



GATES CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Graduation Newsletter 2024

Congratulations Class of 2024!

The Gates Chili Class of 2024 is ready to seize the future! They crossed the stage and turned their tassels to the cheers and applause of their families, friends and supporters who packed the Spartan Field House for the high school's commencement ceremony on June 21.

Class President Alyssa Kilner addressed her fellow graduating seniors, as did Class Vice President Tyla Jackson, Valedictorian Michael Ringelberg, Salutatorian and Class Secretary Bronwyn Lucyszyn, Class Treasurer Lily Sweeney and Class Historian Brienna Bigelow.

At the podium, Jackson encouraged her classmates to embrace both success and struggle as they navigate the next chapter of their lives.

"I think we have all made a profound discovery over the last four years: Life is hard," she said. "Every misstep, every setback, has taught us a valuable

lesson that cannot be found in any textbook. When we try, yet fail, we still grow. Wherever each of us goes, we will face obstacles. What matters most is our willingness to stand up in the face of defeat, brush ourselves off and carry on. Our ability to persevere is what will illuminate our lives."

Lucyszyn emphasized the importance of cultivating joy.

"Find those moments of joy and happiness and lean into them," she advised. "There are so many paths you can take in this world, and I sincerely hope that you will find space to create joy in your own lives, for you are the only person who has the power to do so."

The ceremony also included a performance combined of the Advanced Treble and Concert choirs as well as congratulatory remarks by Principal Thomas Hammel and Superintendent Christopher Dailey,

who praised the graduates for their perseverance and growth and encouraged them to pause and appreciate the moments that matter.

For a complete list of Class of 2024 graduates, see pages 6-7.



Together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners.

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Gates Chili School Community,

As we conclude another remarkable school year in Gates Chili, I want to express my sincere appreciation to every member of our incredible Spartan family. This includes our outstanding students, involved parents and guardians, dedicated staff members, and committed community members who all play a vital role in supporting students in Gates Chili.

Gates Chili is a unique place to work, live and grow, and it's the people here who make our community and school district such a wonderful place to call home. Thank you for continuously coming together around our shared mission of teaching and inspiring excellence.

This year, we celebrated numerous successes across various areas, some of which are highlighted in the pages of this newsletter. From academic achievements to

accomplishments in arts and athletics, to various upgrades to the operation of our district, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing partnership.

I hope you all enjoy a fantastic summer and time with your loved ones. Thank you for making Gates Chili a great place to learn, work and grow!

Go Spartans!



Christopher J. Dailey
Superintendent of Schools



@GatesChiliSuper

Thank you, GC voters!

At this year's annual budget vote on May 21, district residents voted to approve the proposed budget for the 2024-25 school year in a 457-211 vote. In addition to the budget proposition, district residents also approved propositions for bus purchases and an additional 10% in state aid towards the district's fully funded energy performance improvement project. Thank you to the Gates Chili CSD community for its continued support of students, staff and programs.



Voters elect four BOE members

On May 21, Gates Chili residents also elected four board of education members. Incumbents Kerri Keyes, Nicole Littlewood and Robert Long will each serve a three-year term that will end on June 30, 2027, and Tanya Srbinovski will serve a one-year term ending on June 30, 2025. Before breaking for summer recess, high school seniors voted to elect Lucas Gabel as the student representative to the board of education for the upcoming school year. At the board's annual re-organizational meeting on July 9, members voted to re-elect Catherine Coffee and Dr. Christine Brown Richards as board president and vice president, respectively.



Kerri Keyes



Nicole Littlewood



Robert Long



Tanya Srbinovski



Lucas Gabel

Capital Project Update

Crews have officially broken ground on work at Gates Chili Middle School as construction continues on the district's current capital project.

Students, families, staff, administrators and board members gathered for a ceremonial groundbreaking on June 18, paving the way for the renovation of music, technology, art and health classrooms.



Meanwhile, work continues at Gates Chili High School, with the construction of new Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) and technology classrooms. Crews are also working on adding restrooms near the Gates Chili Professional Learning Center (GCPLC), relocating district office staff to

the high school and priority building conditions work.

Phase two of the project is still awaiting approval at the New York State Education Department (NYSED). That phase 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.

