



GATES CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fall Newsletter 2024

Community schools: Helping Stars *reach for the stars*

Neil Armstrong Elementary School is taking a transformative new approach to student support. This school year, the school is piloting the Community Schools Model.

Community schools go above and beyond academics, meeting the unique needs of every student, removing barriers to their growth and learning, so they can reach their full potential. The foundation of this work is built on the collaboration of schools, family and communities.

“Our schools serve as the heart of our community, making it essential that they are equipped to address the diverse needs of our students,” said Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services Jason deJong. “Traditionally, schools have focused primarily on academic achievement. However, we now understand that students perform better academically when both they and their families receive comprehensive support.”

Partnering agencies are also crucial to community schools, helping to connect families to specific resources and services, including health and social services. In Gates Chili, that partner agency is

the Center for Youth. Doing the day-to-day work to implement the Community Schools Model is a community school site coordinator who focuses on locating and connecting families to resources and services. Coordinators do everything from hosting outreach events and making home visits to shopping for food, clothes and supplies for families in need. In traditional schools, tackling non-instructional barriers to attendance and learning, like lack of access to food, clothing and other basic supplies, often falls on teachers. Community school coordinators ensure that students can focus on learning and teachers can focus on teaching.

“This is a resource for staff too,” said Armstrong Principal Rebecca Scott. “It takes work off their plates and allows them to do the job they were hired to do – teach.”

Incorporating family voice and choice is another essential element to the Community School Model. Before schools can address students’ and families’ needs, they must first identify what those needs are. The work hinges on building trust with families to ease any hesitations families may have about going to the school for support.

“Building relationships with families who may be reluctant has an incredible impact and is a huge win for us,” explained Coordinator of Student and Family Support Services Angelina Pound. “These relationships lay the foundation for an ongoing partnership between the school and families, which can positively influence student achievement.”

The Community Schools Model is helping Gates Chili to accomplish its goal to foster belonging through equitable access to culturally responsive and restorative practices. While Armstrong is piloting the program this school year, the district is hoping to eventually implement the model in additional schools.

To help fund community schools, the district is leveraging state aid through a cooperative service agreement through Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES. In addition, in-kind services through the New York State Office of Mental Health and grant funding from ESL Federal Credit Union are also helping support community schools by providing funding for family emergencies, student and family engagement and other programs and services.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming capital project	pg. 3
Golden Apple Award	pg. 4
Social media safety	pg. 6
Getting ahead for college	pg. 7

Together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners.

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Gates Chili School Community,

We're already a quarter of the way into the 2024-25 school year and our Spartans are making waves throughout the district!

Throughout Gates Chili, students, staff and families are taking part in exciting opportunities designed to maximize their academic learning and help them feel part of our great community.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I want to send each of you a sincere word of thanks and my warmest wishes for a happy and safe holiday season. No matter what your holiday celebrations look like this season, please take time to acknowledge and encourage the students in your family and the effort they put forth in school each day.

On behalf of the Gates Chili Board of Education and district leaders, it is also my privilege to express deep appreciation for your continued support of our school community.

This support is integral to our ability to uphold our shared educational mission to teach and inspire excellence for all learners.

Thank you again for partnering with us to make the 2024-25 school year the best year yet!

Go Spartans!



Christopher J. Dailey
Superintendent of Schools



@GatesChiliSuper



BOE welcomes new student member

The Gates Chili Board of Education welcomed its new student ex-officio member at its first meeting this fall. Lucas G. was elected by his peers to serve as the student representative to the Gates Chili Board of Education in the 2024-25 school year. Lucas is a senior at the high school and is involved in the Math League. After graduation, he plans to pursue a pre-med track. The creation of the ex-officio student role was the result of a vote by district residents in May 2023.



Get involved with the Education Foundation!

The Gates Chili Education Foundation is looking to add a new member to its board of directors.



The foundation supports student-centered learning through the awarding of scholarships and grants for funding programs. It's led by a volunteer board of directors whose members are drawn from all segments of the community and reflect its diversity.

