



# GATES CHILI

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Graduation Newsletter 2022

## *Congratulations Class of 2022!*

### **Ceremony features all grads together for first time in three years**

The future looks bright for the Gates Chili High School Class of 2022! Gates Chili's commencement ceremony was held in the Gates Chili Field House for the first time ever on June 23. It was also the first time since 2019 that the entire graduating class came together during one ceremony, each carrying the proof of their hard work and perseverance during three years of unprecedented challenges.

Class President Ema Sohail addressed her fellow seniors, as did Class Vice President Vincent Lucyszyn, Valedictorian Spencer Anderson, Salutatorian Emily Huynh, Class Secretary Lisa Pham, Class Treasurer Malena Juif and Class Historian Shea Perry.



"We've all come a long way in four years – and it was not always an easy road. The entire middle chapters of our high school time were like nothing anyone has ever experienced before. But we were strong enough to bend and adapt," said Lucyszyn. "We navigated remote learning. We let go of the disappointment over cancelled school events and trips. We just worked through it all one day at a time. And maybe somewhere in the middle of it all, we discovered a little bit more about who we really are."

"Whether you feel like you know what you're going to do or not, just remember to be true to yourself and never trade your authenticity for approval," advised Sohail.

Huynh echoed that sentiment and said, "Find your family – not only your literal kin, but the people to whom you would give the world. Seek out what you love – not only in work, but in what you do for you. Above all, be kind to yourself."

A recording by members of the Gates Chili Advanced Treble Choir and Concert Choir was played for the graduates and the assembled dignitaries. Gates Chili High School Principal Ken Hammel and Superintendent Christopher Dailey congratulated the students and families on their determination over the course of the past several years.

For a complete list of Class of 2022 graduates, see pages 6-7.



## Letter from the Superintendent



Dear Gates Chili Community,

There's a clarity that comes with the end of the school year. We can look back and remember the obstacles, the successes, the moments of joy that came and went, and the hard work put in by every member of the community to reach greater heights.

Our students, faculty and staff dedicated themselves to compassion, understanding and excellence in a time that has been particularly challenging in the world of education.

We began the year with our eyes on the prize: welcoming our students back to schools that affirmed their value and empowered them to grow and learn. Our staff and faculty re-engaged with the often-difficult process of removing barriers to success for both our students and for themselves, and celebrated every moment of achievement that happened in our classrooms and beyond.

As a district, we faced the need to maximize student growth by responding to not only our students' academic needs, but their social-emotional needs as well. We followed where our students led and acted with compassion and care, to create tutoring programs for our younger students and course recovery for our older students to get them back on track and help keep them there.

We are keeping our eyes on the future, even as we celebrate the changes that come with the end of the school year. Thank you for your partnership and commitment to our students and staff. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and what is yet to come.

Go Spartans!

Christopher J. Dailey  
Superintendent of Schools

 @GatesChiliSuper

## Thank you, voters!

The Gates Chili Central School District 2022- 23 school budget was approved by district residents on May 17 in an 869-403 vote.

In addition to the budget proposition, district residents approved propositions for bus purchases, the establishment of a capital reserve fund for security infrastructure, and the use of capital reserve funds for audiovisual technology equipment. Voters also selected incumbents Michael Bailey, Frank Muscato and Dr. Christine Brown Richards to serve on the Gates Chili Board of Education. They will each serve a three-year term that will end on June 30, 2024. At its re-organizational meeting on July 12, the Board of Education re-elected Jeff Pettenski as president and elected Muscato as vice president.

Thank you to the Gates Chili community for its continued support of students, staff and programs.



Michael Bailey



Dr. Christine  
Brown Richards



Frank Muscato



Jeff Pettenski

## Panthers and Dragons welcome *new principals*

Andraya Cutaia and Dr. Daniel Zdanowski join the Paul Road Panthers and Walt Disney Dragons as new principals, respectively. Cutaia is a Gates Chili alumna who previously worked in Geneva CSD, and Zdanowski comes to Gates Chili from Rush-Henrietta CSD.