Voters approved this no-tax-impact capital project in February 2022. The entire project is expected to be completed in 2026. For updates on this capital project, visit gateschili.org/CapitalProject.



More electric school buses on the way!



Gates Chili is set to make history again this year when it becomes the first district in the state to purchase an electric school bus (ESB) with a wheelchair lift.

This spring, Gates Chili voters approved the purchase of ten additional electric school buses (ESBs), as part of the district's regular bus replacement plan. The purchase of these additional buses comes after Gates Chili was approved to receive additional incentives, essentially making the cost of the buses net zero.

"The availability of clean funding initiatives makes it possible for the district to commit to lessening its carbon footprint," said Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Mitchell Ball. "What's more is these types of sustainable practices benefit more than just our students, but our entire community, too."

The district's current five ESBs have been on the road every day to and from school. In addition to providing a much quieter ride for drivers and students, the buses have a range of more than 100 miles when fully charged, which works well for the majority of the district's bus routes. In 2022, Gates Chili became the first district locally and across upstate NY to add electric school buses to its fleet.

Share your input on the Foundation Aid formula for state education funding!

The Rockefeller Institute of Government is conducting a study to assess the State's Foundation Aid education funding formula and discuss potential changes to how the formula works. Students, families, teachers, school staff and administrators can provide feedback and input on the Foundation Aid formula in two ways:



- Submit written comments on the Rockefeller Institute website.
- Register to speak at one of five (5) public hearings happening this July and August in New York City, Buffalo, Farmingdale, Laurens and Guilderland.

For more information on the Foundation Aid formula, the study, how you can provide written feedback, and the upcoming public hearings, please visit gateschili.org/FoundationAid.

Streamlined school-to-home communication is on the horizon!

Gates Chili is just weeks away from launching a new platform to improve communication with families. Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, the district is using ParentSquare for all K-12 school-to-home communication.

ParentSquare is a powerful and user-friendly communication platform where families will be able to keep track of news, activities and events from all their students' schools in one place. With ParentSquare's mobile app and web-based platform, Gates Chili families will be able to choose how and how often they receive information from the district.

"This change is the direct result of family input, which has been essential in shaping our efforts to improve communication," said Superintendent Christopher Dailey. "It removes barriers to engagement between school and home and helps empower everyone within the school community to stay connected and informed."



Here's what families can do with ParentSquare:

- Receive messages from the school via email, text message or app notification
- Choose to receive information as it comes or all at once with a daily digest at 6 p.m.
- Send direct messages to teachers and school staff with real-time language translation
- Sign up for conferences or other events
- Receive report cards and other important secure documents
- and more!

The move to ParentSquare also eliminates the need for multiple platforms for communication with families.

"By moving all school-to-home communication under one umbrella, we are streamlining the experience for both families and staff and ensuring that families have access to information in a way that meets their needs," continued Iva Petrosino, the district's director of communications.

The district is planning several in-person and virtual opportunities for families to learn about ParentSquare and how to use it.

Look out for more information beginning on Aug. 1!

ATTENTION FAMILIES:

Want to make sure you are getting important messages? All you have to do is keep your contact information up to date!

Go to gateschili.org/UpdateContact to update your family's phone numbers and email addresses in the SchoolTool Parent Portal.



PSQ Ambassadors pave the way

Since the announcement of the move to ParentSquare earlier this year, staff have been working behind the scenes to prepare the platform and provide the necessary training to others. As part of that process, nearly 50 district staff members volunteered to serve as ParentSquare Ambassadors, participating in important focus group interviews about communication practices and being among the first to test the new platform.

Similarly, this spring and summer, the district piloted the platform with several smaller groups of families, including families of incoming kindergarten students, summer learning program families and football families. The district also hosted a ParentSquare Family Ambassador session on July 10 aimed at partnering with members of district committees to promote ParentSquare to all families this fall.

Thank you to all those who served as ambassadors this spring and summer!



