H. Dupre ▲↻
 Zachary T. Eggebrecht ↻
 Emily C. Eichas ✱
 Jade M. Eidman
 Brian P. Elkins
 Isabella Y. Euchi ↻
 Luke A. Falk ▲◆↻
 Sierra Elisabeth Fernandez ▲◆
 Mark A. Ferrante
 Natalie O. Fesyuk
 Victoria O. Fesyuk
 Gabrielle L. Figgins
 Calvin M. Finger ↻
 Amanda E. Fornarola ▲◆§↻
 Maia I. Foti

Fiona M. Frattali
 Michael A. Frost ✱
 Luis A. Fuentes Jr.
 Michael B. Furno ▲◆↻➤
 Michael Salvatore Gangemi
 Bruce L. Gause III
 Maguire Z. Gentz ◆↻
 Devin M. Georgetti ↻
 Atiqullah Ghulami
 Spencer M. Glenn
 Angelina C. Gomez
 Sillery S. Gonzalez-Ortiz △
 Justin J. Gorall §↻
 Franchesca N. Graham
 Geoffrey W. Greble Jr. §
 Gia N. Grisoff Blanchard ••
 Carter M. Groenendaal
 Trinity D. Guess
 Sy'Ann F. Hall-Johnson
 Ethan D. Hamilton
 Paige E. Hamilton ◆✱
 Troy J. Hamilton
 Lukas W. Hands
 Marysa G. Hanney
 Alexander M. Harris
 Johanna M. Harris ◆↻△
 Ronnell M. Hart
 Kiara L. Hartwigh △
 Alex J. Hastings
 Joshua C. Hearty ↻
 Isidro Hernandez Jr.
 Jaliyah A. Hernandez
 Liah N. Herring △
 E. Nadine Herweg ▲◆↻➤
 Jayden L. Hickman
 Elissa L. Hill
 Kiarra M. Hollis ↻△
 Alexander D. Holmes
 Brennan Q. Hong ▲◆↻
 Crystal K. Hong ▲◆§↻
 Madison E. Hoyt ▲◆↻
 Alyssa M. Hueber
 Ali A. Humaid
 Asma A. Humaid ↻
 Bennett W. Hunt
 Vanessa Iantorno ▲◆↻

Miriam O. Ibezim △
 Sareena N. Inzana
 Justyce R. Jackson
 Tremec J. Jeffries Jr.
 Madison K. Johnson ✱
 Maxx R. Johnson
 Aaron S. Jones
 Shakira O. Jones ↻
 Harmandeep Kaur
 Denny R. Keenan
 Maylee A. Kerns ▲△
 Aaron P. Keyes ◆§↻➤
 Collin L. Kiesel
 McKenna R. Kiesel ↻
 Ryan S. Kilner ▲◆§↻➤
 Jayden L. Kinder
 Meaghan M. Klim
 Brady C. Knauf ▲◆↻
 Ethan M. Knauf ▲◆↻
 Amodesty R. Knight
 Devin A. Kohls
 Carly A. Kretchmer ▲◆↻
 Eleanora Kulazhonak ▲↻
 Samantha G. LaPietra
 Chan L. Lawson
 Brooke E. Leary ◆
 Bianca Lengo
 Brandon D. Leonardo
 Amarri D. Leslie
 Wilson Lin ↻
 Dominic J. Lippa ▲◆§↻➤
 Mirabel C. Lombardi ▲◆§↻➤
 Jolie M. Lynch ↻
 Evrianna E. Madera
 Robert A. Mancini ▲◆§
 Sonny M. Mangini
 Jaide M. Manigrossa △
 Chessa M. Manning ↻
 Husnain Manzoor
 Caden L. Markel-Downs
 Arianna P. Marks ◆§△
 Kalissa C. Marks §△
 Demariah K. Martin
 Olivia K. Martin
 Steven S. Marzovilla Jr.
 Cody M. Mayer ▲◆§