Prospective members of the board of directors should demonstrate a dedication to the community, willingness to assist in creating an innovative education environment and actively engage in fundraising efforts and/or financial support.

If interested or if you have questions, please contact the district clerk, Condenessa Brown, at cgbrown@gateschili.org

BUDGET AMBASSADORS WANTED!

To gain valuable feedback during the budget development process, the district is again offering the Budget Ambassador Program for the 2025-26 school year budget. To apply to participate in this program, complete the form at gateschili.org/BudgetAmbassador by Friday, Jan. 10, 2025 at 5 p.m.



Capital Project Update

Building Brighter Futures

As construction continues on the first phase of the district's current capital project, the state has officially approved work on the second phase.

Crews have been working hard on upgrades to high school and middle school technology classrooms, middle school music classrooms and high school family and consumer science (FACS) classrooms. At the high school, crews have been working on flooring, painting and ceiling installations for FACS spaces. Next steps there include installing cabinetry and equipment in kitchen spaces.

Down the hall in high school technology, contractors are completing the concrete foundations and backfill with structural material. At the middle

school, technology classrooms are moving along with crews working on completing framing, duct work, plumbing and electrical work. Construction on the music wing will begin once the technology area is completed in the spring of 2025.

This phase of the project also includes the relocation of district office staff from the Administration Building to the high school. That work should be done before the end of the calendar year, with staff moving into the high school sometime in December.

Meanwhile, the Gates Chili Administration Building will soon become the Gates Chili Operations Center. Last year, New York State Education Department (NYSED) approved the plans

to construct prekindergarten classrooms in this building, but it unexpectedly did not approve state funding for the space. That funding would have offset the majority of the cost of construction. Acknowledging a commitment to not increasing the local tax burden, the district will now only address necessary infrastructure needs to be able to use this space for facilities, security and other internal operations.

The second phase of this project includes work at Florence Brasser Elementary School, the creation of a multipurpose turf complex near the middle school and general building upkeep such as upgrades to heating and ventilation units and other regular maintenance. Construction on this phase will begin after bids are awarded.



FUTURE READY >>>

Preserving our Resources, Maintaining our Schools

While construction continues on the Building Brighter Futures project, the district is gearing up for its next capital improvement project—**Future Ready!**

Just like regular maintenance and upkeep of a home, the district must address its ongoing facilities needs through regular planned capital improvement projects. The goal with each of these projects is to have **no impact on the tax levy**, instead using capital reserves and state funding to offset costs.

After many months of research and planning, the district is ready to present a plan for its next capital project that

preserves resources and maintains schools for many years to come. Unlike past projects that have focused mainly on new construction and the addition of things like the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center (GCPAC), the majority of the work included in this project is infrastructure and mechanical needs related to aging facilities.

Work is divided into four categories with each building having certain needs addressed:

- 42% failing infrastructure needs
- 35% renovations
- 15% replacements
- 8% new work

There will be more opportunities to learn about this project ahead of the Feb. 5, vote. Look out for a special edition of this newsletter in your mailbox this January. For updates on this and other capital improvement projects, visit gateschili.org/CapitalProject.

**NO TAX
IMPACT VOTE**

FEB. 5, 2025

More information coming soon!

Armstrong, Paul Road get *new signs*

The Neil Armstrong and Paul Road elementary school campuses are now a little easier to navigate thanks to new signage at each school.

Last year, the district installed a series of new signs on its main campus as part of the ongoing efforts to improve navigation and provide clear information to visitors and staff. The next phase of this signage improvement project includes updating signage at all the district's elementary schools.

At both Armstrong and Paul Road, signage includes a main school identification sign, wayfinding signs, parking lot signs, a main entrance sign at the entrance driveway, and a bus-only sign near each school's bus loops. The next school slated to receive updated signage is Walt Disney Elementary School, followed by Florence Brasser Elementary School, which will receive its new signage after capital improvement work is completed there.



Focused time is a 'WIN' for elementary students

Throughout the district, elementary teachers are helping students "WIN" with learning tailored to their needs.