Armstrong Staff

Carissa Binger
Heather Boss
William Brown
Kimberly Burgholzer
Melissa Flow
Katrina Keefe
Jennifer Kulikowski
Lisa Secor

Brasser Staff

Amber Ake
Darci Antinelli
Sharon Benedett

Paul Road Staff

Gianna Paniccia
Kelsey Quinlan
Olivia Swizdor
Nicole Toms

Disney Staff

Sandy Austin
Nancy DiPonzio
Amy General
Kayleen Halpin
Lauren Henderberg
Sara Ray Meza
Laurie Miller
Paige Pasquarella
Sarah Powers
Kathryn Reinhardt
Ashley Sanza
Chris Scarpulla
Danielle Shirley
Kara Snyder
Kennedi Wittenrich
Madalyn Zulauf

District Office Staff

Lindsay DiMartino
Keighlin Forman
High School Staff
Chris Amesbury
Sarah Cedeno
Tracy Gonzalez
Danielle LaJuett
Kari Hall
Leigh Kamola
Stacy Killings
Katie Manges
Kate Marinucci
Nancy Trulli

Middle School Staff

Kyle Baker
Lisa Dorofy
Lisa Taylor-Velez
Amanda Whitford
Robin Williamson

Family Ambassadors

Jessica Amory
Katie Banta
Erin Brewer
Michelle Cammarata
Tina Carney
Kelly Conlon
Erinn Culhane
Katie Davis
Mark DeGray
Doreen DeGray
Jennifer Dixon
Timna Frank-Spock
Craig Henderberg
Eric LaMendola
Melissa LaMendola
Heather Lange
Robert Long
Andrea Minchella
Amanda Miner
Angela Stout
Anna Stukes
Marenda Thornton-Lawhorn
Meagan Todd
Kerry Webster
Jamia Williams
Cheryl Wright



Gates Chili High School

Bennett C. Aaronson
 Sawsan M. Abdeldayem ✧
 Halima A. Abdulla ••
 Jaydine L. Acevedo
 Nicholas K. Adams ✧
 Alyse D. Ahlstrom ♦
 Michelena R. Aiosa ▲♦♦✧
 Margaret A. Amesbury ▲♦♦✧
 Kayla S. Anthony ✧
 Layla Imani Avent △
 Keniah C. Baker
 Ryan T. Banach ✧
 Brianna J. Bansbach ➤
 Christian J. Barker
 Madeline E. Basset ✧
 Carla L. Baumgartner ~
 Antonio S. Benjamin
 Asjianna R. Bennett ▲△
 Brienna M. Bigelow ✧
 Coby F. Blue ✧
 Ariyanna A. Boccacci
 McKenna B. Bosley
 Trevan J. Brock
 Tyrone J. Brock, Jr. △
 Samuel L. Brown ✧
 Joslin I. Bruinix
 Kani N. Buckingham
 Hoang Trung S. Bui ➤
 Gabriella E. Bunce
 Haden T. Burkins
 Nevaeh S. Butler
 Brennan W. Camp
 Olivia K. Camp
 Garrett J. Carlin
 Jan M. Carmona-Rivera
 Jacob H. Cassevoy

Quentin H. Cato ✧
 Zaire A. Cave
 Michelle W. Chen ✧
 Iyahna Rodriguez Christman
 Jacob A. Ciaramaglia
 Samantha Marie Cipolla ✧
 Braulio R. Clark
 Elijah T. Clark •
 Leon E. Clark •
 Joseph R. Colabufo ▲♦♦✧
 Ella G. Coleman ✧
 Tyler K. Coleman
 Laila O. Coley
 Kaitlin J. Collins ✧
 Emiliano T. Colon, Jr.
 Evan R. Conderman
 Johnathan M. Conte
 Patrick A. Conti ➤
 Leticia Costa Silva
 Angel N. Costanza
 J-Ovani A. Cruz
 Sergio George Cuevas ✧
 Owen M. Curley
 Hannah L. Curran
 Adriana L. D'Agostino ▲♦♦✧
 Addison P. Davis ✧
 Breanna Princess Dawkins
 Timothy J. DeCoursey ✧
 Aniya Q. Delice ✧
 Peter Dellefave III
 Aubrey E. Diaz
 Denaliz Diaz
 Trevor M. Dibley
 Antonio R. DiMartino-Colon
 Aniya T. Dorsey
 Shaylynn R. Drechsler

