



MIDLAKES.ORG

# MIDLAKES JOURNAL

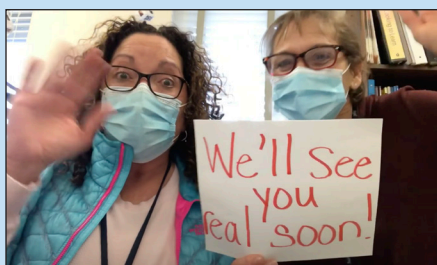
PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE II  
JANUARY, 2021

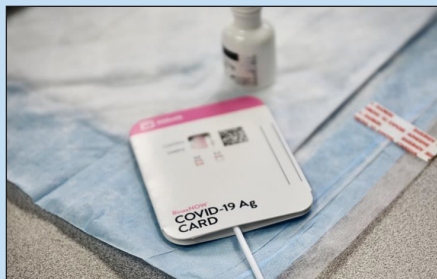
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## FIND MORE AT MIDLAKES.ORG

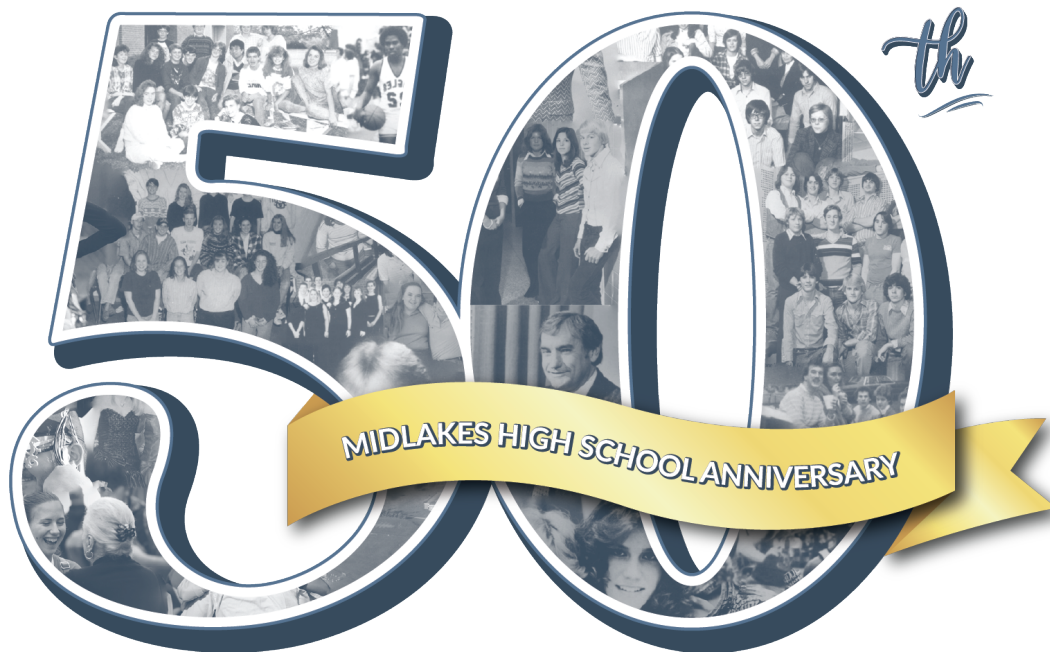


**VIDEO:** Teachers and staff share an important message to students and families in a fun video parody.



### COVID-19 UPDATES & RESOURCES:

The District continues to post relevant updates and information for families regarding school operations and community resources during the pandemic.



# 1971 - 2021

*Phelps and Clifton Springs schools were unified with the opening of Midlakes High School on Feb. 7, 1971.*

During a time when leaders of schools in Phelps and Clifton Springs faced growing enrollments and dwindling space, residents of the two communities decided to merge and build a new high school.

"I was in the very first class to graduate from Midlakes," said Stephen Tears, who now lives in Virginia Beach. "We were not looking forward to it because we didn't know anyone from Phelps High School. Well, it went without a hitch .. we started to make lifelong friends."

A 12-member student council helped select the name "Midlakes" for the school due to its location between Canandaigua and Seneca lakes. A color from each of the former schools were combined to represent the black, white, and blue school colors.

On Feb. 7, Midlakes High School celebrates its 50th anniversary of unifying two schools and educating students as one community with graduates becoming educators, athletes, musicians, philanthropists and more.

In the upcoming months, the District will break ground on renovations that will ensure the long-term vitality of the school.

Work will modernize wood shop and culinary arts rooms, reconfigure music areas, regrade the main football/lacrosse field, upgrade auditorium lighting, repair restrooms, replace boilers and much more.

Voters approved the \$15.6 million project in December 2019, a proposal paid for by state aid and funds already saved in a capital reserve fund requiring no additional increase in taxes. ■

► **50 YEARS OF MEMORIES:** MIDLAKES HIGH SCHOOL TIMELINE, PAGES 4-5.

# LEAD THE WAY

School bus drivers enjoy a range of benefits but the most significant is making connections with students from the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District and Midlakes schools.

## START YOUR CAREER

Apply at [Midlakes.org/busdriverjobs](https://Midlakes.org/busdriverjobs) today!