Class of 2021



Nicole F. Maynard •
Kobe T. McCray
Joseph D. McGurk
John P. McKenna
Logan J. McMurtry ♦
Emirhan Memis
Corrina B. Menz ••
Steven W. Michel
Ryan M. Miller ✎
Samantha A. Miller ✎
Ethan J. Milligan
Locksley B. Milwood Jr. △➤
Jaiden J. Minott
Gavin E. Monaghan ▲♦
Evan J. Montimerano-Schafer
Anyka Moore
Myron L. Moses
Taylor J. Mounnarat
Elijah G. Murray
Elijah C. Ndabu
Jahri J. Neil △
Andrew J. Newcombe ✎
Phu T. Nguyen
Shayla X. Nguyen
Aidan J. Nolan ♦
Brigit E. Norway ✎
Cassandra L. O'Connor ✎
Rachel D. O'Connor
Furkan E. Odes
Amber M. Oldfield §➤
Armando J. Olivera
Briana A. Pabon ▲♦✎➤
Amari F. Pagan
Jahnnia A. Paige
Elijah J. Pappert ✎
Dionna S. Parina ▲♦✎
Logan H. Paris
Zoe'aire G. Parker

Giana E. Patterson
Katherine A. Paulus ♦§
James R. Paxon Jr. ♦§
Devon E. Payton
Leonard J. Pellegrino
Jade V. Perotti
Leah A. Perry ▲♦§✎➤
Theodore M. Peters
Nhu T. Pham
Paul B. Pham
Zachary S. Piecuch ✎
Jonathan R. Pittman
Taras Pomayda ➤
Matthew A. Pope
Gerica N. Porter
Tyler B. Potter
Giovanni C. Prosser
Rebekah J. Pye ▲♦✎△
Mark I. Radu
Carlos O. Ramirez Morales ✎♦
Christopher T. Re
Dy'Mere D. Reed
Zachary J. Reifsteck ▲♦✎
Spencer H. Reiss
Michael Paul Ribis III
Alexander Rivard •
Angelo L. Rivera
Cristofer M. Rivera
Gianni E. Rivera
Josiah L. Rivera
Bryan Rivero
Skyler M. Rizzo
Faith M. Roberts
Nicholas P. Roberts
Tasha S. Robertson △
Italia R. RomanoDeren E.
Rosario Jimenez
Gianna L. Rossi

Donevan L. Rotmans
Valissa M. Ruiz ♦
Zachary R. Rush ♦✎✎
Tremayne M. Ryan △
Abdullah A. Saeed
Wafa A. Saeed
Ashraf A. Saleh
Justice G. Salisbury §
Bailey T. Schuler
Benjamin J. Scott-Hamilton ✎
Alexandra M. Servati ♦✎
Charlotte O. Sheffield ✎
Tyler D. Shouse
Joshua R. Sihto □
Jamia M. Simmons ✎
Sydney J. Simpson ▲♦§✎△➤
Emile B. Simpson Jr.
Blake C. Siplin △
Anthony M. Siragusa
Anndrianna M. Smith
Jaime R. Smith Jr.
Tianna L. Snowden
Marta Sorak ▲♦
Garrett H. Spychala
Olivia M. Steffenhagen ▲♦§
Samuel L. Stein
Vincent M. Steiner ✎
Bryan M. Steines
Amanda D. Stevens ♦§✎
Arianna D. Streber
Deonzea N. Strong ✎
Johnson Subba
Mikayla M. Szudlo ♦✎➤
Joseph T. Taliento
Alana J. Talley
Darren D. Thompson
Reya S. Thompson ♦✎△
Laxmi N. Timsina •

Erica To ✎
Graciana R. Torres △
Idalis Torres ▲✎
Ngan T. Tran
Nina D. Trieu
Ethan Truax
Ariana A. Tsarevich
Siheim Q. Tuckett
Trinity A. Turner △
Nicholas E. Usherwood
Sampson S. Valdez ▲♦✎➤
Emanuel J. Valle Jr.
Luke A. Valone
Patrick D. Vance ♦
Jaylanie I. Vargas
Nickolas R. Villante ♦
Stavros Viron
Tamnhu H. Vo ✎
Caleb T. Vogler
Ania S. Walker
Alice L. Wanzienried ✎
Ijalysse A. Washington
Nyzayah T. Watson
Jacob A. Weaver
Ryan P. Webb
Molly S. Wescott §
Zareeyah R. White
Leona L. Wilkinson ▲§
Adam I. Williams ✎
Nyaja M. Williams
Amanda N. Wood ▲♦✎
Marius W. Wood
Andrew W. Wright
David A. Yakimov
Courtney J. Yamonaco ✎
Ashtyn A. Zoli ▲♦§✎
Blake A. Zugnoni □✎



▲ Academic Varsity Letter
□ National Business Honor Society
♦ National Honor Society
✎ National Technical Honor Society
§ Tri-M National Music Honor Society

• August 2020 Graduate
•• January 2021 Graduate
✎ Award Recipient
△ Urban League Black Scholar
➤ Seal of Biliteracy

Fluency rewarded with NYS Seal of Biliteracy

Sixteen members of the Gates Chili High School Class of 2021 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. 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).