Gia Lynn Dumbleton
 Kevaughnie N. Ellis
 Tyler J. Ellis •
 Ariam Espinosa de Zayas
 Emily R. Esten
 Jack M. Everts
 Cole J. Falk ▲♦✧
 Destiny T. Felton
 Adriana G. Ferrara ▲♦✧
 Alexa G. Ferrara ▲♦✧
 Rayshawn M. Ferrer
 Laila Marie Figgins
 Jeffrey R. Fisher ✧
 Jalun R. Fitzhugh □△
 Anajah Z. Flowers ✧
 Taylor Alice Forte
 Michael J. Franco
 Michael K. Frank
 Warren Michael Fuhry ♦
 Samantha C. Fury
 Joseph B. Garcia ♦✧
 Jackson Gard
 Bridget C. Gardner ▲♦♦✧
 Ethan M. Gardner
 Cameron Josiah Gause ✧
 Alyssa J. Goforth
 Arianna Marie Grandberry
 Shinea Elizabeth Gray ▲♦✧△
 Alannah J. Griner ♦△
 Cooper R. Groenendaal
 Sebastian A. Guerrero Pena ✧
 Annabelle L. Guiles
 Adam J. Hamlin
 Trelani N. Harper △
 Savana Christina Henry ▲♦✧
 Jhani Samor Higgins ✧

Chaclynne A. Hill-Lee ✧△
 Jordan J. Hoock ✧
 Jazzmir Racine DaShawn Huntley
 Marissa A. Hura ✧
 Morgan N. Hyde △
 Victoria A. Iannucci
 Alexander J. Infantino
 Trence L. Irons, Jr.
 Tyla K. Jackson ▲♦♦✧
 Samantha A. Johns ▲♦✧
 DarQuinn D. Johnson
 Kylie M. Johnson
 Adriel T. Jones △
 Anthony T. Kaplar ✧
 Lily M. Kasperkoski ✧
 Bee Orion Katsampes
 Leah I. Kerns ▲△
 Alyssa M. Kilner ▲♦♦✧
 John King
 Vojtech V. Kinney
 John N. Kiriakidis •
 George H. Kirk ♦♦✧
 Katrina D. Kirkpatrick
 Victoria F. Klaver ➤
 Mackenzie A. Knapp ▲♦♦✧
 Tyler J. Kozlowski
 Connor Thien La ✧
 Myah Jade LaBarr ➤
 Nevaeh S. Lane
 Adam D. Langill
 Olivia A. LaPietra
 Madalynn I. LeClair ✧
 Trevius K. Lewis
 Jerry Lin
 Ethan D. List ▲♦♦✧
 Leana N. Lloyd