Mary Ellen,  
Midlakes bus driver

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:



Competitive Salary



Paid Holidays



Flexible Hours



Paid Training



Team Support



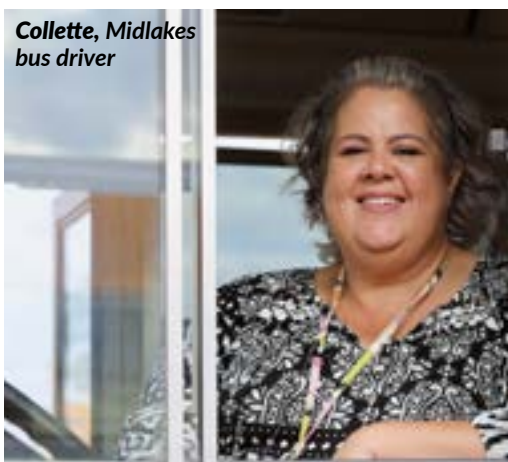
**"I love it."**  
I enjoy driving a big bus,"

Wanda, Midlakes  
bus driver



"My benefit is the kids, easy hours to work,  
**and just being part  
of the community,"**

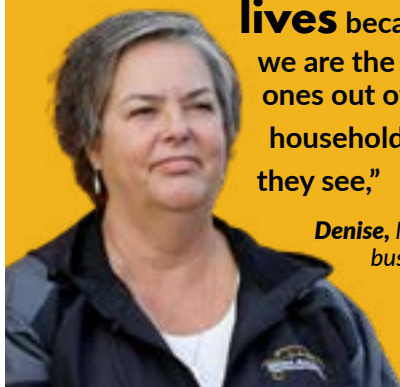
Skip, Midlakes bus driver



Collette, Midlakes  
bus driver

**"We're an important  
part of the kids'  
lives** because  
we are the first  
ones out of the  
household that  
they see,"

Denise, Midlakes  
bus driver



Celeste, Midlakes  
bus driver



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Kitty Rhow at (315) 548-6400



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

# CAPITAL PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

*Construction work to begin sooner than expected.*

In December 2019, the Midlakes community overwhelmingly approved a \$15.6 million capital improvement project. That capital project, in conjunction with our NYS Smart Schools Bond Act allocation, will address several aspects of our campus and facilities in need of repair, replacement, and/or upgrading to meet the needs of our students and protect the community's long-term investment in our facilities.

To expand opportunities for competitive bidding, the District and its partners (Edge Architecture and Watchdog Building Partners) decided in September 2020 to submit the project to the New York State Education Department in two phases. Completing the project in two parts creates the possibility of better pricing while completing some of the work earlier than originally planned.

Phase I of the project, which was submitted to NYSED in December 2020, includes the following work:

- Technology, security, HVAC and mechanical upgrades throughout Midlakes Elementary School.
- Bathroom upgrades in the south wing (grades 3-6).
- Redesign/improvements to the main parking lot and parent drop-off loop at Midlakes Elementary School. Create a new faculty parking lot behind the school.
- Replacement of the exterior coatings on the Transportation and Maintenance buildings.
- Installation of a fueling station and a salt barn near the Transportation building.

Final approval of the Phase I work is anticipated in February 2021 with exterior site work (parking lots, etc.) to begin about six to eight weeks later. Construction will be planned to minimize any disruptions with interior work site (HVAC, mechanical, bathroom upgrades) scheduled to start in the summer of 2021.

Phase II work, scheduled to be submitted to NYSED this summer for approval, includes:

- Technology, security, HVAC and mechanical upgrades throughout Midlakes Middle/High School.
- Upgrades to the auditorium house lights and lighting controls.
- Bathroom upgrades throughout Midlakes Middle/High School.
- Repair and resurfacing of the football/lacrosse field.
- Relocation of the cafeteria for grades 7 and 8 closer to the kitchen/food line and the cafeteria for grades 9-12. The new cafeteria will be redesigned as

a multifunctional space that can accommodate small performances, meetings and ceremonies, and concessions for events in the auditorium.

- Relocation, redesign, and upgrade of our music facilities for grades 7-12, including two new band rooms, a new chorus room, a new general music room, as well as practice and instrument storage spaces.
- Upgrades to a technology classroom to facilitate both computer-based and equipment-based work.
- Upgrades to the culinary arts classroom to facilitate improved student opportunities while also supporting other aspects of the Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum.

Phase II work is tentatively scheduled to take place between March and December 2022.

The District will work with faculty and staff, Edge Architecture, and Watchdog Building Partners to strategically sequence Phase II of the project, identify temporary instructional spaces during the transition, and take any other steps necessary to minimize the disruption to our students, staff, and community.

We are confident that the outcome of the project and the improved opportunities for our students will far outweigh the temporary inconveniences caused by the construction process.

In the coming months, the District will continue to share news and updated renderings related to the project. We are grateful for the overwhelming support from the Midlakes community for these important improvements to our campus, and we are dedicated to keeping you informed of our progress.

Rest assured that while we move forward with the capital project, we are still dedicated and working diligently to manage the COVID-19 public health crisis and provide the best possible educational opportunities within the guidelines set forth by the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department.

