



MIDLAKES.ORG

# MIDLAKES JOURNAL

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## INSIDE THIS EDITION

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE..... PAGE 2

PRINCIPALS' MESSAGES..... PAGES 3, 5

BACK TO SCHOOL..... PAGE 4

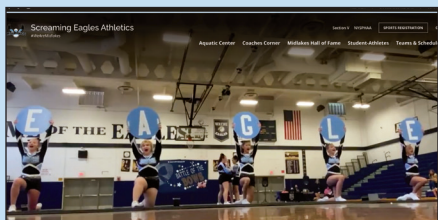
AG IN THE CLASSROOM..... PAGES 6-7

2023 GRADUATION..... PAGES 8-9

RPO RETURNS, CALENDAR..... PAGE 10

COMING  
SOON!!

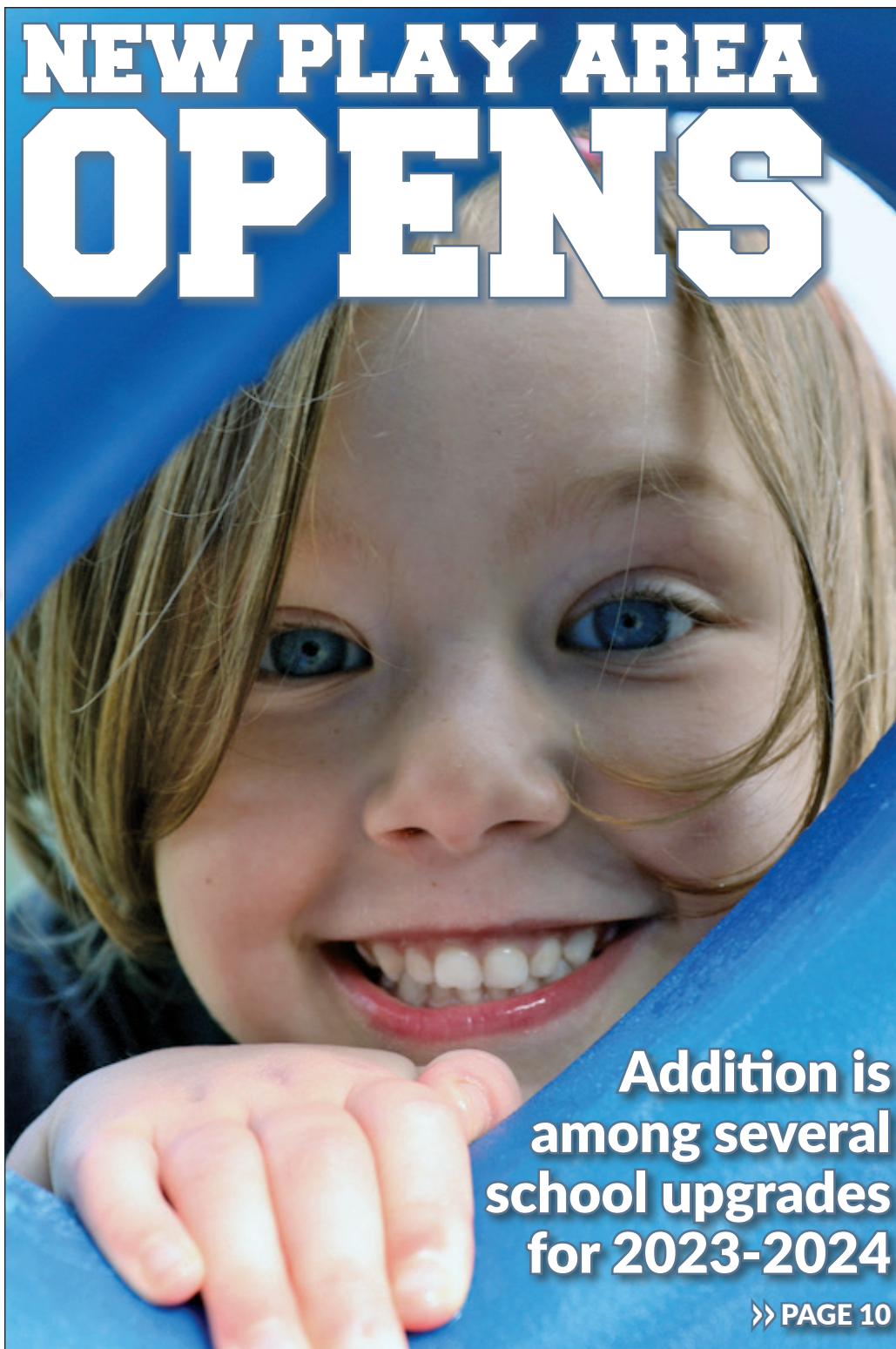
## NEW LOOK FOR MIDLAKES.ORG



The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District will launch a redesigned version of its popular website in October, a move that was necessitated after FinalsSite purchased the district's previous web platform last year.

The new website promises an improved user experience; easy to find school resources, calendars and menus; enhanced translation and accessibility features; redesigned pages and much more. Some of the links may change, but the Midlakes.org domain will remain. ■

## NEW PLAY AREA OPENS



Addition is  
among several  
school upgrades  
for 2023-2024

»» PAGE 10

## HIGHLIGHTS



## NEW APPOINTEES TO SCHOOL BOARD

Lynn Lebrecht joined the Board of Education in September to fill a seat vacated by the resignation of Don Miller.

Lebrecht is the second appointee to the Board since the election last May. Deb Galliher was appointed in May to fill the seat vacated by Jamie McCarrick. The Board of Education selected Galliher and Lebrecht after they ran for the Board in the spring. ■



## HAMELINCK JOINS MIDLAKES

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District welcomed Jeff Hamelinck as Director of Curriculum and Instruction in June.

Hamelinck, known as a strong, student-first leader, earned a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from SUNY Fredonia and a Master's in Computer Education from Nazareth College in addition to a Certificate of Advance Study in Education Administration from SUNY Oswego.

Prior to Midlakes, he was principal of two different schools in the Newark Central School District and has worked as a kindergarten teacher, and a teacher on special assignment with assistant principal duties. ■

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

# YEAR IS OFF TO AN EXCITING START

While students returned to campus several days ago, and our entire staff before then, I wanted to welcome everyone back to Midlakes for the start of another school year.

We have high hopes for the year and our teachers and staff have worked throughout the summer to prepare for students.