Class of 2024



Brandon Jamer Long, Jr.	Nazalia Lis Olavarria	Antonio M. Rosa	Mikayla R. Toscano ♦f
Bronwyn M. Lucyszyn ▲♦>f\$	Jasmine Jennavie O'Neill	Kamora A. Royster	Catherine M. Tran ▲♦>f
Peter Paul Lugo >	Finn N. Owen	Karina Rozhevenko ♦	Jennifer T. Tran •
Jaden Mach	Joshua J. Owen	Bryan Ruiz	Kailey V. Tran ▲♦f
Krystopher J. Maldonado-Barbosa	Nathaniel A. Palermo	Elizabeth Marian Runion ▲♦>\$	Yohanna Urbabae Hiche
Aditya J. Manandhar f	Khagendra Adeep Panday	Ghasaq A. Sabah	Maya M. Uruburu
Olivia A. Marzovilla f\$	Selena M. Paredes	Alshureek A. Saeed	Jonathan M. Vance ♦
Megan N. Maslowski ♦>f	Tajalynn V. Parker •	Fatima A. Saleh >	Tyanna Emani Villanueva
Michael I. Mauri, Jr.	Ashja Ulysees Parris	Aric R. Schosek	Dylan R. Wanzenried ▲♦f
Cristian McField	Benjamin N. Paulus	Alexis M. Schuler	Ella K. Wanzenried f
Donavin J. McGrain	Gabriela Gisselle Paz-Galiano >	Justin R. Sears	Evan R. Warren
Chloe Bri'el McLamore f	Nathan M. Penny	Jacob M. Seklar	De'vonne L. Warren II
Lily A. McMenemy >	Gavin P. Peri	Dylan T. Servis	Amiya Y. Watkins
Savion Isaac Meeks ♦f△	Samantha T. Petroff	Mohamed A. Shaibi	Faith E. Waver
Sean R. Michel •	Madison Grace Pfeifer ♦	Brendan C. Shaw	Faith Elizabeth Marie Weaver f
Miranda K. Milburn	Nhi Nguyen Phuong Pham	Rita Sisouphone	Nicole R. White ♦
Jahlier Malachy Miller	Thomas Joseph G. Phelan *	Evan L. Smith	Makhi A. Whitfield
Jhinnelle B. Mills	DeAndre L. Phelps *	Bryanna Rose Smith-Dillio ▲♦△	India C. Williams f△
Mariah N. Mims ♦△	Danielle R. Pickering	Aiden R. Soukhanouvong	John L. Williams
Ibrahim S. Mohsen	Chloe Ann Pimm	Desiree L. Sprague	Miracle R. Williams ••
Ayah Mohamed Monassar f	Maddison E. Porcelli f△	Liam J. St. Denny	Samantha Madelyn Williams
Basheer A. Monassar f	Savana R. Potter	Savanna Madeline St. John	Zahara M. Williams f△
Rene H. Montes III	Emma R. Pratt	Rebecca Lyn Stagnitto	Josselyn O. Williamson
Leah A. Montulli ▲♦f\$	Maxwell R. Pritchard	Dominic J. Steiner	Queymonie U. Wilson
Myonnie Denise Moore	Maria M. Prusak ~	Sherome S. Stephens	Waquill H. Wynn
Angelo J. Morales	Nikkel E. Pryce f△	Jaida R. Stevens	Winston T. Young III
Tristan X. Morales	Vitalii Pshenychniak	Riley K. Stevens	Mohammad F. Mohamed Yunus
Mohieldeen B. Munassar >	Jeremiah I. Pugh	Trisha E. Stubbings	
Isaac Munda Mulume •	Nicole E. Quintana ♦>f\$	Brian R. Surprenant, Jr.	
Daniel J. Myers	Jutaia L. Ragland △	Dylan R. Sweeney	
Nassor T. Myers △	Arish Rai	Lily G. Sweeney ▲♦>	
Shaquel Zamira Neely	India Kiara Rainey	Jeremy A. Tantalo f	
Briana J. Nephew	Benjamin M. Rappazzo	Mercedes Taylor	
Brennan Michael Nero	Keira E. Renna	Makayla J. Thompson △	
Alex T. Nguyen ▲♦>\$	Michael E. Ringelberg ▲♦>f\$	Xavier M. Thompson f	
Linda Nguyen ▲♦>	Makayla R. Ringelstein	Bounyaveth C. Thongsirimonghoun, Jr.	
Rhyan Elizabeth Murray Nolan ▲♦>f	Christian M. Rivera	Steven Michael Thorne III	
Amber M. O'Brien	Brianna Rivero \$	Devon C. Timmerman	
Logan R. O'Connor	Janelle R. Rivers	Elijah J. Torres	
Kenenne Klara Okafor ▲♦f△	Xavien Anthony Rogers	Richard J. Torres, Jr.	



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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ▲ Academic Varsity Letter | f Seal of Civic Readiness |
| ~ Foreign Exchange Student | \$ Tri-M National Music Honor Society |
| □ National Business Honor Society | △ Urban League Black Scholar |
| ♦ National Honor Society | • August 2023 Graduate |
| * National Technical Honor Society | •• January 2024 Graduate |
| > Seal of Biliteracy Candidates | Award Recipient |

Fifth-graders commemorate the end of elementary school

Armstrong Stars, Brasser Bears, Disney Dragons, and Paul Road Panthers celebrated the end of their elementary school careers during four individual moving-up ceremonies this June. The ceremonies, held in the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center (GCPAC), commemorated the end of elementary school and celebrated their move up to middle school next year. Along with receiving moving-up certificates, many students received awards in academics and co-curriculars, and were highlighted for their strong character and skills. Congratulations to these spectacular students!