We are tremendously grateful for the work of our administration, faculty, and staff to protect the health and safety of our students and advance their opportunities for social, emotional, and academic growth. Their outstanding work will make it possible for the District to move forward with its plans to upgrade our facilities and protect the community's investment according to the new schedule for the capital project.

As always, thank you for your continued support. ■

— Matt Sickles, superintendent



## HIGHLIGHTS



## POLICE SAY, 'THANK YOU!'

The Canandaigua Police Department sent a special thank you message to elementary school student Brayden Bacon, who honored them with "Survival Kits."

The kits included hand-picked sugary treats purchased by Brayden along with letters of appreciation for their work in keeping everyone safe.

"You help at our school and we think that's cool! We are so glad that you are around," he wrote. Brayden also met with officers while dropping off the kits. ■

## NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District is required by law to maintain a list of both staff and parents/guardians who wish to receive forty-eight (48) hour prior written notification of pesticide applications at school facilities. The following is a summary of treated areas:

- North Varsity, Junior Varsity Soccer Fields and Lower Soccer Field on 06/08/2020 with Lesco Lockup Extra 2 with Fertilizer and weed control (EPA# 62719-590-10404).

Certain pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements. For more information, contact the District Clerk at (315) 548-6420, or mail the clerk your name, address, daytime phone, evening phone and email address to District Clerk, 1490 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432. ■



## MIDLAKES HIGH SCHOOL

FIVE DECADES  
OF EDUCATION

Midlakes High School celebrates its anniversary on Feb. 7, a day unifying students from two separate schools and communities 50 years ago.

1971

MIDLAKES HIGH SCHOOL  
OPENS FEBRUARY 7

The opening was delayed from the start of the year due to a strike by construction workers.

1975

The Class of 1976 gathers for the senior photo.



1980

Approximately 150 foreign exchange students have attended Midlakes High School from 1971-2021, including students from Finland, Japan and Ghana in 1980.

1982



Lisa Albrecht, a trombonist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, graduates from Midlakes. The RPO has held several performances at Midlakes thanks, in part, to generous support from G.W. Lisk Co.

1983



Mary (Dorgan) Magill-Being graduates from Midlakes High School. Currently a teacher at Midlakes Elementary School, she fondly recalls how participating in band, theatre, and sports helped her make connections. "Being a part of the musical was something I looked forward to every year. The friendships and experiences are memories I cherish to this day!"

1986

Midlakes health instructor Carolyn Wescott takes over the high school's annual blood drive. "It was exciting to see the kids get so involved," she said. "They have been great memories for me. We had so much school spirit and the kids were really involved."

The Lady in White is filmed at the former site of Phelps High School using Midlakes students. Leading actor Lukas Hass meets several students.

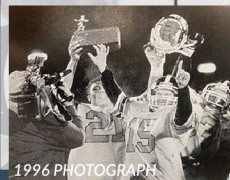
Residents approve building a new \$16 million middle school adjacent to the high school.

1993

Coach Dave Whitcomb leads the varsity football team to the first of two Sectional Championships. The second coming in 1996.



1996



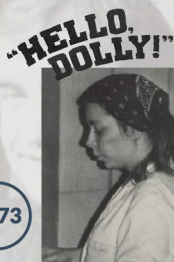
1996 PHOTOGRAPH

1980

1990

George D. Bidleman, the first principal of Midlakes High School, served in that role from 1971 to 1979.

1973



About 40 students join the cast of "Hello, Dolly!" - the school's spring musical.

1976

Midlakes wins its first Boys Volleyball Sectional Championship. The program won its 12th sectional title in its 24th finals appearance in 2019.



1979

1981

The varsity basketball team goes 16-6 with an appearance in the Class AA semi-finals from 81-82.



1988 PHOTOGRAPH

The Class of 1989 visits Washington D.C. The trip began at Clifton Springs High School and continues to be a Midlakes tradition.

The varsity baseball team wins its first sectional championship. The team won another title during a magical run in 2018, led by coach and current physical education teacher Jeff Maher.

1988

1989

WEST  
SIDE  
STORY

Midlakes Theatre Experience produces "West Side Story."

1992

Sean Manns, a math teacher at Midlakes, writes in the 1992 Reflections yearbook: "Relax and have fun but not at the expense of others."

Midlakes Middle School opens for the first day of school on September 6.

1995



1981

Hugh Kane is hired as principal. By 1997, when he became a district administrator, all Midlakes students were eligible to take Regents curriculum and receive a Regents diploma or certificate of completion.

1984



2018 PHOTOGRAPH



## SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

Families and alumni may celebrate the 50th anniversary of Midlakes High School by sharing their favorite "Midlakes Memories" at <https://bit.ly/3qMkFZp>

1997



Midlakes girls volleyball team becomes the school's first Scholar Athlete Team recognized for academic excellence by the state. Approximately 130 teams – and many more individual student-athletes – have been recognized with the honor.

2003

The new athletic wing entrance and pool opens for public use in 2005. Andrew Schoenfelder ('21) currently holds four pool records.



2021 PHOTOGRAPH

2000

District residents approve a \$45 million project that built a pool, a new athletic entrance and a new math, science and technology wing at the high school.