We are ready to embrace our shared values of respect, responsibility, independence, and kindness with all of our families and provide students with the tools they need to be highly successful and work with families.

This year brings a few highlights:

### PLANS FOR EXCELLENCE

Over the summer, teams of teachers and administrators from each school building met to review data, identify key focus areas, and set school-wide goals and action plans for the 2023-2024 school year.

We call these our "Plans for Excellence," which will help us remain focused on the areas that will have the greatest impact on our students. These areas include:

- Reducing chronic absenteeism.
- Supporting social-emotional needs.
- Increasing accountability of all.
- Committing to the delivery of meaningful and consistent building-wide curriculum.
- Increasing student engagement and school participation through additional activities offered by our schools.

Our teams will share further details of these plans in October during an upcoming Board of Education meeting.

### PARENTSQUARE

You may have already noticed a few more messages from staff through ParentSquare. We rolled out this new communication tool for districtwide communications last spring, expanded it to our Athletics Department over the summer, and provided training to teachers and staff on how to communicate with families at the start of the school year.

This important tool allows all of our families to receive digital messages in one consistent way, while providing the ability to set language preferences and schedule to receive messages at a time that works best for them.

Families and teachers can also use the app to communicate one-on-one. All of this

should make our communications with families more effective.

### FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

There have also been several upgrades made to our campus facilities. We were able to secure federal funds for a new age-appropriate playset for the universal pre-kindergarten program, the old Teft Avenue school bell has been refurbished and moved to the Midlakes One-Room Schoolhouse, parking lots have been resealed and striped, and the Midlakes High School Auditorium reopened in time to host graduation.

Also, significant progress has been made on our capital construction project at the secondary school with a completely re-imagined music wing and cafeteria area taking shape.

A new middle school cafeteria opened on the former site of the high school band room in September.

New practice rooms and a chorus room are opening with a new straight corridor ready to take students to these areas. The stadium field has also opened. (See more on the project on Page 11.)