Dragons abuzz with debut of original musical *'Bee the Change'*

Second-graders at Walt Disney Elementary School created quite a buzz with their debut performance of "Bee the Change." Going beyond just songs and choreography, this musical was written to align with ELA and science standards as a creative and engaging way for students to learn. For three months, students were hard at work on the show's production through creation of props and the set, making a playbill, and helping create the script.

The original musical features six original songs: "Just a Bee," "Parts of a Bee," "Yummy Honey," "Pollination Rap," "Danger," and "Bee the Change." All the songs were produced, written and copyrighted by second-grade teacher Kara Snyder and her husband Sam Snyder.

In her opening speech before the show, Snyder shared a proud anecdote with the audience of a student who remarked during production, "Mrs. Snyder, I think this is about more than just bees."

While the production helped integrate ELA, science, music, and art lessons for the students, it also taught them important lessons about caring for the environment and being positive forces in their communities.



Eighth-graders chase waterfalls at *Niagara Falls*

To celebrate the end of middle school, Gates Chili eighth-graders embarked on a day trip to Niagara Falls on June 7.

Students and staff chaperones traveled via charter buses to arrive at the popular tourist destination. Their first stop was at the famed Cave of Winds, followed by a ride on the Maid of the Mist to get a close-up of the raging falls. Students then enjoyed lunch at Niagara State Park and departed for Niagara Power Vista afterward. The trip ended with dinner and music at Banchetti by Rizzo's Banquet Center, where students and staff got to enjoy a meal and dance the night away.



Making waves with synchronized swimming

The Gates Chili Synchronized Swim team helped prepare the community for summer with their two-night performance of "Swimming into Summer." The shows featured various performances choreographed by students, set to the tunes of beloved summer-themed songs. The group, made up of middle school and high school students, dazzled and entertained the audience with fun props and their artistic moves in the water.



2024 graduates are first to earn *Seal of Civic Readiness*

Spartans are leaving Gates Chili High School prepared to take on their civic duties.

Forty-seven members of the Class of 2024 graduated with the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness on their diplomas. The distinction recognizes students who have achieved a high level of civic knowledge, skills and experience. This is the first year that the high school has awarded the endorsement.

To qualify for the Seal of Civic Readiness, students must complete all

requirements for a New York State local or Regents diploma and earn a total of six points by taking social studies and civics courses, achieving mastery and proficiency level on social studies Regents, completing research, service-learning and capstone projects, and/or volunteering. The Spartans who earned their seal this year also completed more than 1,500 volunteer hours.

"The students did research and took action on issues like homelessness, educational equity, redlining and gun violence," said Director of Secondary Education Katie Coon. "Listening to

their presentations, learning about their accomplishments and reflecting on the citizens that we are sending off was truly the highlight of our year."

Students can also earn points towards the seal in middle school by completing a capstone project and civics courses. Gates Chili Middle School students who take the school's new civics elective course will enter high school with one point already earned. To read more about the middle school civics elective, see the budget issue of this newsletter at gateschili.org/Newsletter.



Fluency rewarded with NYS Seal of *Biliteracy*

Thirty members of the Gates Chili High School Class of 2024 earned the NYS Seal of Biliteracy on their 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).



BOCES 2 CTE students from Gates Chili receive scholarships

Two Gates Chili seniors were recipients of the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Educational Foundation's Make All the Difference scholarships.

Faith W., a student in the Digital and Visual Communication program at CTE, received a scholarship co-sponsored by Gallagher, and Katrina K., a student in the Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy program, received a scholarship.



Faith W.



Katrina K.

Congratulations to Gates Chili's Black Scholars!

Twenty-four Gates Chili High School students have been named as Urban League of Rochester Black Scholars! For over four decades, the program has provided academic recognition, college readiness assistance and scholarship incentives to students. Spartans who earned this achievement were celebrated at the Urban League's 45th annual celebration on June 3.