2000



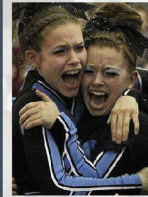
District residents approve renovation work on the auditorium. Students returning from a senior trip decided they wanted it to look like the Kennedy Space Center and led the District to pick carpeting resembling the space center.

2006

The Midlakes wrestling team wins a sectional championship. Sean Peacock named Outstanding Wrestler in the tournament. Peacock wins individual state title. "I was trying to go one weight class lower and I remember Howie (coach Stephen Howcroft) looking at me and saying, 'Well, we'll take our lumps this year at a heavier weight and see what happens.' I don't think anyone thought I would win the title that year – myself included, until a few weeks prior."

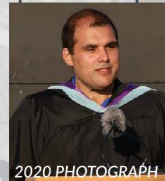
2012

2010



Coach Laura Van Laeken leads Midlakes to five sectional titles in fall and winter cheerleading, from 2010-2012, and winning Nationals in 2012.

2014



2020 PHOTOGRAPH  
Frank Bai-Rossi becomes principal of Midlakes High School.

2016



Aubrianna Lantrip, owner of several school track and field records, wins the New York State high jump championship.

2020

Midlakes High School holds commencement ceremonies outdoors.



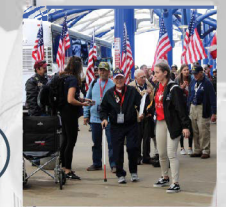
2020



The girls basketball team wins the first of back-to-back sectional championships on way to consecutive appearances in the State Public High School Athletic Association tournament.

2018

Midlakes High School students escort several veterans to the World War II Museum in New Orleans as part of the Soaring Valor trip sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation and American Airlines.



2019



### KEITH CHILDS

▼ The English teacher has spent more than 40 years at Midlakes.

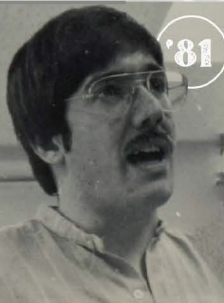
'78



'79



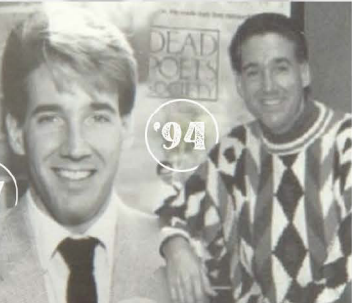
'81



'87



'94





## HIGHLIGHTS

STUDENTS  
INDUCTED INTO  
HONOR SOCIETY

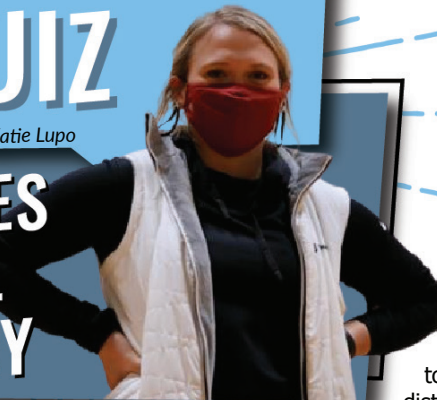
The Midlakes Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society held a virtual ceremony for its 2020-21 inductees.

Fifth and sixth graders are eligible for NEHS after receiving a nomination from a teacher and earning a grade point average of at least 85 percent. A faculty group reviews and selects inductees based on leadership, responsibility, scholarship, and service. Inductees are:

- Alaina Davies
- Kendall DeBrock
- Allison DeRuyter
- Noah Eldridge
- Corbin Hughes
- Natalie Hunter
- Paige Jacobson
- Blake Jensen
- Molly Knorr
- Emma LaBour
- Molly Lolis
- Riley Marion
- Gavin Mateo
- Mackenzie Mattoon
- Christopher Meyers
- Alivia Miller
- Jay Morabito
- Lily Morlang
- Zoey Overslaugh
- Sydney Rodriguez
- Josephine Rogers
- Aubrey Russell
- Suelyn Serrano-Rosa
- Maddison Stratton
- Kenzie Turner
- Gavin Vanderwall
- Daniel Weeger
- Olivia Yeatts ■

INTERACTIVE  
QUIZ

With Physical Education Teacher Katie Lupo

EXPLORES  
SCHOOL  
HISTORY

Katie Lupo created an interactive multimedia quiz on the history of Midlakes that has physical education students doing push-ups, sit-ups, squats, and other exercises to correctly answer questions.

Each student performs an exercise for 30 seconds corresponding to their choice until the final answer is revealed. The questions focus on the District, its athletics program, and staff. Historical school photos and other facts are a part of the engaging project.

"With P.E. class looking different these days, I've been trying to find and create different social distancing activities," Lupo said. "The kids have been so excited." Take the quiz below and see how well you can do. ■

1 MIDLAKES WAS  
ONCE TWO  
SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

- .....
- A** True  
**B** False

2 WHAT YEAR WAS  
CONSTRUCTION  
FINISHED AND THE TWO  
HIGH SCHOOLS WERE  
TOGETHER IN THE  
SAME SCHOOL?

- .....
- A** 1971  
**B** 1975  
**C** 1963

3 WHAT TEACHER  
WORKS AT THE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
AND ALSO GRADUATED  
FROM MIDLAKES  
IN 1980?