We remain optimistic that our capital construction will be completed by the end of the school year with demolition work on a new high school band room having already begun in the old middle school cafeteria and final touches in other areas taking place.

As we begin a new year, our talented staff is ready to make the new school year meaningful for our students, but everyone can have a positive impact on students.

We encourage our families to join us by:

- Establishing consistent routines for your child.
- Encouraging daily attendance.
- Engaging in conversations about their day.
- Providing a quiet place to study.
- Staying in contact with their teachers.

Together, we can ensure that our students will have a strong foundation for what I hope will be a great start to a successful school year for everyone. I can't wait to see this journey happen in our schools during the upcoming school year.

We look forward to working with everyone throughout the year ... Together, We Are Midlakes!! ■

— Nicholas Ganster, Superintendent



## A MESSAGE FROM THE K-6 PRINCIPAL

# FIRST DAY BRINGS THE JOY OF A NEW YEAR

It was exhilarating to see our students and their smiling faces as they entered the building for the first day of the new school year. And yes, there were a few smiles among the rain drops!

We were prepared to greet students on Sept. 7 with umbrellas in hand to kick off the new year with our preparations taking place over the summer.

Midlakes Elementary School staff participated in several professional development sessions, served on interview committees, the Plan for Excellence Committee and did much more.

We are starting with many new employees. One of these new faces is our new Assistant Principal Ms. Brianne Raes.

Ms. Raes started her new position on August 28 and we are excited to welcome her to the administrative team. We also have seven new teachers who have joined the Midlakes Elementary School family. It is thrilling to welcome these energetic and talented teachers to the staff.

Our Plan for Excellence Committee met twice this summer to develop attainable and measurable goals for the upcoming school year. We focused on the district's strategic plan and shared core values as the foundation of this important work.

The committee identified several key areas of focus for this year that include reducing chronic absenteeism, supporting social-emotional needs, increasing accountability for all, committing to the delivery of impactful and consistent building-wide curriculums, and increasing student engagement in additional school activities.

The committee created goals focused on these areas, will use data to measure our progress, and

make necessary adjustments to our approaches and strategies. This work will continue throughout the year and you are likely to hear more about it in the upcoming days and months.



The start of the new school year wouldn't be as successful without our entire school community. Midlakes Elementary School also wants to thank the Clifton Springs Rotary Club for its continued support of our students.

Once again, the club organized and donated many school supplies to assure that our families are ready for the start of a new school year.

Thank you to the Salvation Army, Mary Preston Hicks Foundation, Lisk Morris Foundation, Caring Hands Food Pantry, Second Seasons Consignment Shop, Community Bank, Ashton Place, Midlakes PTO, Mike and Colby Musto, and many others for their contributions.

Also, we want to recognize the tireless efforts of Jil Swarthout, our Director of Food Services and Nutrition. Her hard work has enabled us to offer free breakfast and lunch for the next four years. Our ability to secure free meals through the Community Eligibility Provision is dependent on families doing their part to complete the voluntary CEP application, found on our website at Midlakes.org. Please take a moment to complete the form and send it back to us.

If your family has any questions regarding this process, or anything else during the school year, please don't hesitate to contact me, the Main Office at Midlakes Elementary School or your student's teacher. Thank you for your continued support of our students and schools. ■

— Christopher Moyer, Principal

## HIGHLIGHTS



## NEW AP AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District welcomed Brianne Raes in August as its newest Assistant Principal of Midlakes Elementary School.

Raes comes to Midlakes from the Marion Central School District, where she served as an administrative intern and PK-12 interim assistant principal, overseeing discipline and daily staff/student supervision and facilitating the district's New Teacher Mentor Program.

She also served as the assistant principal of the Summer Academy at Sodus Junior/Senior High School in 2022 and collaborated with teachers, counselors, and others from six districts to provide students with the necessary academic, behavioral, emotional, and social support through the Multi-Tiered System of Support framework, which has been adopted at Midlakes.

Raes first joined Marion in 2014 as a special education teacher, and coached soccer, basketball, softball, and baseball while at Marion. She earned her Certificate of Advanced Study in Education Administration from SUNY Oswego, and earned both a Master's and a Bachelor's in Education from Nazareth College.