Andraya Cutaia



Dr. Daniel Zdanowski



## Clean, green machines: Gates Chili is first district in WNY to launch *electric school buses*

Gates Chili CSD is the first district in upstate New York to add electric school buses to its fleet. The district unveiled two new electric school buses at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 28, signifying a milestone in Gates Chili's sustainability journey.

"Gates Chili is proud to lead the charge on zero-emissions school buses," said Superintendent of Schools Christopher Dailey. "We're adding value for our families and taking steps to address our impact on the environment; both actions that directly reflect the Spartan Way values of respect and responsibility."

The all-electric school buses, which were manufactured by Thomas Built Buses and sold by Matthews Buses, will reduce carbon emissions and save the district money in fuel and maintenance costs. The zero-emissions school buses can go more than 100 miles per charge, and feature LED fixtures both inside and outside the bus. The buses can be charged at one of the district's two new charging stations located at the Gates Chili Transportation and Facilities Center.

The district received an approved voucher from NYSEERDA to reduce the cost of the two zero-emission vehicles. The district first began exploring electric vehicles in the summer of 2020, nearly two years before the



governor's proposed legislation to shift to 100% electric school buses by 2035. The governor has also promised that NYSEERDA will provide technical assistance to school districts as they navigate the transition to 100% electric buses.

"Put simply, electric vehicles give us cleaner streets making our towns a better place to be for pedestrians and cyclists," said Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Mitchell Ball. "This is a meaningful step in creating a healthier world for our students and community."

This May, voters approved the purchase of two additional electric school buses. These school buses will be purchased in place of conventional diesel school buses that would have been replaced on the district's regular bus replacement plan.

## *Quinn awarded* top transportation honors

Bus driver Donald Quinn is the Gates Chili Transportation Employee of the Year. Quinn, pictured here with Director of Transportation Matt Helmbold, has worked for the district for seven years as a driver. He received the award for his upbeat attitude, willingness to pitch in, and dedication to safety.



## Capital Project Update

Event-goers at Spartan Stadium and Gates Chili High School will soon have additional parking spots to choose from! The district is adding a parking lot behind the Administration Building this summer. The lot will feature a total of 151 new parking spots and will be open for use during the fall. This lot is one of the final items remaining in the district's \$68 million capital project approved by voters in 2017.



## 1,000,000+ *meals served!*

June 1 marked the millionth free meal served by Gates Chili school nutrition team members since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020!

With an anticipated return to paid meals for the 2022-23 school year, the district is switching to a new online payment collection system. Effective July 2022, Gates Chili will utilize MySchoolBucks for school meals and other payments. This system will replace MyPaymentsPlus. Families will be able to add funds for school meals to their student's accounts. More details on this switch will be shared with families in August.

Free meals are available this summer. See the back cover for details.

## Armstrong students lead fundraiser for *clean drinking water*

A startling revelation in science class helped to transform Neil Armstrong Elementary School's fifth-grade classes into global citizens this spring, when they helped improve the lives of students halfway around the world.

Carissa Binger, a fifth-grade teacher at Neil Armstrong, said students were shocked to learn during a science unit that less than one percent of the available water in the world is safe to drink. She explained this unit led to conversations about how our community accesses water, and research into how people around the world access and use water.

"We have water we just go over to like our sink, turn it on, but people in Uganda, they have to walk miles and miles just to drink this water that's filled with bacteria and diseases," said fifth-grader Mya W.

Ugandan Water Project is a registered non-profit based in Lima, New York. It raises funds for and installs water catchment and purification systems in communities without consistent access to potable water. When students learned about the non-profit in their own backyard, they jumped into action.

For the fifth-graders and their teachers, this was a call to action. They organized awareness and fundraising campaigns, like a loose-change collection contest and daily announcements to the school. Students organized a fundraiser walk event and doubled their initial goal by raising more than \$3,900 through in-person and online fundraising. The money raised by the students is more than the amount needed to fund a full rainwater collection system for a school in Uganda.