- .....
- A** Mrs. Bellomo  
**B** Ms. DePorter  
**C** Ms. Bradley

4 WHAT SUBJECT  
DID MR. MOYER  
TEACH AT MIDLAKES  
BEFORE BECOMING  
PRINCIPAL?

- .....
- A** Math  
**B** Physical Education  
**C** English

5 WHAT CURRENT  
TEACHER HAS  
BEEN WORKING IN THE  
MIDLAKES DISTRICT  
THE LONGEST?

- .....
- A** Ms. Morris  
**B** Mr. Childs  
**C** Mr. Corey

6 WHAT MIDLAKES  
SPORTS TEAM  
HAS MULTIPLE STATE  
CHAMPIONSHIPS?

- .....
- A** Wrestling  
**B** Football  
**C** Boys Volleyball

7 WHAT SPORT WAS  
ONCE AT MIDLAKES  
THAT ISN'T HERE  
ANYMORE?

- .....
- A** Girls Field Hockey  
**B** Boys Fencing  
**C** Rugby

8 WOMEN'S SPORTS  
WERE INTRODUCED  
TO MIDLAKES IN 1972.  
WHAT WERE THE FIRST  
SPORTS ADDED?

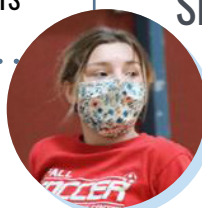
- .....
- A** Volleyball, Tennis, Lacrosse, and Cheerleading  
**B** Field Hockey, Softball, Basketball, and Soccer  
**C** Softball, Basketball, and Cheerleading

9 WHAT MIDLAKES  
SPORTS PROGRAM  
HAS THE MOST SECTION  
V TITLES?

- .....
- A** Wrestling  
**B** Boys Volleyball  
**C** Cheerleading

10 WHAT YEAR  
DID THE NEW  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BUILDING OPEN ITS  
DOORS?

- .....
- A** 2000  
**B** 2007  
**C** 2004



"MS. LUPO BRINGS A LOT OF ENERGY, SHE IS VERY FUN. I THOUGHT THE QUIZ WAS PRETTY COOL. I LIKED IT."



- Natalie Hunter, Grade 6



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# PLANNING FOR THE SECOND HALF



Ashlee Upchurch,  
third grade teacher

## *School working to preserve long-standing traditions.*

In some ways, it's hard to believe that we are already moving into February with the first portion of the school year so focused on how to best provide for the health and safety of our students in a nurturing environment during a pandemic.

In the second half of the year, we will continue to keep an eye on recommended health and safety protocols while looking for new ways to deliver traditional experiences to our elementary students.

Picture days, for example, will be held during school on Tuesday, Feb. 9 and Thursday, Feb. 11. Evening hours will be 5 – 7 p.m. on Feb. 9 for fully remote families. We will create and share an online sign-up form for evening hours. Teachers will have sign-ups for times during school hours.

Also, Midlakes Elementary School has had a long-standing tradition of organizing a large Memorial Day event to honor and remember those who have served our country. COVID-19 restrictions forced drastic changes to the event last year. Rest assured, we are working on options for a wonderful presentation with student and staff that shows our appreciation for our veter-

ans and those currently serving in the military.

Another long-standing tradition that looked slightly different this year but taking place around the holidays was National Elementary Honor Society's "Elfing" event, which saw 42 fifth and sixth graders visit local businesses to express gratitude for the role each plays in the community.

Like Santa's little elves, students gave treats, a picture card, and other items to business owners in Clifton Springs and Phelps. Heather Bradley and Erin Altman are co-advisors of the group.

Some families may see a new face in the main office. Brenda Brickle has joined the Midlakes Elementary School family as a secretary. Brickle and her family have been long-standing members in our community and it has been wonderful to have her at Midlakes.

We know the pandemic has been difficult on everyone. We appreciate our dedicated staff and our families for working with us during these times to ensure the health and safety of our students while providing the best possible experience during these times. ■

— Chris Moyer principal

## HIGHLIGHTS



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION SCHEDULED

Registration for children planning to attend kindergarten during the 2021-22 school year will be during the week of April 5.

Families may register their children from 8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m., April 5 – 9, and from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7. Families are asked to use Door A at Midlakes Elementary School and follow all safety protocols (wear masks, social distance, wash hands).

Children 5 years old by December 1, 2021, are eligible for kindergarten in the fall of 2021. Families may begin the registration process by completing an online pre-registration form to receive important updates and other information at [Midlakes.org/studentregistration](https://Midlakes.org/studentregistration).

For more information, contact Laurie Schmitt at [lschmitt@midlakes.org](mailto:lschmitt@midlakes.org) or (315) 548-6708. ■

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, March 16 through Thursday, March 18 at Midlakes Elementary School.

On March 17, there will be no afternoon classes. Buses leave at about the latest listed time.

- **Grade 6:** 10:30-10:45 a.m.
- **Grades 2, 4 & 12:1:1:** 11:15 a.m.-11:25 a.m.
- **UPK, Grades 1 & 5:** 11:25 - 11:35 a.m.
- **Kindergarten & Grade 3:** 11:35-11:45 a.m.