She also holds several teaching certifications, as well as a School Building Leader/School District Leader Certification Internship. ■

# NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS

COMPETITIVE PAY,  
GREAT BENEFITS,  
PAID TRAINING,  
AND MUCH MORE!



LEARN ABOUT JOINING OUR TEAM  
AT [MIDLAKES.ORG](http://MIDLAKES.ORG)  
OR CALL (315) 548-6420.





## KICKING OFF THE NEW YEAR

A little rain couldn't dampen the excitement on campus as teachers and staff welcomed students back with smiles and hugs to campus on Thursday, Sept. 7 for the start of the school year. ■



**A MESSAGE FROM THE SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**

# NEW PRINCIPAL IS OFF AND RUNNING

As we begin the new school year, I am thrilled to step into the role of Principal at Midlakes Middle/High School and embark on a journey of shared values, growth, and community building. It is with great excitement that I express my eagerness to collaborate with both parents and students to foster an environment that nurtures respect, responsibility, independence, and kindness.

Midlakes is all about those shared values. They guide us in creating a positive and supportive environment. The collaborative work to identify these values was clear through my experiences coming into the district with individuals throughout the school and community.

During this school year, Midlakes Middle/High School will focus on expanding the work within our strategic plan to grow the student experience, expand academic excellence and Midlakes community, and develop strong and empowered staff.

Communication is key in growing the school community with staff, students, parents, and the larger community. It is through open and transparent communication that we can build



trust, address challenges, and celebrate successes together. I encourage all parents and students to actively engage in conversations with us, whether it's in direct discussions, ParentSquare messages, or other channels, I am excited to hear from you.

As we progress throughout the upcoming school year, let's focus our energy on the opportunities it brings. While the summer months have been productive behind the scenes, I am genuinely looking forward to the promise of new beginnings, fresh perspectives, and collaborative efforts. This year is about growth, learning, and making Midlakes Middle/High School an even stronger community that nurtures and empowers everyone to reach their fullest potential.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education and working together to meet their goals and aspirations.

Together, we will create an environment where the values of respect, responsibility, independence, and kindness guide every step we take. Here's to a year of growth, discovery, and meaningful connections. ■

— Daniel McAlpin, Principal

## SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURES FREE MEALS IN 2023-2024

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District is pleased to announce a meal certification option available to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program called the Community Eligibility Provision.

This certification allows Midlakes to offer both breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students during the entire 2023-2024 academic year, and subsequent three academic years.

Each student will be allowed one full breakfast and one full lunch per day, under the certification. Students will be charged for individual items and double meals, which can be purchased using personal checks, cash, or cashless payments through MySchoolBucks. Meal options will be consistent with previous years.

No further action is required on your behalf to participate in the free program. However the district encourages families to complete the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)/Household Income Eligibility Form to help secure future grants and funds for the school meal program.



Families completing the form may drop it off at school, mail directly to Jil Swarthout, Director of Food Service and Nutrition, Midlakes Café Building No. 3, 1550 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432, or email it to FoodService@Midlakes.org. Families with questions can contact Swarthout at (315) 548.6426 or JSwarthout@Midlakes.org or visit Midlakes.org for more information. ■

### HIGHLIGHTS



### NJHS SHOE DRIVE UNDERWAY

Midlakes National Junior Honor Society is holding a shoe drive fundraiser through Oct. 31 to raise funds to support the community service projects it supports and pay annual dues.

NJHS will earn funds from Funds2Orgs based on the total weight of used and new shoes collected. Anyone can help by donating gently worn used and new shoes and sneakers at Midlakes High School.

Donations are being collected in both schools with a shoe collection event scheduled in the Athletic Wing bus loop from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Sept. 30. ■

### DIGITAL HALL PASS LAUNCHED

Midlakes Middle/High School is excited to announce the adoption of a modern electronic hall pass.

The digital system, which has been implemented by other schools in our region, allows teachers and staff to keep focused on what's going on in their classrooms to deliver instruction instead of worrying about students wandering the halls.

The hall pass also enhances school security by allowing staff to quickly locate students in the halls during an emergency and provides increased parent/guardian engagement by allowing them to access their child's hall pass history.