WIN stands for "What I Need" and is designed to help teachers better meet the unique needs of each student in grades K-5. The program starts with teachers examining data every six weeks, which helps them create personalized intervention or enrichment groups.



Then each school day, 30 minutes are set aside for students to work in their WIN groups. That group work, which is called WIN time, gives teachers time to work with students and monitor their progress, ensuring they are meeting the goals set for their individual growth. This dedicated time guarantees that instruction is personalized to meet each student's specific needs, whether that involves enrichment, reinforcement or remediation.

WIN time is a benefit that is offered as a support to all students, no matter their level of need. Students also work collaboratively with various teachers and/or interventionists across their grade level, allowing them to learn from diverse instructional approaches and expertise.

Disney's Ferrara wins *Golden Apple!*

Walt Disney Elementary School teacher Katie Ferrara is the latest GC educator to win a Golden Apple Award! Former students and their families surprised Ferrara with the award on Nov. 4 with the help of WROC TV Channel 8. Ferrara was nominated for the award for her caring, compassionate nature and her unwavering support of Disney Dragons during their kindergarten year. The full story aired on Nov. 19 and is available to watch anytime at gateschili.org/FerraraGoldenApple.



Fun fall activities for Dragons, Bears, Panthers and Stars

The crisp fall air ushered in fun festivities to the Gates Chili elementary schools as they each hosted their own unique fall celebrations. From an array of tasty treats to painting pumpkins, wagon rides and bounce houses, these events provided fun experiences for the whole family to enjoy!

Disney Dragons gathered for Fall Family Fun Night on Oct. 3, where families could meet furry friends at the petting zoo and snack on popcorn, cider and donuts while enjoying a wagon ride. Students and their families even had the chance to decorate pumpkins alongside GC's own mascot, Spartacus!

Brasser Bears enjoyed a night of fun at the annual Apple Dumpling Festival on Oct. 5. The festivities included a bounce house, a gaga pit, various games, delicious treats

and a visit from a fire truck. With beautiful weather, the event was the perfect fall evening out for Brasser families.

Meanwhile, Paul Road Panthers held their annual Harvest Fest on Oct. 24, offering an assortment of activities and fun including cider floats, a scavenger hunt, a pumpkin carving contest and more. The event also featured a book fair by Lift Bridge Books.

Finally, Armstrong Stars hosted their fall event, the Autumn Extravaganza on Oct. 30. This event featured a trunk or treat experience, cider and donuts and a variety of engaging activities for students. Families got to enjoy pumpkin painting and a gaga pit with a background of live music. The celebration was the perfect experience to close out the month!



Hundreds delight at *Fall Family Fest*

More than 400 community members and nearly 50 community partners came together on Nov. 7 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. Members of the community also sampled new foods from the school lunch menu, protected themselves against the flu with vaccinations and took the first steps to getting a U.S. Passport



From likes to life lessons: Students and families take on *social media challenges*

It's clear that social media has a hold on young people. It can influence their self-esteem, body image and mental health. To help better understand social media's enormous power, Gates Chili High School and Gates Chili Middle School worked together to bring in an expert to talk to students and their families.

Max Stossel is the founder of Social Awakening, a program dedicated to helping teens, schools and families survive and thrive in the digital world. He recently traveled to Gates Chili for a day of learning and discussion.

During his conversations with middle and high schoolers, Stossel illustrated some of the sneaky ways that social media and gaming apps addict and distract users. While many students were surprised to find out that these tactics influence their own digital lives, they also walked away with strategies to avoid falling into traps. For example, Stossel pushed students to focus on how apps make them feel instead of whether they like using them or not to better understand how they impact them on an emotional level.

Following his work with students, Stossel presented to families during an evening session. Because it can be difficult for adults to stay up to date on all the new apps and games, he delved into the ways young people are using



social media. He also provided them with daily actions they can take to help their children, including leading by example by using technology with a purpose.

With these practical tools and a better understanding of social media's influence, Gates Chili students and families are now better equipped to navigate a complicated digital world and build healthier relationships with technology.