For more information, call the school at (315) 548-6700. ■





## TOP OF THE TRADE

Several Midlakes High School students earned "Top of the Trade" honors during the first three months of the school year at Finger Lakes Technical Career Center. Approximately 90 Midlakes students attend the center.

Those recognized by the center include:

### SEPTEMBER

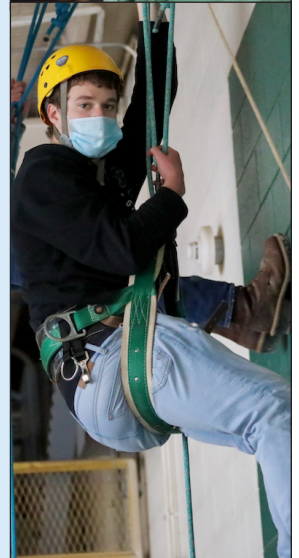
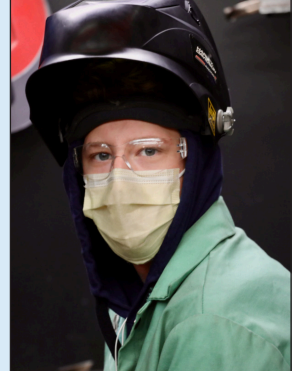
- **Isaiah Delgado**, New Vision health therapy sciences
- **Alandra Jones**, animal science
- **Ryan Villnave**, electrical trades
- **Zachary Weykman**, farm to table
- **Matthew White**, diesel technology

### OCTOBER

- **Gavin Bassett**, auto body
- **Zachary Gavette**, electrical trades
- **Allana Hubert**, emergency medical services

### NOVEMBER

- **Annie Hyde**, animal science
- **David Loughney**, farm to table
- **Alaina Meath**, health professions
- **Kennady Perri**, health therapy sciences
- **Joshua Pettersen**, criminal justice
- **Jessica Taylor**, education professions
- **Gaven Valder**, computer technology
- **Isabelle Raes**, farm to table





## MIDDLE &amp; HIGH SCHOOL

# IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



Doug Allard,  
social studies  
teacher

*Principal shares some updates for students and families.*

**W**ith more students back in the building, we continue to keep their health and safety at the forefront of our daily routines by emphasizing the importance of staying socially distanced, wearing masks, using the daily health screener, and following good respiratory and hand hygiene.

As many are aware, the New York State Department of Education canceled the 2021 Regents Exams scheduled for the week of January 25.

The change prompted us to adjust our school calendar to hold a regular week of classes, making it an "A" week.

With most of our students in grades 9-12 back in the building, the high school will hold its annual picture days on February 1, 2, 4, and 5 during Social Studies classes. Evening hours will be held for students learning remotely. Please contact me to set up after-school times by calling (315) 548-6301 or by sending an email to fbairossi@midlakes.org.

Families may pre-order pictures with Lifetouch.com. Select "Order Pictures" from the top bar, and then select "School K-12". Enter the following code assigned to high school students: EVTQ86HZ3.

Also, both middle and high school yearbooks are now available for order. High school year-

books may be pre-ordered through the end of February at <https://bit.ly/38XO7Wf>.

Middle school yearbooks may be ordered until April 1. Enter code 11918321 at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com).

Some other important dates to note include:

- **Jan. 29:** End of the second quarter
- **Feb. 1:** Start of the third quarter
- **April 9:** End of the third quarter
- **April 12:** Start of the fourth quarter
- **June 25:** End of the fourth quarter

Families are encouraged to review their student's progress in SchoolTool. With classes in a hybrid model, it is important for us to work together to ensure success for all of our students.

Also, we continue to try to think of creative ways to celebrate students and keep them involved in as many activities as possible under current health and safety requirements. While we have yet to receive guidance regarding graduation, we will continue to plan for the best possible experience for our seniors. Pertinent information will be passed along as it becomes available.

Finally, with the learning environment being so different this year, we encourage families to keep the lines of communication open between school and home. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns. ■

— Frank Bai-Rossi, principal

## HIGHLIGHTS



## TOYS FOR TOTS DONATION

Midlakes' athletic program was recognized with a special citation from state Sen. Pamela Helming (pictured) for donating to the Marine Corps Coordinating Council's annual Toys for Tots campaign.

Helming, who visited campus in December, was joined by John Lombardi, athletic director; superintendent Matt Sickles, student-athletes Kate Mahoney and Kyle Peck-Elzey, and Dave Brisbane and Jim Wicker, both of the Memorial Day Detachment No. 468 of the Marine Corps League.

"When I was in the U.S. Marines, we always helped with the Toys for Tots holiday drive, and it is a great organization to work with," Lombardi said. "I have been on many deliveries, and to see the look on people's faces when they receive the toys really warmed the heart." ■

## SWIMMERS WIN TITLES

The Midlakes girls swim team finished third in the Class C Section V Championships held at the Webster Aquatic Center in November. The following relay teams won a section title:

• Kennady Perri, Kyla Bugbee, Paige Mattoon and Maggie Mahoney in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

• Perri, Bugbee, Mattoon and Elaina Harris-Maxwell in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Also, Mattoon was named co-swimmer of the meet during league championships. ■

## HIGHLIGHTS



## THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District is governed by a seven-member Board of Education elected by eligible voters. Members are volunteer public officials who serve, without pay, for three-year terms.