Congratulations to the following recipients: Ivan Arias Flores (Spanish), Elise Christopher (Latin), Brendan Culhane (Spanish and Italian), Michael Furno (Spanish), E. Nadine Herweg (Spanish), Aaron Keyes (Latin), Ryan Kilner (Spanish), Dominic Lippa (Italian), Locksley Milwood (Latin), Amber Oldfield (Latin), Briana Pabon (Spanish), Leah Perry (Spanish), Taras Pomayda (Ukrainian), Sydney Simpson (French), Mikayla Szudlo (Spanish), and Sampson Valdez (Spanish).



Class of 2021 Top 20

Congratulations to the top 20 ranked seniors from the Class of 2021, according to their weighted GPA



1. E. Nadine Herweg



2. Ashtyn Zoli



3. Dominic Lippa



4. Dionna Parina



5. Leah Perry



6. Luke Falk



7. Elise Christopher



8. Sydney Simpson



9. Briana Pabon



10. Carly Kretchmer



11. Mirabel Lombardi



12. Ryan Kilner



13. Idalis Torres



14. Eleanora Kulazhonak



15. Marta Sorak



16. Grace Dupre



17. McKenzie Duncan



18. Vanessa Iantorno



19. Ethan Knauf



20. Michael Furno

Siplin 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 with the Dr. Michael O'Laughlin Outstanding Senior Award. This year's recipient is Blake Siplin.

Siplin was selected for this recognition based on academics, leadership, and service. He was a member of the football and basketball teams and played a key role in winning a Section V championship for basketball. He was also a member of the Peer Leadership team that volunteers many hours to improving our school and community. Outside of school, Siplin is an active member of his church.

Black Scholars honored

The Urban League of Rochester Inc. recognized 16 Gates Chili students as part of the 42nd Annual Black Scholars Ceremony. Congratulations to: Emani Calloway, Alayna Delice, Sillery Gonzalez-Ortiz, Johanna Harris, Liah Herring, Kiarra Hollis, Miriam Ibezim, Maylee Kerns, Jaide Manigrossa, Arianna Marks, Kalissa Marks, Tasha Robertson, Tremayne Ryan, Sydney Simpson, Blake Siplin and Graciana Torres.

GCCSD fifth-graders face off in *annual meet*

It was Stars versus Dragons and Panthers versus Bears for two days in June at the Gates Chili High School athletic complex as fifth-graders competed in the annual track and field meet. This was the 50th anniversary of the competition, which was renamed this year in honor of Samuel D. Utter, former GCHS athletic director. Utter has been announcing the fifth-grade meet for 41 years.

The meet was split into two days of competition: Paul Road students faced off against Brasser students, and Armstrong students against Disney students. These fifth-grade athletes competed in high, long and standing jumps, shotput and softball throw before hitting the track for a series of foot races.



Building a *CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE*

In this school year that was anything but ordinary, Gates Chili student-athletes were presented with a unique opportunity: instead of playing a total of three seasonal sports...play four of them. It's a challenge and an opportunity that 20 students across the district took on over the course of 2020-21.

Dr. Patrick Irving, Gates Chili's Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics, said that this year, 11 middle school students and nine high school students elected to play four sports as Spartans. In a traditional school year, students would have the opportunity to play a maximum of three, but because of the pandemic, New York State moved some high-risk fall sports to the spring season.

"It takes a student who is truly dedicated to take on four sports," said Dr. Irving. Many of the students who played four sports were trying one for the first time. That was the case for freshman Savana Henry, who had never even seen a field hockey stick before this year, when she played at the varsity level. Her sport of choice, volleyball, was moved to the spring, and she wasn't sure if she'd be able to play at all.

"I definitely think it gave me something to do," said Henry, who explained that playing a new sport in the fall helped keep her fitness levels up. It's a sentiment echoed by sophomore Emily McManus, who was one of 74 three-sport athletes at Gates Chili this year.