GCHS National Honor Society inducts new members

Forty-eight high school students are the newest members of the National Honor Society (NHS) at Gates Chili High School. Students were inducted into the prestigious organization during a ceremony on Nov. 5. NHS is highly selective based on the four pillars of scholarship, leadership, service and character.

Congratulations to this year's inductees:



Christopher Amesbury Jr.

Christina Barker

Katelyn Behr

Cierra Belke

Ava Bosnakovski

Mom Boure

Adriana Clark

Caitlin Clark

Jason Cocchiara Jr.

Kate Falk

Connor Hahn

William Hart

Evelyn Henderberg

Kevin Hong

Alisiana Johnson

Key'Andre Joseph

Lucas Kenyon

Sumehra King

Makaila Leslie

Juliana Lipinski

Rachel Loney

Luna Luan

Ella Ly

Eric Mahat

Macy Mayer

Andrew McManus

Matthew Molinaro

Laila Moyer

Kyliee Nary

Kimoralee Panyasith

Sahaj Paul

Kira Peacock

Aleohna Rivaldo

Arianna Rivera

Fatma Sager

Gianna Salatino

Margaret Schlander

Annalise Short

Kennedy Sloan

Isabel Steiner

Dante Stewart

Dana Talab

Wendy Vo

Azaria Walker

Adrianna Wall

Alessio White

Ryan Wolfe

Ethan Yates

Spartans eye the future with college-level science courses

Science is the future, and the Gates Chili High School science department is committed to providing students with opportunities that pave the way for future success.

At Gates Chili, science education consists of four core subjects: earth science, biology, chemistry and physics. Students are required to take three units of science to graduate, but taking all four core subjects over four years of high school has great benefits. In addition to giving students a well-rounded background in the sciences, four years of science can give students a competitive edge to help them stand out on college applications. That's where Advanced Placement (AP) and dual-enrollment science courses come in.

The jump from high school to college-level courses can come with its challenges. AP and dual-enrollment courses can ease that transition by enhancing students' readiness for



college and careers in the science field. Both of these course types allow high school students to earn college credit while still completing their standard high school education, which can provide a cost savings to families.

Senior Heidi T. has plans to continue her education in the STEM field with a major in either biochemistry or pharmaceutical sciences. She's now in her fourth year of science, currently taking AP Chemistry.

"I think it's great that Gates Chili offers dual-enrollment options," said Heidi. "These are classes I would have to take in college anyway, so why not get ahead and earn the credit while I'm still in high school? It's so beneficial."

Dual-enrollment and AP courses are taught by approved teachers and are aligned with college curriculum and College Board examination standards, ensuring that students receive a high-quality learning experience.

Courses such as AP Biology, Intro to Optics and Forensics are offered in partnership with Roberts Wesleyan University and Monroe Community College.

"Careers in the STEM field are increasingly encouraging students to take multiple science classes, making our program's opportunities even more valuable," said Science Curriculum Leader Christopher Amesbury. "Our students are very fortunate with the opportunities that exist in our science program at GC."

Gates Chili High School offers AP and dual-enrollment courses in many other content areas, too. Students and families interested in learning more about course offerings should look at the Program of Studies and/or speak with their counselor.

Roberts Wesleyan University:

- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics B
- AP Physics C
- AP Environmental Science
- Forensics

Monroe Community College:

- Intro to Optics



Hall passes go digital at GCMS and GCHS

A high-tech upgrade to a school staple is helping boost learning and safety at Gates Chili middle and high schools.

Students and staff are now using electronic hall passes through a platform called Securly Pass. After a pilot program last year, the schools officially rolled out the new digital hall pass systems at the beginning of this school year. Instead of issuing traditional paper passes, students request an electronic pass on their laptop and teachers approve them on their own devices.

Besides cutting down on paper waste, the new system is already having a positive impact on learning by maximizing classroom time. Administrators are using data from the platform to monitor for trends in pass use to ensure and maximize student learning in the classroom. On top of that, the system is also improving security. Its live dashboard allows staff to know who is out of class and where they are at all times. Passes to certain locations can also be limited to ensure students aren't going to rooms that are full or when teachers or resources are unavailable.