As elected representatives and officers of the state, board members must carry out the duties required by the state Legislature, the Board of Regents, and the state Commissioner of Education.

For more information on the Board of Education, contact District Clerk Krystal Plante at (315) 548-6420, write to the District Clerk at 1490 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432, or visit the Board of Education online at [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org).

**AMBER WILKES**  
PRESIDENT

**TRACY ALTMAN**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**JACOB AMIDON**  
BOARD MEMBER

**RYAN DAVIS**  
BOARD MEMBER

**TODD FREELOVE**  
BOARD MEMBER

**MATT MURPHY**  
BOARD MEMBER

**SHERI SCHERBYN**  
BOARD MEMBER

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

# NEW BOARD GOALS COME INTO FOCUS

**T**he New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) defines a school board as the board of directors of a district responsible for establishing goals, setting policy, and overseeing resources.

If the Phelps-Clifton Springs Board of Education stopped right there it would fulfill its obligation. However, *your* Board of Education has never found that definition to be truly representative of our students, staff, or our community.

Establishing goals is a part of what the Board of Education does during any school year. We meet with the superintendent, who outlines the annual goals of the administration team and faculty, to discuss and formulate objectives in anticipation of laying out our expectations to students and families in early September.

Years ago *YOUR* board established the practice of publishing our goals. For example, the board thought it was important to do a better job communicating with the community. The idea at the time was simply to have a better website.

The result established a digital footprint that cannot be ignored. We now have social, digital, and print media platforms that help bring our District to life. The *Midlakes Journal* and our Midlakes Schools Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube channels showcase student achievements and staff interactions while keeping the community informed of upcoming events, and make it easier to find important information on our District and community.

Oh, and we rebuilt the website, too. It was a goal that wasn't necessarily tied to student achievement but has become just as important to our kids, their families, and our neighbors.

Another area that defines any school board is the management of resources, but what does that mean? It's about making the decisions behind the annual budget. If I had to guess, the budget issue is probably the most read *Journal* editions of the

year. Articles, pie charts, and graphs tell the story of where school funding comes from and where District resources will be allocated for the upcoming school year.

But the management of resources goes beyond the annual budget. It has us constantly looking for new ways to make our processes more informative and transparent and includes capital improvement projects. In approving the 2019 capital project, the Board of Education had a great deal of interaction with stakeholder groups, administrators, teachers, community members, and students to help best decide what our campus would look like for the foreseeable future.

This work also helps direct the future for all students. The long-range planning to make this possible was put in motion well before any of your current board members placed their name on a ballot. In honor of the work done by those before us, this board strives to set the table for future boards as well.

In some ways, this year is like any other when the Board of Education first sat together and discussed our annual goals. Those goals, of course, are tied to our strategic long-range plans as well as our best practices and policies. We even have a goal to better inform the public of what we do. I guess we can check that box.

Ask any board member what goal they are most excited about and I am certain they will respond about our goal to establish and increase student interaction with the Board of Education.

Like our communication's goal, I'm sure it will not be defined solely by the words on a piece of paper. It will likely grow and evolve.

What will student interaction look like for the Board of Education and what will it mean for current students? We hope it leads to a greater sense of community involvement. Possibly leading a current student to become a future board member. ■

— Ryan Davis, Board of Education member



## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Based on guidance from New York State regarding COVID-19, the Phelps-Clifton Springs Board of Education holds its meetings remotely with access provided on the Midlakes Schools Facebook page and [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org).

The Board of Education values the input of the Midlakes community and welcomes public comment on any topic related to its work, with the exception of individual personnel and/or students matters.

Community members may submit a comment using the Zoom question and answer box during the live stream. Anyone making public comment must identify themselves by name and address.

The public comment period will be limited to a total of thirty (30) minutes and one (1) comment per person. Individual comments will be limited to two (2) minutes.

The Board of Education does not respond to items presented or

questions raised through public comment.

However, it may discuss topics of public comment at a later time and/or contact the individual who submitted the comment.

Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. with the next scheduled for Monday, Feb. 8.

For a complete list of meetings, visit the Minutes & Agendas tab under the Board of Education menu at [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org). ■



## CURRICULUM &amp; INSTRUCTION

# STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

*New framework guides supports for all students.*

Midlakes has been building a new framework called Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, a data-based approach of support for all students to help them meet their individual academic and social-emotional needs.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support provides three general levels of support, including:

- **Tier 1:** Universal support for all students by providing the foundation for success for the most amount of students.
- **Tier 2:** Targeted support from a teacher or specialist focusing on specific skills and development needs for students requiring additional assistance.
- **Tier 3:** Intensive and individualized support for the smallest group of students.

The District has been implementing curriculum and screening processes at every grade level to identify and track students in each tier.

For example, reading specialist Donna Aceto led a study of the Equipped for Reading Success program by SUNY Cortland professor Dr. David Kilpatrick to

incorporate some of his work into classes this year. Some K-8 special education and reading teachers are also piloting the use of a structured phonics program to help struggling readers.

Similar efforts in math, science, English and other areas are being incorporated across multiple grade levels.