Families with questions regarding the new hall pass may contact the Main Office at Midlakes Middle/High School. ■

# AG IN OUR CLAS

Midlakes brings  
and careers to s

Last year, students made cheese from scratch, charted the incubation of chickens and ducklings, learned about grafting grape vines, raised large-mouth bass, and grew disease-resistant chestnut trees.

This year is shaping up to offer even more with expanded opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the local agricultural industry as the curriculum increases opportunities matching the interests of students, current trends, and the passion of teachers.

"Our goal is to connect kids to something they are interested in and give them some non-traditional options — something they will get excited about," said Ethan Sleeman, a teacher at Midlakes Middle/High School. "It may not be their major in college, but when they have a home or apartment someday, they can take advantage of what they learned to grow a garden and appreciate what they learned at Midlakes."

Six different courses at the school now focus on everything from agricultural innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainability, along with plant and food sciences for students in grades 8-12.

Also, a new Agriculture Club advisors Marina Bartolotta-O'Brien and Jessica Spence brought students to several area farms to learn about daily business operations and how innovation drives one of the biggest industries in today's economy.

"We all have the need to eat, put clothes on our backs, and a roof over our heads," said Mrs. Bartolotta-O'Brien. "None of that would happen without agriculture."

These new opportunities are on top of the traditional lessons teachers of all grades regularly bring into the classroom, such as an elementary school field trip to a local farm, work on community careers, a science class trying to grow disease resistant trees or speakers and farmers bringing their experiences and farm animals to campus to share with students.

The plan is to grow the program with



Through Midlakes agriculture program, students visited several local farms in 2022-2023 including Embers Rising Farm, Fa-Ba Farm, Stoney Ridge Farms, Bonna Terra Farm, Padelford Brook Soap Co., and Hemdale Farms & Greenhouses. Also, students learned about the incubation process of ducklings and chicks, helped expose elementary school students to farm animals and life, planted seeds with first graders, and much more.

"Our goal is to connect kids to something they are interested in and give them

locally produced goods, innovation,  
students with a growing agricultural program.

# SSROOMS



additional courses like Introduction to Agriculture – 8, Agricultural Exploration, Small Animal Science, and Floral Design, and join the FFA, an extracurricular organization for students interested in agriculture and leadership.

All of it is on top of what was already occurring in grades K-12 with projects on careers — including farming — work planting, growing and harvesting goods, producing maple syrup, visits by 4-H, local farmers, and much more.

"The reality is that a quarter of all working Americans are immersed in agriculture in some way," said Mrs. Spence, hired last year with Mrs. Bartolotta-O'Brien to join Mr. Sleeman and expand agriculture offerings. "There have been a lot of light bulb moments because our students have had limited exposure to agriculture, food systems, and animal science. They didn't know they had these opportunities."

The expanded focus on agriculture at Midlakes was allowed to happen after the state brought agriculture into the classroom under the Career & Technical Education umbrella to better reflect current trends.

Midlakes teachers said their coursework appeals to all types of learners while providing an additional pathway to earn credits, graduate, and prepare students for various careers and post-secondary education in the agricultural industry.

It also builds connections to the approximately 50 agricultural-related businesses and nearly 20 local farms located within the borders of the school district.

"I think part of it is that the community has asked for it on top of the fact that it's a required class for students to get a credit in Ag. Tech.," said Mr. Sleeman. "The hope is we build it into a big following because of where we live and what's around us."

*Secondary students interested in the agriculture program or the club may contact one of the teachers listed here or the Pupil Support Office. ■*



them some non-traditional options — something they will get excited about." ■ ■

## HIGHLIGHTS



## '23 HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCED

Two former standout athletes will join a growing list of Midlakes graduates recognized for their athletic accomplishments by the Midlakes Athletics Hall of Fame.

The committee has announced that Jason Charlette and Tyler Smith will be honored alongside other individual athletes and sports teams for outstanding athletic achievements while at Midlakes High School.

Midlakes Athletics Hall of Fame Committee is now seeking nominations for its Class of 2024 through Nov. 1.

Nominations and other information are available at [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org) under the Athletics drop-down menu. All forms should be mailed to the Midlakes Athletics Hall of Fame, 1554 Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY, 14432. For more information, email [midlakeshalloffame@gmail.com](mailto:midlakeshalloffame@gmail.com).