## Fifth-graders *celebrate* the move to middle school

Awards celebrations at all four elementary schools recognized dozens of outstanding students in all areas of academics and co-curriculars. It also honored leadership, character and personal integrity, as well as the commencement of the fifth-graders' years as elementary students. Congratulations to all of the award winners!



## *Panther Palooza* takes over Paul Road!

Paul Road Panthers and their families lined up outside the school doors on a warm June evening to enjoy games, a bounce house, face painting and food trucks at the annual Panther Palooza! This year's event was organized by Paul Road's mental health staff. Teachers, staff and parent volunteers manned the game stations and entertained the over 800 attendees. The event is supported by the Paul Road School Family Association.





## GCMS Spartans see the sights at *Niagara Falls*

Nearly 200 Gates Chili Middle School eighth-graders traveled to Niagara Falls this spring for a day of adventure! Students and staff chaperones visited famed exhibits Cave of the Winds and the Maid of the Mist for an up-close look at the falls before dinner and dancing at a banquet hall. Students participated in PTO-sponsored fundraising opportunities throughout their middle school years to raise money for the trip.

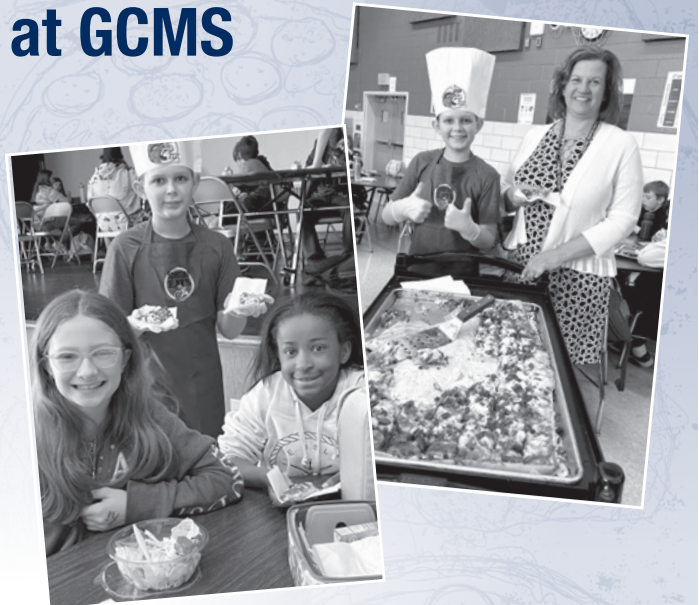


## Dinner and music bridge generations of *Spartans*

Students and community members came together on May 11 for the long-anticipated return of the district's annual senior citizen dinner, Music and Merriment! Gates Chili Middle School students welcomed community members, performed for them, served them a delicious pasta dinner and then even dined alongside them! Thank you to the GCMS Make a Difference Club, Spartan Original Singers and GCMS Jazz Band, and GC staff and volunteers who helped make this event possible.



## Students serve up slices at GCMS



More than 40 GCMS students entered recipes into a bracket-style competition called Pizza Madness this spring. The competition was put on by the GCMS Student Council in partnership with the school nutrition team. The final four made their recipes in the GCMS kitchen and served samples to fellow students, who submitted anonymous ballots ranking the pies. Sixth-grader Matt N. was declared the Pizza Madness winner by his peers. Congrats also to finalists Lola J., Kyliee N. and Mariana H. for their delicious efforts!