Congratulations to:

Layla Avent	Leah Kerns
Asjianna Bennett	Savion Meeks
Tyrone Brock Jr.	Mariah Mims
Adamarin Estrella	Nassor Myers
Henriquez	Kenenne Okafor
Jalun Fitzhugh	Maddison Porcelli
Shinea Gray	Nikkel Pryce
Alannah Griner	Jutaia Ragland
Trelani Harper	Bryanna Smith-Dillio
Chaclynne Hill-Lee	Makayla Thompson
Morgan Hyde	India Williams
Tyla Jackson	Zahara Williams
Adriel Jones	

Gates Chili student recognized as an *Outstanding Senior*

The Monroe County Council of School Superintendents' (MCCOSS) Michael C. O'Laughlin Outstanding Senior Recognition Dinner is held each spring to recognize excellence in all high schools throughout Monroe County.

This year, Tyla J. was recognized as an Outstanding Senior from Gates Chili. Students are selected for this honor based on their scholarship, leadership, service and character.

During her time at Gates Chili, Tyla served as a class officer for the Class of 2024, co-editor of the yearbook, a member of the musical crew and participated in the live morning announcements.





Gates Chili named in the *Best Communities for Music Education - Again*

For the second year in a row, Gates Chili Central School District has been named as one of the Best Communities for Music Education!

The district earned the designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education and efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

"We are incredibly proud that our commitment to supporting music education and the arts at Gates Chili has been recognized for a second time with this award," said Superintendent

Christopher J. Dailey. "We understand how beneficial music education is for our students and strive to give them the best possible experience."

Gates Chili's music education offerings include state-of-the-art music and art classrooms to provide students with the space to further develop and explore the arts, a partnership with the Rochester Broadway Theatre League (RBTL) to integrate music education into the classroom and the creation of the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center to give students the space needed to learn and grow musically.

"Music education plays a vital role in shaping well-rounded students," said Katie Coon, director of secondary education. "Participation in music education helps students develop cognitive skills like concentration and problem solving, and social skills like teamwork and public speaking."

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Gates Chili answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.

GC hosts its first-ever *Community Music Festival*

This spring, Gates Chili hosted its first ever Community Music Festival at the Gates Chili Performing Arts Center.

The day-long event featured local bands from throughout the community, including the 198th Army Infantry Band, Honeoye Falls Community Concert Band, Irondequoit Concert Band, New Horizons Jazz Ensemble, New Horizons Big Band, Perinton Concert Band, Rochester Metropolitan

Jazz Orchestra, and our very own Gates Chili Community Concert Band!

Along with some incredible performances, the event was emceed by WROC's Brennan Somers, and featured six local food trucks for attendees to enjoy some delicious food with the show.





BUILDING A CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE: Spartans inspire at Special Olympics

Gates Chili athletes brought their "A-game" to this year's Special Olympics!

Several Gates Chili elementary and middle school students joined their peers from the Brockport, Hilton and Spencerport school districts for the inclusive competition hosted at SUNY Brockport on May 30. Students and staff cheered on the competing Spartans as they made their way from their respective schools to busses bound for the games. Walt Disney Elementary athletes even got a surprise escort from the Gates Police Department!

The Special Olympics, which features a variety of Olympic-style sports, is a chance to celebrate the talent and dedication of student-athletes from school communities across the area. Congratulations to all who took part.



Spartans build on their learning with *mini equity summit*

Equity work is never over, and Gates Chili High School students are leading the charge!

Inspired by the ROC 2 Change Student Summit on Race and looking to continue the critical work of fostering equity in their school community, student-organizers, including members of Multicultural International Club and SAVVY, hosted a mini-summit for their fellow Spartans. Many of the students who organized the mini-summit also helped plan the ROC 2 Change Summit hosted by Gates Chili in 2023.

"We decided to try and implement ROC 2 Change into our school to see how



it would affect our students now," said Alannah G. "We wanted to try something new, something different that would bring students together while also making a lasting impact that could be followed through."

Spartans gathered in the Professional Learning Center on May 30 for the smaller-scale summit. Participants took part in two different breakout sessions, one focused on tolerance and the other on implicit bias, and the day concluded with an activity centered on advocacy and collective action. The entire event highlighted the importance of collaboration when it comes to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion.

"Racism and other things cannot be fixed within one night, right? It doesn't really give closure, but we're kind of building on it and basically making change and little, small nuances as we go, but we're slowly doing it and making it," added Alannah.

While students from schools across Monroe County will attend the next ROC 2 Change Summit in November, GCHS student-organizers are also looking forward to hosting more mini-summits at the school in the future.