GCHS radio play turns up the *fun and mystery*

Gates Chili High School's fall play took audiences back in time to the golden age of radio.

The Gates Chili Performing Arts Center (GCPAC) stage became a 1940s radio studio for the one-night-only production of "Sam Shovel, Private Eye." Written by Jane and Jim Jeffries, the play-within-a-play is a comedic parody of old-time radio detective shows. The actors play actors putting on a radio mystery whose plot centers on private eye Sam Shovel and her investigation into a string of fashion-related murders.

GCHS' production featured a cast and crew of more than 20 students and was directed by GC staff members Heather Coughlin and Jessica Volpe. Technical director Megan Beck and prop manager and scenic artist Marcia Stevens rounded out the team.

Now that the curtain has closed on "Sam Shovel," GCHS will get ready for its spring musical, "Mary Poppins." The show is set for March 21-23. Check out the winter issue of this newsletter this February for information about tickets and show times.



Gates Chili band students perform alongside the Dallas Brass



Gates Chili students joined the Dallas Brass for a special performance at the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center on Oct. 16. The Dallas Brass is an American brass quintet that travels the country to teach, coach and share their love of music with students. Students had the opportunity to participate in a workshop with the quintet during the school day, then Gates Chili middle school and high school band students performed medleys alongside the Dallas Brass in the evening.

We're all mad here: GCMS presents "Alice in Wonderland JR."

Gates Chili Middle School fell down the rabbit hole into the upside-down world of Wonderland for its fall musical.

The school presented Disney's "Alice in Wonderland JR." on Nov. 14 and 15 in the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center (GCPAC). The adaptation of the Disney animated film based on Lewis Carroll's classic stories features brand-new songs along with favorites from the movie like "The Unbirthday Song" and "Painting the Roses Red."

"Alice" included a cast and crew of more than 50 students. The production was directed by Heather Coughlin and Jessica Volpe with musical direction by Ryan Vane, technical direction by Megan Beck, and props and scenic art by Marcia Stevens.





BUILDING A CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE:

Spartans show their GC Pride for Homecoming 2024

Homecoming Week throughout the Gates Chili Central School District was nothing short of spectacular, filled with school spirit, camaraderie and friendly competition. Each day of the week featured different themes, encouraging students to express their creativity and enthusiasm through their themed outfits. From color day to spirit day, students embraced the fun of it all.

This year, Gates Chili Middle School started a new tradition by holding their first ever pep rally! Rhinos, Amerks and Red Wings competed against one another in a series of team-building events to see who would take home the Spartan Cup. From tossing eggs to wheelbarrow racing, the Spartan Field House was filled with excitement and laughter. At the end of the event, it was the Red Wings Community who were triumphant and took home the trophy.



The excitement continued with a pep rally for Gates Chili High School on game day, where the entire school gathered to rally behind the Spartans. The Spartan Cheer team hyped everyone up before classes faced off in an array of games designed to foster friendly competition. One of the standout events was a game of "Hungry Hungry Hippos," where pairs of students from each class raced to collect balloons in a life-sized version of the classic game. Laughter and cheers echoed throughout the gym, creating an unforgettable atmosphere.

The competition didn't stop there. Classes faced off again through games of tug-of-war that continued to bring out competitive spirit, as teams battled it out in a test of strength and teamwork.

The week came to a close with the traditional football game at Spartan Stadium, which was filled with excitement and pride. Not even the cold could keep Gates Chili students, staff and families away from cheering on the Spartans as they faced off against the Webster Thomas Titans.



Elementary schools come together for *kickball tournament*

For the past several years, Paul Road Elementary School has hosted a kickball tournament for students, and this year, they decided to shake things up by expanding it to include other schools to join in on the fun.

Paul Road Panthers were joined on Nov. 5 by Brasser Bears, Disney Dragons and Armstrong Stars for some friendly competition under the lights at Spartan Stadium. A total of nine teams competed, with students from the elementary school kickball clubs and intramural teams joining the tournament.