In addition, the District has implemented the Character Strong social-emotional learning program this year. Anna Corrente, a school counselor, has been co-facilitating these lessons with classroom teachers in grades K-6.

In grades 7-12, physical education teachers with support from the Pupil Support Office have been incorporating the curriculum. Also, weekly Character Dares – simple challenges focusing on emotional wellness – are sent to staff and students reinforcing what is taught in the classroom.

Combined, these additional programs help support the whole child while creating consistency in programs across grade levels. ■

## HIGHLIGHTS



## ATHLETES LAUDED FOR ACADEMICS

Several fall sports programs and approximately 40 student-athletes have been recognized by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for outstanding achievements in the classroom.

To receive Scholar-Athlete team recognition and a certificate, the team's average GPA for at least 75 percent of its roster must be greater or equal to 90 percent. Student-athletes need to earn at least a 90 GPA.

The girls soccer team with a grade point average of 94.90, girls tennis (94.26), girls swim (93.88) and the boys cross country team (91) were all named as Scholar-Athlete Teams for the fall of 2020. For the complete list of Scholar-Athletes, go to [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org). ■

## TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Midlakes schools buses students to childcare providers and private/parochial schools provided that families give the Transportation Department advanced notice.

Families may request busing for either of these purposes by completing the online forms at <http://midlakes.org/transportation>.

The deadline for childcare is June 1 or within 30 days of moving into the District. The deadline for private/parochial is April 1.

Contact Kitty Rhow at (315) 548-6400 or [krhow@midlakes.org](mailto:krhow@midlakes.org) for more information. ■

## CHARACTER BUILDER

**WHAT IS A CHARACTER DARE?** These dares are designed to help students, families and staff understand and strengthen positive character traits through action. The following are some of the weekly character dares, edited for space, shared with Midlakes teachers and staff since October. Families are encouraged to try these at home.

Make a phone call to someone in your family with whom you have not spoken to in a while.

Ask five different people to tell you one way that you could be better (Don't get defensive. Say, "Thank you".)

Write a letter explaining why you became part of the school system.

Surprise a co-worker with their favorite candy or snack.

Plan a day this week where you don't do any work after hours. Instead, do three things for yourself that you might not normally do.

Write a letter of gratitude to someone in your life (let them know how they make each day better).

Play a board game as a family or with friends one night this week. (No electronics!)

Check in with yourself. Think about why you are feeling a certain way and what you can do to help make yourself feel better?

Send an email of encouragement or gratitude to a co-worker.

## DOWNLOAD APP FOR DAILY HEALTH SCREENINGS

\*Students and visitors must complete a health screening prior to arriving on campus.

**1** Go to your app store



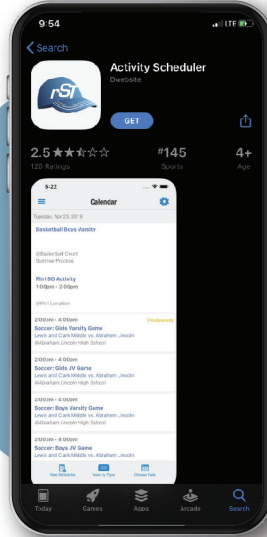
**2** Search for the rSchoolToday Activity Scheduler app or scan one of the QR codes below



iPhone  
or iPad



Android Phone  
or Tablet



**3** Download the app

## CONTACT MIDLAKES

**District Office, 1490 State Route 488**

- Main Office: (315) 548-6420
- Central Registration (315) 548-6708
- Special Education/CSE: (315) 548-6440
- Business Office/HR: (315) 548-6430
- Food Service: (315) 548-6415
- Tax Collection/Ontario Co.: (585) 396-4432
- Transportation Building: (315) 548-6400

**Midlakes Elementary School,  
1510 State Route 488**

- Main Office: (315) 548-6900
- Grade UPK-2 Nurse: (315) 548-6720
- Grade 3-6 Nurse: (315) 548-6721
- Pupil Support Office: (315) 548-6700

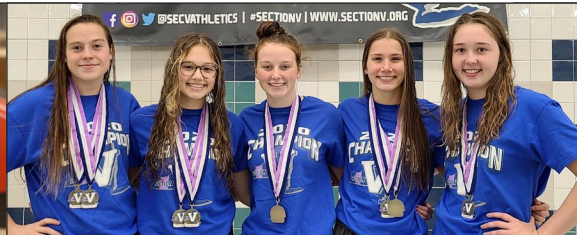
**Midlakes Middle/High School,  
1554 State Route 488**

- Grade 7-8 Main Office: (315) 548-6600
- Grade 9-12 Main Office: (315) 548-6300
- Nurse's Office: (315) 548-6320
- Pupil Support Office: (315) 548-6310
- Athletic Director: (315) 548-6450
- Aquatics Director: (315) 548-6451

Find teacher and staff emails online at  
<http://midlakes.org/staffdirectory>.



VISIT [MIDLAKES.ORG/HEALTHAPP](http://MIDLAKES.ORG/HEALTHAPP) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



### PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Send tips and suggestions to: Newsletter, 1490 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432

**NYSPPRA**  
New York School Public Relations Association  
AWARD WINNER: 2019, 2020



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1490 STATE ROUTE 488  
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