## RETIREES CELEBRATED

Ten staff members who worked in the classroom, helped maintain school buildings and buses, and assisted in other areas of school operations were recognized in June by the Board of Education.

Congratulations to Christine Sabin, bus driver; Richard Giles, maintenance mechanic; Terri Usip-Silverman, account clerk; Roy Burm, bus mechanic; Terri DeCook, teaching assistant; Cynthia Geiger, special education teacher; Lisa Pietrocarlo, teacher; James Trowbridge, teacher; Carolyn Wescott, teacher; and Sandra Leon-Knipper, teaching assistant. ■

# CLASS OF '23

Israel Acevedo Resendiz  
Angelina S. Adorno  
Gabriel Alexander Allen  
Kaylie E. Atkinson  
Sadie Marie Atkinson  
Samantha N. Baker  
Carter James Baylard  
Cobe John Paul Belknap  
Rickey J. Betances  
Ethan R. Bond  
Ernie L. Bowden  
Gabriel Porter Brack  
Carissa H. Brooks  
Sarah E. Brown  
Jared L. Brownell  
Gracie E. Brucker  
Aiden Joshua Budd  
Chloe B. Bump  
Bryan T. Cauvel  
Ashley Madison Coats  
Cassie R. Cook  
Ayden Cooper  
Lyza Cottrill  
Marina Cruz Ferrando  
Christopher T. Davies  
John DeBoover  
Jack DeJonge  
Mason J. DeSain  
Bianca Lynn DiBernardo  
Alanna Dixon  
Nauvoo C. Dorr  
Camryn Mayble Ford  
Jacob Allen Frere  
Noah Faye Frere  
Lexus M. Gedney  
Mary Catherine Givens  
Hanna L. Godkin  
Aidan Groeling  
Owen Guest  
Riley P. Haers  
Olivia P. Hannux  
Mason Harrington  
Ashley M. Hayes  
Isabella N. Herendeen  
Michael Jacob Hilburn  
Noah E. Horning  
Carson L. House  
Emma M. Hyde  
Jennifer E. Iraci  
David McGovern Jankowski  
Maeve Johnston  
Jasmine M. Kent  
Elizabeth Kristine Kirilka  
Hannah Klusek  
Keatley Krenzer  
Nathan Richard LaBour  
Jackson R. Laird



## GRADUATES AWARDED \$132K

Graduating seniors at Midlakes High School received nearly \$132,000 in financial support for outstanding academic achievements, citizenship, and individual merit during the school's 53rd Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, June 24 in the Midlakes High School Auditorium. Overall, 44 students were honored with 120 awards totaling \$131,695. ■

# GRADUATES



Nathan C. Laird  
 George T. Laird  
 Tyler Brody Lantrip  
 Louise Yu Dian Liu  
 Alexis Ann Lolis  
 Kate M. Mahoney  
 Manpreet Kaur Mand  
 Justin P. Maney  
 Jameson Cleere Martin  
 Carter S. Maslyn  
 Dylan Scott Mattoon  
 Tyler J. McCarrick  
 Miguel Alexander Merced  
 Kiia Lee Middlebrook  
 Arianna R. Mikkelsen  
 Lizbeth E. Moreno Rodriguez  
 Peter James Mueller  
 Grace Catherine Murphy  
 Joshua A. Newton  
 Kayla R. Nurse  
 Arsyn M. Ocasio  
 Andrew D. Parish  
 Catherine Peacock  
 Jonathan Ryan Quade  
 Kyle J. Richards  
 Kendall R. Ridley  
 Levi Rockefeller  
 Dillon Roeland  
 Patrick Allen Lloyd Romriell Jr.  
 Zachary M. Rozelle  
 Ethan James Ruggles  
 Kairi Love Saunders  
 Kyle O. Sheffield  
 Samantha H. Shoemaker  
 Abigail Catherine Spence  
 Daniel P. Spruill  
 Savanna Mary Thomas  
 Natahliyah A. Tracy  
 Trinity Nikole Traster  
 Emma J. Ubbink  
 Gabriel J. VanDamme  
 Amber Lynn Vandermallie  
 Pierce R. Van Meter  
 Callie L. Walker  
 Cameron M. Walker  
 Autumn Rose Anne Walsh  
 Joseph Allen Waters  
 Olivia R. Wellman  
 Jan Westphalen  
 Hannah E. White  
 Owen Wild  
 Amelia Rose Wilkes  
 Katelyn A. Wilkes  
 Hannah Irene Wise  
 Karl J. Yantz  
 Jeremiah R. Young Jr.