The event was focused on creating a fun night for students to share their love of kickball and practice good sportsmanship.



Calling all Spartan parents/guardians!

Have you activated your ParentSquare account yet? It's as easy as 1-2-3:



1. Go to gateschili.org/ParentSquare on a computer or mobile device.
2. Click on the Getting Started Guide in the available languages.
3. Follow the step-by-step directions to begin engaging with your student's school!

ParentSquare automatically generates an account for each family member, using the email address and phone number on file with the district. If you need to change your contact information, please do so by going to gateschili.org/UpdateContact or contacting your school's main office.

Staff Spotlight: Developing Spartans' love of reading



**Sarah Beh,
Sixth-Grade ELA
Teacher**

**Gates Chili
Middle School**

For more than two decades, Sarah Beh has been sharing her love of learning with the students of Gates Chili Middle School.

After starting her teaching career as a third-grade teacher in Virginia, she moved back

home to the Rochester area just a year later and joined the sixth-grade team at GCMS. In that time, Beh has experienced many changes to both instruction and administration. When she first started teaching at GCMS, she taught multiple subjects. Over the years the school took on a more departmentalized approach to teaching, and she has been solely teaching ELA since. She has also worked with four different principals and various assistant principals.

The one constant over those years has been her love for teaching sixth-graders.

"I love teaching this age group," Beh shared. "They start middle school fresh out of elementary school, and they're so young. Throughout the year you get to see them transition into preteens. I love seeing that change."

Another change that Beh enjoys seeing in her students is their growth, and the new friendships they build throughout the school year. With four different elementary schools in the district, the middle school is where these students all truly come together for the first time.

"One of the things I like the most about teaching the first year of middle school is helping students foster friendships. I like trying to see who might get along with who and seeing them come together based on shared strengths and character traits," Beh said.

Along with fostering friendships, Beh loves to foster a love for reading in her students. One of her favorite lesson plans is an initiative called "First Chapter Friday," where once a week the class reads the first chapter of a book recommended by students and staff members. After the reading, Beh helps students engage in meaningful conversations about what the conflict of the book is and some predictions of what the book might be about. The goal of this activity is to pique student interest in reading a variety of genres and give them ideas of books they can borrow from the library.

"My role as an ELA teacher is to inspire a love of reading, specifically independent reading. The more comfortable students

are with reading, the more successful they will become in every subject area," Beh said.

Beh proudly shared that her two sons are avid readers. And while they may not read the same materials, they both still really enjoy reading.

"I try to take what I've learned from my experience as a parent and infuse it into the classroom, much like I've used experiences from the classroom at home with raising my sons," Beh said.

Overall, Beh has been grateful for the strong support and community found within GCMS. She praised her team of teachers and is glad to work at a school that puts the students first. Beh shared, "I've been very fortunate to have the team of teachers that I work with. We have been together a long time, and we support each other really well."

The cooperation among teachers and staff has helped create consistent expectations for students, which has helped make GCMS a great place to work. "The people in this building really care about each other and want to help each other, which is one of the reasons why I love being here," said Beh.

A fall full of professional learning

October was full of learning opportunities for GC staff members!

Gates Chili held its first ever Data Day on Oct. 2. While students headed home early, faculty members spent the afternoon looking at and assessing student data, helping them better support specific student learning needs.

"I think that the part of this data protocol that's been so helpful is establishing a way for the whole building to look at data at the same time and understand where our kids are and where they need to go," said Sarah Dumrese,

the building reading teacher at Paul Road Elementary School.

Just days later, Gates Chili held its first Superintendent's Conference Day of the school year on Oct. 11.

GCCSD invited Dr. Malik Muhammad back again this year to present two keynote sessions about restorative practices, with a highlight on the Formula for Change: Connection + Challenge = Change.

The day also included important department-level trainings and time for staff to collaborate.



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 for August, September and October.



August recipients:

Summer Learning Program students Parker F. and Joseph P. (not pictured); Summer Learning Program faculty Ashley Slaby (not pictured), Lisa Taylor-Velez, Ellen Tillson (not pictured) and Dr. Robin Williamson; PSQ implementation team members Maranda Byer, Denise Falcipieri and Mike Munski.