# Gates Chili High School

Ilani M. Abril ✍  
 Yeron Acebal Vargas ➤  
 Ilyani L. Agron ✍  
 Trent M. Alam ••  
 Linda Merdelin Allison △  
 Safa A. Almansoob  
 Spencer R. Anderson ▲◆✍➤  
 Paris S. Anthony △  
 Nicholas A. Arendt  
 Salli S. Asad  
 Adrianna M. Astudillo  
 Mackenzie E. Aughenbaugh ▲✍  
 Cyon M. Badger  
 Xander V. Barrett  
 Anaiya M. Barton  
 Katie R. Baug •  
 Kristopher C. Benson  
 Mykia C. Binion  
 Joshua A. Blackmer-Watson ✍  
 Steven R. Bleul Jr.  
 Eric A. Bobzin ✍  
 Mia Bodulovic ▲◆✍  
 Cameron M. Borate  
 Erik Bosnakovski  
 Alejandro J. Boxx ▲✍△  
 Rebecca M. Bready ◆✍  
 Cameron Brown ✍△  
 Harmoni A. Brown △  
 La'Trell Kolyawn Buckingham  
 Jaime G. Bunnell ✍  
 Joshua A. Bunnell  
 Camden E. Burkins  
 Julia Byer  
 Karina M. Cabrera  
 Samantha L. Carey  
 Douglas Carlson Jr.  
 Michael R. Carpenter •  
 Joshua J. Cassevoy  
 Dylan M. Cassidy  
 Juliana N. Centi  
 Logan C. Chapin  
 Armanie M. Charles •  
 Joseph M. Christopher •  
 Laura Rosalie Ciaramaglia

Michael J. Ciarpelli  
 Giuliana C. Cicchetti  
 Paris L. Clanton  
 Amir R. Clark  
 Nathan J. Clark •  
 Alvin C. Clarke  
 Geoffrey J. Cole Jr.  
 Neina O. Coley △  
 Luis A. Collazo  
 Jahlil A. Conde •  
 Ernest A. Conde II ✍  
 Abigail E. Conderman  
 Alicea T. Craft  
 Amya M. Craig  
 Rowan A. Crane  
 Unique R. Crawford  
 Jeremiah I. Cruz  
 Neftali Cruz Jr. ✍  
 Jenzel J. Cruz Matos  
 Stephanie Ellen Dalba ✍  
 Gabriel D'Ambrosia-Wardwell □  
 Legend T. Davis  
 Lydia N. Dawkins-Hall  
 Joseph C. DeFazio  
 Kayla I. DeLeon  
 Lydia E. Diaz  
 Kenneth L. Dixon Jr.  
 Emmalee R. Dooley ✍  
 Richard J. Douglas  
 Aidan J. Dunn •  
 Aleah B. Dupre  
 Terah H. Echols  
 Jania M. Ellis ✍  
 Deniz E. Erol  
 Sophia N. Exley  
 John Felix Jr.  
 Blake K. Fennell ✍  
 Angela M. Fernandez  
 Zachary A. Finucane  
 Matthew Frederick Firnstein ▲◆✍  
 Samuel D. Ford IV  
 Olivia Eve Fornarola ◆\$✍  
 Kyle M. Fox  
 Jayden Franklin

Cameron M. Freier □✍  
 Joshua K. French  
 Ian M. Gaby •  
 Anthony V. Galli  
 Nashalee A. Gamble  
 Damian I. Gamez •  
 Kiela A. Garbanzo  
 Puree Jay B. Gatela ✍  
 Kavina-Lynne M. Georgetti  
 Kaitlyn J. Gibble ▲◆\$  
 Seerat K. Gill ▲◆\$  
 Elizabeth M. Gomez  
 Lee A. Gomez  
 Samirah Suyeil Gonzalez-Ortiz  
 Franchesca N. Graham •  
 Aliya L. Griffin \$  
 Jaimison E. Grimes  
 Ayden C. Grinion  
 Alexandria W. Guiles ▲  
 Daniel T. Haag ▲\$✍➤  
 Ian C. Hahn ◆  
 Jake R. Hamilton ✍  
 Matthew T. Hance ✍  
 Jayda R. Hardy  
 Hannah R. Harper ◆\$✍  
 Dylan M. Harris  
 Nazierra Harris-Young △  
 Meredith J. Hart ▲◆\$✍  
 Eric Hawkins  
 Charles A. Healey ◆✍  
 Pablo K. Hemmerich  
 Aaron D. Henry ▲✍  
 Alan Manuel Henry ✍  
 Janayah D. Henry ✍  
 Janiyah Henry ✍  
 Tessa L. Henry  
 Molly Q. Hong ◆✱  
 Matthew C. Horn  
 Kaitlyn E. Horne ◆➤  
 Chealyn O. Howard ◆✍  
 Mohamed A. Humaid  
 Sean Hurley \$  
 Emily L. Huynh ▲◆✍➤  
 Angelo J. Iannucci