## HIGHLIGHTS



## STUDENTS DELIVER ADDRESS

Midlakes students Olivia Yeatts and Riley Marion recited the Gettysburg Address during the local Memorial Day celebration as part of a contest sponsored by the Phelps American Legion Post 457 and supported by members of the National Junior Honor Society.

The contest was open to seventh and eighth graders and had members of NJHS support students as they worked on speaking in front of a crowd with poise and confidence while delivering Abraham Lincoln's famous speech.

Yeatts and Marion received a monetary award from the Legion for their efforts. ■

## SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE GRADS OF DISTINCTION

The Graduates of Distinction Committee would like to thank Midlakes High School graduates and Graduates of Distinction honorees Joel Adams (\$1,000) and Hal Smith (\$2,000) for their contributions.

The donations will support future efforts by the committee to welcome and honor outstanding graduates from Midlakes High School for recognition.

Also, the committee seeks nominations for its Class of 2024. Nominees must achieve significant professional, civic and other achievements, be of high moral character and a graduate of Midlakes High School. Nominations are due Nov. 1. For more information and nomination forms, please visit [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org). ■

## HIGHLIGHTS

## STUDENTS 'DO THE RIGHT THING'

Two students at Midlakes Elementary School have been recognized with a "Do the Right Thing" award by the Ontario County Sheriff's Office.

Fifth grader Alan Naval and kindergarten Cameron Knight were each nominated by school staff for being responsible, showing integrity, and taking the appropriate action during different situations.

Alan found a \$100 bill lying outside a classroom last school year and immediately turned it in to a teacher to return it to the person who lost it. Cameron was recognized for turning in a pill he found to an adult. ■

## VFW POST 44 HONORS MIDLAKES

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 44 (Clifton Springs) recognized Midlakes Elementary School during its annual Memorial Day tradition of honoring those who sacrificed by serving in the military.

The local VFW gave a plaque to the school that read "in recognition of 35 years of continuous support of Memorial Day services and patriotic events by the administration, staff, teachers, and students."

"The officers and members of VFW Post 44 express our deepest appreciation for all that you have done and continue to do, spreading the spirit of patriotism in our communities and recognizing the sacrifices made by Veterans to achieve the true cost of freedom."

First graders at the school hold an assembly just before Memorial Day, where they read and sing patriotic songs in front of local veterans, families, and friends. The plaque donated by the VFW will be displayed in a prominent place in the school. ■

## LOOKING AHEAD

## HIGHLIGHTS

The Midlakes Aquatic Center offers opportunities for the community to swim all year long, except when school closes during a snow emergency and most holidays.

Morning, family, lap and open swim as well as water aerobics are offered throughout the week:

- **Family/Open/Lap Swim:** 6-8 p.m., Fridays.
- **Morning Swim:** 6-7:30 a.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- **Water Aerobics:** 7:30-8:30 a.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

## Winter Swim Lessons (Session II)

Those interested in swim lessons for their child should email Jack Hauber (jhauber@midlakes.org) by December 21. Be sure to include parent's and child's name, parent's email and phone number, and desired level and time if Level 1.

- **Level 1 Lessons** are 30 minutes, from 9-9:30 a.m. and 9:30-10 a.m.
- **Levels 2, 3, 4 and 5** are an hour, from 9-10 a.m.
- **Lesson dates** are Jan. 6, 13 & 20, Feb. 3 & 10. All dates are subject to change.

For more information, call (315) 548-6451 or visit the district's website at Midlakes.org. ■

## DON'T MISS IT



## CLUE AT THE BLACK BOX

Midlakes Theatre Experience has scheduled four performances of "Clue," the hilarious whodunit comedy that promises to keep audiences guessing who did what, when, how, and where!