September recipients:

Facilities staff members Sam Cubiotti, Jr. and Eric Vanderberg



October recipients:

Armstrong students Adam A., Jason B., Lily B. and Madison F.; Armstrong Community Schools Coordinator Kassy Cappon (not pictured)



Nov. 12 recipients:

Paul Road students Dora B., Austin C., Robbie C., Michael H., Carson L., Mahani L., Momen M., Aodhan O., Kimberly P., Dianalyn R., Ethan W. and Angel Z. and Paul Road staff Kimberly Keyser, Leeann Poodry, Bridgette Remillard and Kaci Smith.

GC staff are Spartan Strong

This school year, Gates Chili is excited to launch a staff wellness program designed to offer fun and engaging ways to improve staff well-being. "Spartan Strong: Wellness Starts With Us" is all about empowering staff to build healthier habits and thrive as a team. The initiative is led by the District Wellness Committee, which is made up of almost 30 volunteers from around the district. So far this year, the committee has organized a 30-day hydration challenge and free yoga classes for staff. All Spartan Strong activities and offerings will focus on different categories of wellness including healthy nutrition, fitness, mindfulness, hydration and sleep.

There's still time to join the Spartan team!

Gates Chili began the school year with almost 150 new Spartans—but we're still looking for more!

The bulk of the district's new staff members are support staff who were hired after the Support Staff Hiring Event on July 9. The district held on-site interviews and offered next day follow-up. Support staff positions include bus drivers and attendants, teacher and school aides, cleaners, school nutrition workers and more.

If you're still interested in joining this three-time Top Workplace, start your journey by visiting gateschili.org/jobs.





GATES CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

3 Spartan Way
Rochester, New York 14624
585.247.5050

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Director of Communications, Editor

Iva R. Petrosino, APR

Contributors

Abbey Noble
Ashley Roys

Graphic Designer

Lisa Constantine

gateschili.org

Designed and printed at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES



A NYSPRA award-winning publication



FREE NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Applies to breakfast and lunch served in all Gates Chili cafeterias on school days
- No application required to receive free breakfast and lunch
- Individual items, snacks, drinks and desserts still available for purchase

DECEMBER

3	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
5	PR Band and Chorus Winter Concert	7 p.m.
6	#GCPride Day	
6-7	FBFA Holiday Craft Show	
9	UPK-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences / No School for Students UPK-5	
10	HS Band Winter Concert	7 p.m.
11	HS FAFSA Night	5:30 p.m.
11	WD Winter Band and Chorus Concert	7 p.m.
12	MS Grades 6-8 Winter Chorus Concert	7 p.m.
14	WDPTO Craft Fair	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
17	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
18	MS Grades 7-8 Band Concert	7 p.m.
20	UPK-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences / Half Day for Students UPK-5	
25	Holiday - District Closed	
23-31	Holiday Recess - No School for Students and 10-Month Staff	

JANUARY

1	Holiday - District Closed	
1-3	Holiday Recess - No School for Students and 10-Month Staff	
9	HS Winter Choral Concert	7 p.m.
10	MS Grades 7-8 Social	7-8:30 p.m.
14	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
15	FB Winter Band and Chorus Concert	7 p.m.
16	NA Winter Band and Chorus Concert	7 p.m.
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - District Closed	
23	MS Grade 6 Band Concert	7 p.m.
24	Conference Day - No School for Students Grades 6-12	
28	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
29	Holiday - District Closed	
31	#GCPride Day	
31	WDPTO BINGO Night	5-7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

5	Supt. Conf. Day - Half Day for Students Grades UPK-12	
7	MS Grade 6 Social	7-8:30 p.m.
7	HS Java Jazz	6 p.m.
11	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
17	President's Day - District Closed	
17-21	Mid-Winter Recess - No School for Students and 10-Month Staff	
25	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 p.m.
27	HS Grades 10-11 Student/Guardian Night	6:30-7:30 p.m.
28	#GCPride Day	