Joey M. Ingram  
 Kyandra O. Jackson  
 Maki M. Jackson  
 Annabelle M. Jeffries \$  
 Kaitlyn F. Johns \$  
 Dezarae R. Jones  
 Aidan P. Jost  
 Malena G. Juif ▲◆✍  
 Melihcan Kazan ✍  
 Olivia M. Keller ▲◆\$✍➤  
 Brenden S. Kitchen  
 Isabella G. Klaver ✍➤  
 Angelina M. Klimbach-Monti  
 Jayda B. Knight ••  
 Paul J. LaDeau ✍  
 Mark Lamphron  
 Kolby R. Landis-Clinton ✍  
 Connor D. Large  
 Gabrielle J. Lavalley ▲◆✍  
 Grace Alexandra LeClair ▲◆\$✍➤  
 Arianna E. Leo ✱  
 Nazar Lesiv ✍  
 Jillian R. Lincoln  
 Vincent Lucyszyn ▲◆✍  
 Ethan L. Ly ✍  
 Fadia I. Maali ✍  
 Carlie M. Maiorani  
 José A. Maldonado ✍  
 Giorden M. Martin ◆✍△  
 Logan J. Martin  
 Janai Angela Mateo  
 Alyicia McCreary  
 Arilyse F. McGuire  
 Aidan J. McKenzie  
 Jada S. McKenzie  
 Zaniyah McKinnon  
 Marshall L. McRae ◆✍△  
 William T. Means Jr.  
 De'marion J. Mewborn  
 Raelynn Hope Meyer  
 Kyle T. Millan  
 Hason R. Miller  
 Emily J. Milligan  
 Austin J. Mockbee ✍

# Class of 2022



Basheer Mohamed Monassar  
Lydia M. Moore  
Josiah A. Mora  
Antonio C. Morales  
Marleah A. Morrison ✎  
Nicholas J. Muraco ➤  
Mitchell L. Murphy  
Nicholas T. Murray ✎  
Nickolas J. Natalie  
Samara C. Natalie ▲ ✎  
Julian L. Negrón  
Jacob J. Newman  
Thien H. Nguyen ✎  
Ashley A. O'Hara ✎  
Megan A. Olander ♦  
John A. Oldfield ✎  
E'Quan J. Oliver  
Daniel L. Pantojas  
Deion W. Parker •  
Ayana N. Parris △  
Jamie Pass △  
Shea E. Perry ▲ ♦ § ➤  
Lisa V. Pham ▲ ✎  
Matthew A. Pope •  
Hailey Eva Pragle-Jankovics  
Paul J. Preston  
Jackline J. Pulickal  
Hristijan Radulovski  
Tamajah L. Raggs  
Omayra Liz Ramirez Morales ✎  
Justin E. Reese  
KeyShawn D. Reese •

Adam J. Reifsteck ✎  
Joshua A. Reis  
Patrick M. Renna Jr. ✎  
Gabriel P. Reyes  
David C. Rich Jr.  
Jayden Ridgeway  
Julianna F. Rivera ✎  
Ari M. Rivers ▲ ✎  
Kalib S. Robbins •  
Faith T. Robinson  
Hope D. Robinson  
Gabriel A. Rodríguez González  
David A. Rodriguez Jr. • •  
Heath S. Rogalski  
Jacob R. Rogers  
Ariel B. Romano  
Nazya D. Roper  
Jabez O. Rosario  
Jaedon G. Rossy  
Hannah L. Rowland •  
Kaliyah E. Rozier  
James J. Ruling  
CJ Ryan ▲  
Robin L. Ryan  
Nathan M. Ryder  
Kataba A. Saeed  
Salim A. Saeed  
Joshua N. Said  
Akram S. Saleh  
Jade A. Salmon ✎  
Katrina G. Sampson  
Andre A. Santiago