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 following recipients who were honored in May and June!



May 13 recipients:

Driver's education instructors Daniel Goodwin and Roger Brown (not pictured).



June 4 recipients:

BOCES 2 District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci, K-5 Literacy Coach Jennifer Christensen, and Supervisor of Technology Services Roger Thaine (not pictured).



June 18 recipients:

Music Booster volunteers Doug Gardner, Amy Gardner, Karie Kilner, District Clerk Condenessa Brown, and HS music teachers Christopher Oldfield and Jeffrey Welch (not pictured).

Vazquez celebrated by transportation colleagues

Gates Chili Bus Driver John Vazquez is the Transportation Employee of the Year! Vazquez was honored with this distinguished award on April 25, just days before his official retirement went into effect. Vazquez, affectionately known as "Mr. John" by his student passengers, received this recognition for his warm and friendly nature, constant willingness to lend a hand and his two decades of unwavering service to the Gates Chili school community.



GC holds fourth annual hiring event

One hundred people came out to the district's fourth annual support staff hiring event on July 9. Attendees flocked to the Spartan Field House during one of two sessions to learn about open positions, complete applications and even participate in on-site interviews.

The district is looking to fill more than 30 open positions for bus drivers, bus attendants, school nutrition workers, teacher aides, school aides, security workers, cleaners and more. If you missed the event on July 9 but are interested in one of these or other open positions, go to gateschili.org/jobs.



Spartan leadership changes

Gates Chili is proud to announce several leadership changes heading into the 2024-25 school year.

Dr. Daniel Zdanowski is the new principal at Gates Chili Middle School, after the retirement of longtime principal Dr. Lisa Buckshaw. Dr. Zdanowski had been serving as principal at Walt Disney Elementary School.

Meanwhile, **Erin Ugine** is taking over as principal at Walt Disney, after having served in a variety of roles for more than two decades, including her most recent role as assistant

principal at Florence Brasser Elementary School. Assistant principal roles at Florence Brasser and Neil Armstrong have been filled by **Kylie Smith** and **Lindsey Georger**, respectively.

Finally, the district welcomes **Samuel Bell** as its new director of safety and security. Bell has more than two decades of law enforcement experience and most recently served as Commander of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.



Dr. Daniel Zdanowski



Erin Ugine



Kylie Smith



Lindsey Georger



Samuel Bell

Congratulations to the Gates Chili *Retiree Class of 2024!*



Gates Chili honored retirees during a districtwide staff meeting on June 26. Collectively, the group represents more than 718 years of service to the Gates Chili school community! Thank you to this group of outstanding educators for your years of service and dedication to students:

Rosario Abate, Tricia Andrews-Smith, Jon Barleben, Jason Benham, Charlotte Billotti, Mary Jane Brennan, Lisa Buckshaw, Frank Cali, Patrick Campbell, Michael Carbary, Julie Ciarvella, Susan Cummings, Deborah Dunlap, Kristin Elliott, Maureen Fundis, Karen Higgins, Philip Jay, Laurie Jeffers, Janet Manciocchi, Janette Marino, Charlene Paiement, Michele Rossi, Frances Salgado-Givens, Christine Smith-Campbell, Paula St. James, Karen Standeven, Kim Sullivan, Richard Taddonio and John Vazquez.



GATES CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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A NYSPRA award-winning publication

FREE meals for the summer

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

NOW THROUGH FRIDAY, AUG. 9

Gates Chili Middle School, 2 Spartan Way
Breakfast weekdays from 8-9 a.m.
Lunch weekdays from 12-1 p.m.

Or catch the Spartan Eats Bus around town:

11-11:15 a.m. at Lions Park
11:30-11:45 a.m. Memorial Park
12-12:15 p.m. at Westgate Park



Menus for all locations are available at gateschili.org/menus

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

Aug. 26

MS Gr. 6 and New-to-District
Orientation

Aug. 28

Kindergarten Orientation,
2-6 p.m.

Aug. 28

HS Gr. 9 Orientation,
6-7:30 p.m.

Sept. 3

First day of school for all
K-12 students

Stay Connected!



@GatesChiliInfo #GC Pride #GCCares