"It's difficult at times and requires a lot of work," McManus shared. "It looks easy but it sometimes can be challenging." However, playing three sports, including soccer, basketball and softball, allowed her to maintain relationships with teammates and coaches throughout the year.



One of the goals of Building a Championship Culture is creating an atmosphere of enjoyment in athletics, and Dr. Irving said the strong numbers of multi-sport athletes is an outcome of this approach. This year's three- and four-sport athletes were recognized with special t-shirts honoring their hard work and contributions to Gates Chili's championship culture.

"As an athletic department, we stress and need multi-sport athletes in order to continue to provide as many opportunities as we currently do – we will continue to celebrate and support them."

Students earn Academic Varsity Letter

This year's Annual Academic Varsity Letter award was presented to 46 Gates Chili High School students in a pre-recorded virtual ceremony.

The Academic Varsity Letter Award is a highly-regarded and longstanding Gates Chili High School tradition that recognizes exceptional academic achievement. Eligibility for the award is based on a point system where one quality point is awarded for each weighted course grade at or above 95%. A minimum of 65 quality points is required to receive an Academic Varsity Letter. An award of a chevron is given for each additional 15 quality points earned.

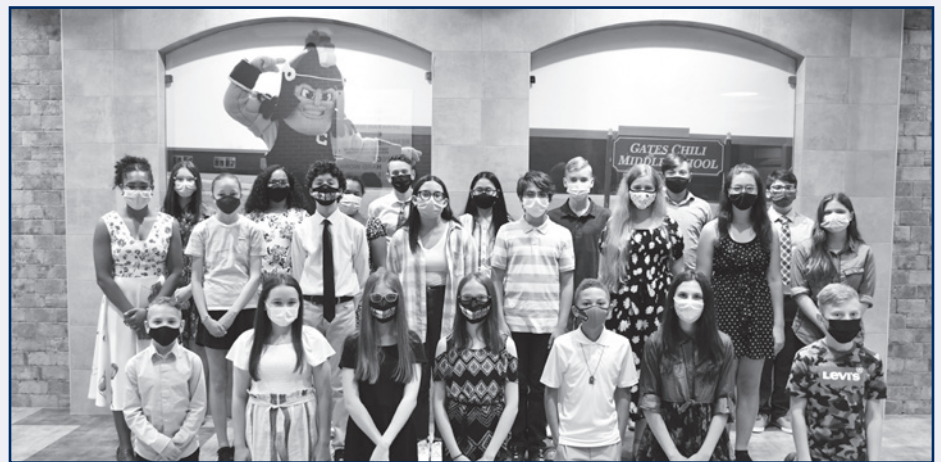
Academic Varsity Letter recipients are marked as such on pages 6-7. To watch the virtual ceremony, go to gateschili.org/AVL2021.

Celebrating NJHS inductees

The Gates Chili Middle School National Junior Honor Society added 25 new members to its ranks.

National Junior Honor Society is founded on the principles of leadership, character, citizenship, scholarship and service. To be eligible for NJHS, middle school students go through a rigorous application process. This year's inductees completed this application process during the pandemic at the end of last school year. Students were also required to have a 93.0 average or higher in grades 6-7, have excellent character, be connected in their community through service and seen as a leader in school and in their community.

Congratulations to the Gates Chili Middle School NJHS class of 2021: Christopher Amesbury, Katelyn Behr, Jazmyn Berl-Williams, Adam Cardenas, Cassandra Carpenter, Caitlin Clark, Adriana Clark, Jason Cocchiara Jr., Evelyn Henderberg, Alisiana Johnson, Dylan Keenan, Luke LeClair, Juliana Lipinski, Rachel Loney, Ella Ly, Christian Major, Andrew McManus, Laila Moyer, Zinovii Pshenychniak, Kiera Read, Arianna Rivera, Kennedy Sloan, Adrianna Wall, Alessio White and Ethan White.



Music and excellence at GCHS

It was anything but an average year for the performing arts at Gates Chili High School. Music students and teachers had to navigate the difficulties of learning and performing remotely and traditions had to be adapted.

Gates Chili High School vocal teacher Christine Merkel explained that music education is about teamwork, social-emotional learning, and taking a break from the academic side of things; this year was no exception.

Tri-M is an honor society for music students that is based on community service and music performance. The GCHS chapter usually hosts recitals for

students to earn admission to the group, but this year, students recorded their submissions at home, in classrooms and even outdoors, then GCHS music staff edited the videos together and presented them to Tri-M.