Ryan A. Santiago  
Antonio C. Scarantino  
Elizabeth G. Schlander  
Jon R. Seadeek  
Tyler Richard Seklar  
Adam S. Semmane  
Sairus U. Seng ▲ ♦ ✎ ➤  
Sammuel B. Seymour Jr. ✎  
Kasm S. Shaibi ✎  
Alyssa R. Silco  
Elliott A. Simpson  
Jesse J. Siragusa  
Trey'veon Smith ✎  
Kaden J. Sofia  
Emaan Sohail ▲ ♦ ✎ △ ➤  
KorieMae M. Spirito  
Analiss J. Sprague  
Tristen R. Steinmetz  
Richard T. Stevenson ✎  
Sierra L. Stonehouse ♦  
Raymond R. Stubbings IV  
Kaley L. Sumeriski ▲ ♦ § ✎  
Leo S. Sunday  
Shiana E. Susa ♦ ✎  
Loryn C. Sutliff  
Nicholas C. Taccone  
Lenique Britney Taylor △  
Mike P. Thammavong ✎  
Genesis K. Thomas  
Mariah Aaliyah Travis ♦  
Kayborn R. Trotter  
Izabella R. Tuckett

Semhar W. Tula  
Ty'Mere D. Turner  
Abigail F. Unson ♦ ✎  
Chanthanong D. Vasavong  
Gianna Visconti  
Morgan E. Vogler  
Alyssa L. Vukosic ▲ ♦ ✎ ➤  
Amarie R. Walker ▲ ✎ △  
Alyssa D. Walter  
Jordan T. Warren □ ✎  
Nathan T. Weise  
Colleen M. Wells ✎  
Anthony A. White  
Jeremiah J. Whitty △  
Brandon M. Williams  
Hezekiah I. Wilson  
Leah M. Wolfe  
Christina D. Wolkonowski ♦  
Adrianna R. Wood  
Joshua S. Wood ✎  
Olivia Wood  
Austin P. Wright  
Karis R. Wynings ▲ ✎ ➤  
Madison J. Xomvimane  
Ashley S. Yackel § ✎  
Jacob P. Yakowitz  
Samantha K. Zugnoni ✎

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

- August 2021 Graduate
- January 2022 Graduate
- ✎ Award Recipient
- △ Urban League Black Scholar
- New York State Seal of Biliteracy



## NJHS inductees *honored*

The Gates Chili Middle School National Junior Honor Society added 20 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 and must demonstrate excellent academics, have excellent character, be connected in their community through service and be seen as a leader in school and in their community.



## GCMS Spartans light the way for a *brighter future*

The values of the Spartan Way were on full display this spring as two Gates Chili Middle School students were recognized by Monroe County leaders and legislators. Eighth-graders Marley N. and Dia'Manti B. were both given the Monroe County "Young Citizen of the Year" award in June. In order to be considered, the potential recipients must, "Demonstrate through service and actions, values that reflect the full meaning of a free and democratic society...demonstrate a commitment to public service...[and] set an example to peers."



"Marley is always going out of her way to be a friend to someone in need, be partners with someone who cannot find a partner, and be an upstander for others," said Gates Chili Middle School teacher Rachel Leonard. "Dia'Manti is a true leader, and his peers look up to him for guidance. Dia'Manti uses his leadership to help others and is always doing the right thing."

Congratulations to these outstanding young Spartans!

## *Congratulations*

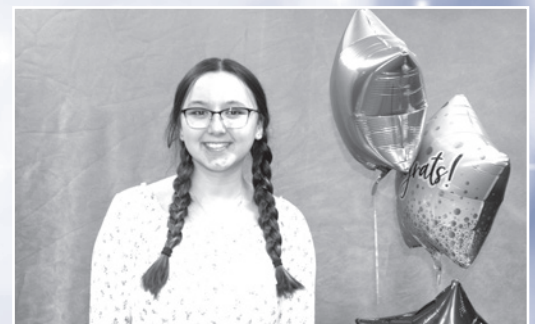
### 'Make All The Difference' recipients

Members of the Gates Chili Class of 2022 Joshua Cassevoy, Ayden Grinion, Molly Hong were recognized by Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES this spring, for their achievements in career and technical education. The three GCHS and BOCES 2 career and technical education students were celebrated at the "Make All The Difference" Scholarship Reception this spring, hosted by the Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation Board.