Performances will be 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 2, Friday, Nov. 3, and Saturday, Nov. 4; and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5 in Midlakes Black Box Theatre. Check Midlakes.org for additional details as they become available. ■

## RPO RETURNS!

The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra is scheduled to return to the Midlakes High School Auditorium for a community concert with Midlakes students thanks to special underwriting by the G.W. Lisk Foundation.

**DATE:** Wednesday, Nov. 29.  
Check Midlakes.org for more details as they become available. ■



## ON THE CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

6:30 p.m., Oct. 6

## HOMECOMING WEEK

Oct. 2-7

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY

Oct. 6 (NO SCHOOL)

## COLUMBUS DAY

Oct. 9 (NO SCHOOL)

## MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS

Oct. 10-12

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

6:30 p.m., Oct. 16

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS

Oct. 18-19

## BOYS MODIFIED SWIM &amp; EAST BASKETBALL BEGIN

Oct. 23

## BOYS WEST BASKETBALL BEGINS

Oct. 30

## NOVEMBER

## SENIOR PHOTOS/ BABY PICTURES DUE

Nov. 1

## NOMINATIONS DUE

Athletics Hall of Fame/ Graduates of Distinction, Nov. 1

## CLUE: FALL PLAY

Nov. 2-5

## ROLLER SKATING PARTIES

Nov. 6-8

## VETERANS DAY (OBSERVED)

Nov. 10

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

6:30 p.m., Nov. 13

## BAND INFO. NIGHT

7 p.m., Nov. 16 (Grades 3-6)

*All events are subject to change. Find school calendars, sports schedules and more under the "Community" tab at Midlakes.org.*

# CAMPUS FORWARD

*School spaces reopen as construction begins on the remaining areas of the capital project. Meanwhile, district staff work to secure federal funding for a new UPK playset and assist community partners to restore and relocate the Teft Avenue school bell.*

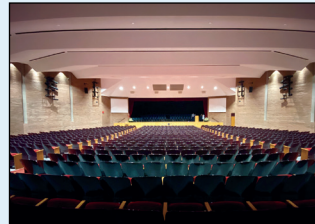
## CAFETERIA



The new middle school cafeteria opened in September, bringing a bright and open space to where the high school band room was once located. Work has already begun to relocate the band room at the site of the former middle school cafeteria. ■



A general music room with improved acoustics has opened with practice and chorus rooms to open soon. Paint and other finishing touches continue in the music wing, which now has a straight corridor. The Midlakes High School Auditorium opened in June, just in time for graduation. ■



## MUSIC WING

## SCHOOL CAMPUS



A new UPK playset opened at Midlakes Elementary School as community members Roy Wilkes and Travis Altman of Weslor Enterprises refurbished and relocated the Teft Avenue school bell to the Midlakes One-Room Schoolhouse with the help of Midlakes Facilities Department. A dedication for the bell is planned for the spring. A new roof was installed over the middle school cafeteria and the stadium field opened in September, earlier than expected. ■

**STUDENT LIFE**

# BIG DONATION BY NEHS

Midlakes National Elementary Honor Society again exceeded its own goal in its annual effort to combat cancer by raising nearly \$12,000 for the annual Relay for Life.

Overall, Midlakes students raised \$11,857 for the American Cancer Society by soliciting donations from family and friends, many of whom know someone diagnosed with cancer.

Avery Reynolds, a fifth grader, received help from his parents to get word of the fundraiser out to his family. He raised \$1,056, tops among NEHS members.

"I have a lot of family," he said. "We even had a family friend that's close to us, and she sent it out ... just to prevent the fact that people from other families can pass away from this, I wanted to raise money for them."

Several students joined other area fundraising teams for the Relay for Life of the Finger Lakes on June 3 in Geneva to support



those living with cancer, their families, and others impacted by cancer.

During the Relay For Life, students walked and ran around a path in addition to being a part of a fun day of activities.

"It was the greatest time of 2023 for me,"

said Alivia Sinack, who raised \$820. "I think that it is very fun and raises a lot of awareness for cancer and there's a lot of money that they raise. It's just amazing."

Heather Bradley and Erin Altman are co-advisers of the honor society. ■

**BUSY STAFF**



Plan for Excellence Committees at Midlakes Middle/High School, at left, and Midlakes Elementary School meet over the summer to work on their plans.

**PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CSD**

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