"For students that haven't been able to perform for over a year, and they are in their basements, recording themselves...

it's the only way they can perform. They're very dedicated," said Merkel.

Induction to Tri-M is limited to students in grades 10-12 who are taking choral or band classes. Each member student is presented with a pink cord to wear at graduation to represent their membership.



Carol Stehm: a *legacy* of leadership



For nearly 11 years, Carol Stehm has been the driving force in the Office of Instruction at Gates Chili. In this role, she oversaw curriculum, instruction and

assessment across all levels of the district from K-12 instructional programs to teacher leadership and professional development for staff.

"When I arrived at Gates Chili in August of 2010, I set my goals on creating a strong instructional program and developing trusting relationships with staff," Stehm reminisced. "This focus and relationship-based foundation created a platform for district growth."

In the years to come, Stehm led staff and administrators in the development of a comprehensive district curriculum

with common assessments, the implementation of full-day kindergarten and Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) programs, and the creation of a teacher leadership structure focused on program improvement. Over the course of the last decade, Stehm also served as interim superintendent of schools twice.

"In addition to all the work she did as associate superintendent, Carol played an integral role during times of transition for the district, providing stability and leadership," said Board of Education President Jeffrey Pettenski. "The Board of Education values Carol's guidance and appreciates all that she has done for our students and staff."

One of her more recent accomplishments was laying the foundation for and helping to launch the district's Strategic Plan for Equity, which will reduce disproportionality and advance the achievement and success of all

students. Along with then-Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Stehm co-lead the district's root cause work and spearheaded much of the district's earliest equity work. It is work she described as necessary, explaining that "recognizing the diversity of our students and striving to achieve cultural competency is part of what makes Gates Chili such a special place to work."

While former Director of Technology Troy Olinis is now the new leader of the Office of Instruction, Stehm will continue to work with the district in a consulting capacity on next steps in the Strategic Plan for Equity.

"The positive culture and genuine care and respect that exist in this district has helped drive my work and passion for education," Stehm shared. "These fond memories and the extraordinary people in this community will always hold a special place in heart."

Honoring the Retiree Class of 2021

Gates Chili honored its Retiree Class of 2021 with a special parade on June 25. Staff and families from around the district drove by, honking and waving to honor the group's collective 620 years of service to the Gates Chili school community.

Congratulations again to this year's retirees: Donna Bazer, Suzanne Blackburn, Mary Jean Carlson, Carrie Clar, Timothy Daley, Arthur Girvin, Maryann Gross, Marla Guarnieri, Bobbie Hunter, Katherine Koehler, Paula LaManna, Richard LaMura, Jo-Al Lettau, Mary McConnell, Maureen Mertz, Brenda Mini, Barbara Misner, Ellen Mulgrew, Kim Ormsby, Hipolito Perea, Mary Anne Presciutti, Lisa Rich, Tracey Rizzo, Diana Sachs, Betty Scheg-Backus, Betty Smith, Carol Stehm, Kathleen Wakeman, Theodore Wester and Linda Yanklowski.



A new face overseeing technology



Jeffrey McKinney is the new director of technology. McKinney comes to Gates Chili from the Batavia City School District where he served as IT coordinator.



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Designed and printed at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES



A NYSPRA award-winning publication

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, NY
Permit No. 1034

FREE MEALS for the summer



July 6 to Aug. 13

- Gates Chili Middle School
- Paul Road Elementary School

Pick up breakfast and lunch each weekday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 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 years old and younger this summer.

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 the all of the recipients for May and June.



May 25 Recipients

Gavin Kelly, *Disney Student*
Layla Lee, *Brasser Student*
Peyton Lockwood, *Disney Student*
Lilliana Navedo, *Disney Student*
Marc Parina, *Volunteer*



June 8 Recipient

Lester Roberts,
Construction Manager



June 22 Recipients

Alexis Barnes, *Paul Road Student*
Marilyn Bohan, *BOCES 2 SRP*
Oberia Burden, *Retiree*
Jacqueline Dennison, *Medical Director*
Yugo Iwamoto, *Volunteer*
Cody Mayer, *High School Student*
Jean Osterling, *Paul Road Lunch Monitor*
Alex Picarazzi, *Paul Road Student*
Jonathan Vance, *High School Student*