Hong (Nurse Assisting and Associated Health Careers) and Grinion (Exercise Science) were awarded \$5,000 each and Cassevoy (Residential and Commercial Electric) was awarded \$500 in scholarship funds for continuing education or career training. The scholarships for Hong and Grinion were co-sponsored by Campus Construction. Congratulations, Spartans!



Ayden Grinion



Molly Hong



## GCHS students designated *Black Scholars*

Gates Chili Central School District is proud to congratulate 16 members of the Class of 2022 for their designation as Urban League of Rochester Black Scholars™.

For more than four decades, the Black Scholars program has provided academic recognition, college readiness assistance, and scholarship incentives. The Urban League of Rochester's programming and services are designed to ensure youth and their families are empowered with opportunities to thrive, excel and facilitate a culture of self-sufficiency, breaking the cycle of poverty and building wealth for generations.

Linda Allison  
Paris Anthony  
Alejandro Boxx  
Cameron Brown  
Harmoni Brown

Neina Coley  
Naziera Harris-Young  
Giorden Martin  
Marshall McRae  
Ayana Parris

Jamie Pass  
Emaan Sohail  
Lenique Taylor  
Amarie Walker  
Jeremiah Whitty



## 'Outstanding Senior' honored at annual dinner

GCHS Senior Vincent Lucyszyn has been named Gates Chili's "Outstanding Senior" for 2022.

Lucyszyn and other seniors from across Monroe County were celebrated at the 27th Annual Dr. Michael C. O'Laughlin

Outstanding Senior Recognition Dinner in May. The Monroe County Council of School Superintendents (MCCOSS) honors graduating seniors who demonstrate extraordinary leadership, service and academics.



## *Bilingual students* earn NYS endorsement

Fourteen members of the Gates Chili High School Class of 2022 have earned the NYS Seal of Biliteracy on their graduation diplomas. This prestigious designation means that students have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English.

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).



### Spanish

Yeron Acebal-Vargas  
Daniel Haag  
Kaitlyn Horne  
Isabella Klaver  
Nick Muraco  
Alyssa Vukosic

### French

Emily Huynh  
Grace LeClair  
Shea Perry  
Sairus Seng  
Karis Wynings

### Latin

Spencer Anderson  
Olivia Keller  
Emaan Sohail

# Girls Track and Field crowned Section V Champs

For the first time in nearly 30 years, the Gates Chili Girls Track and Field team brought home a Section V Championship! Their score of 135 points was 56 points more than their second-place competition in the May 28 contest.

Individual sectional champions include Savana H. in the discus throw, Abby U. in shot put, Kyra P. in the steeplechase, Rebecca B. in the pole vault, and Amarie W., Nazya R., Janiah S., and Jade S. in the 4x1 relay.

Additional Top 6 finishers include: Heidi T., took second place in the pole vault; Shiana S., took third place in 400 hurdles; Lauren R., second place in 100 hurdles; Janiyah H., second place in shot put; and Ashley O., third place in the pentathlon; Janayah H., fifth place in the 100 hurdles; Jade S., second place in high jump; Kyra P., third place in the 1500m and 3000m; and Nazya R., second place in the long jump.



## Fifth-grade students take on annual track meet

The fifth-grade classes at all four Gates Chili elementary schools came together in early June for the 2022 Sam Utter Fifth-Grade Track and Field Meet. Students competed and cheered on their peers in multiple events during the annual meet at Gates Chili High School.



## BUILDING A CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE *Spartan spirit shows in volunteerism*



Anyone who has attended a Gates Chili varsity football or basketball game over the past few years, has likely had a chance to meet Jon Strong. At

any given athletic contest, you can find Strong running the concession stand, cheering on the athletes, chatting with community members and parents while the Spartans go for the win.

"I enjoy giving back to the community, to the school, to the kids," Strong said.

Strong's volunteerism goes far beyond the "boots on the ground" work he contributes to athletic contests. As co-president of the Gates Chili Sports Booster Club, Strong has helped many Gates Chili students get a head start on college careers.

"The Booster Club's support is really exemplified by its annual senior scholarships. It gives out multiple thousand-dollar scholarships to student-athletes each year. It's such a key investment in our students," said Dr. Patrick Irving, director of physical education, health and athletics.

Strong's son and daughter are both Gates Chili graduates. When his son took up basketball at an early age, Strong was all in. He's the man behind the Gates Chili Jr. Spartans team, through which young athletes build a strong foundation of hoop skills. Players as young as third grade and as old as ninth grade participate in the junior team. Many of Strong's former players have gone on to play basketball throughout their high school careers.

"We work on good sportsmanship...if I can give back, Gates Chili can benefit down the road," said Strong.

When he's not co-managing the Booster club, running the Jr. Spartans basketball program or doling out treats in the concession stand, you can find Strong at his day job - the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. A deputy for more than two decades, Strong's career in public service goes hand-in-hand with his volunteerism at Gates Chili, giving him a chance to work with the community when he isn't wearing his uniform.

"The ability to give back to the school, to the community, to form friendships with parents, to meet new people... it's nice to feel like I have value to the community beyond my job."



## GC PRIDE Award

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



### April recipient:

*Sharon Kretchmer, GCMS school nutrition worker*



### May recipients:

*Brandon W., GCHS student; Carol Wilbur, Disney teacher; Bridgette Remillard, Paul Road teacher; and Kathy Steblen, Delphi Rise Partner*



### June recipients:

*LaVarr F., GCHS student; Colin Cedeno, GCHS alumnus; Jalen Taylor, GCHS alumnus; Gabriel Brett, GCHS alumnus; Nick Capostagno, GCHS alumnus; and Evan Balasubramaniam, GCHS alumnus (not pictured)*

## Honoring GC retirees

Gates Chili honored its Retiree Class of 2022 during a districtwide staff meeting on June 27. Collectively, the group represents more than 560 years of service to the Gates Chili school community!

Congratulations to this year's retirees: Chuck Acciaio, John Amico, Theresa Banfield, Charlene Beale, Michael Borrino, Elaine Damelio, Jennie Emiliano, Carol Farrell, Lisa Forrest, Deborah Harrison, Peter Hens, Margaret Hollfelder, Olga Kiriakidis, Frank Mahns, Lisa McGary, Rose Meyer-Love, Donald Pelino, Deb Pendino, Bess Pernot, Charles Phelan, Cathy Phillips, Raymond Pietrosanto, Lisa Rich, Donna Smith, Penny Smith, John Sodeman, Susan Swift and John Unson.



## Musical theater returns to GCHS

Student performers brought musical theater back to Gates Chili High School this spring in a one-act production of "Freaky Friday"!

The show was performed for family and friends in the newly-constructed Gates Chili Performing Arts Center. Gates Chili Musical Theatre will resume public performances next school year.





## GATES CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Rochester, New York 14624  
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# FREE meals for the summer

The Gates Chili Central School District is proud to continue its nearly decade-long partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to serve free meals to anyone 18 and younger in the summer months!



#### Drive-up meals available from July 5 to Aug. 12

11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
Gates Chili Middle School  
Paul Road Elementary School

*\*breakfast is provided for the next day during lunch pick-up*

#### Meals for kids are also available each week day at the following locations:

11 a.m. Lions Park  
11:30 a.m. Memorial Park  
12 p.m. Westgate Park

Menus for all locations will be posted on the Gates Chili website at [gateschili.org/SchoolNutrition](http://gateschili.org/SchoolNutrition).

## More access to fresh fruit and veggies!

Gates Chili is proud to host the Foodlink Curbside Market on Thursdays this summer! The mobile market makes it easier to shop for healthy choices for you and your family.

Every Thursday until September

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Gates Chili High School

1 Spartan Way, in the bus loop

The market is open to all and accepts a variety of payment methods including cash and debit cards. Don't forget to bring a grocery bag!



## Stay Connected!



@GatesChiliInfo #GCPrize #GCCares