A publication for the residents of Pittsford Central School District

2023-2024 School Budget Passes

Thank you to our Pittsford Schools community members for your support and vote during the School Budget Vote and Board of Education Election on May 16, 2023.

The results are as follows: Total Voters: 1,870

Budget: \$155,512,452, within the tax cap

Yes: 1,506 No: 360

Proposition 1: Purchase 12 replacement buses, two replacement vehicles, and communication equipment used in the operation of buses from "Capital Reserve Fund - Purchase of Buses."

Yes: 1,588 No: 280

Proposition 2: Establish a "Transportation Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund" for the purpose of financing the purchase of school buses and vehicles and transferring the balance of the existing "Bus Capital Reserve Fund" (approved by voters in 2015) into said fund Yes: 1,542 No: 324

Proposition 3: Establish a "Swimming Facilities Capital Reserve Fund" for the purpose of financing District swimming pools, including the acquisition and installation of machinery, equipment, apparatus or furnishings required for the purposes thereof. Yes: 1,521 No: 339

Board of Education: Two Seats, Two Candidates

Kim Huels 1.573 votes Robin V. Scott 1,476 votes

Interact Club Students Recognized for Over 1,500 Hours of Volunteer Work

At the June 7, 2023, Pittsford Rotary meeting, student leaders from Mendon and Sutherland High Schools' Interact Clubs received recognition on behalf of the 256 club members for the year of service they rendered to the community through various volunteer activities, fundraisers and events. Pittsford high schools' Interact Club students provided 1,565 hours of service hours this school year under the direction of Rotarian Patrick Mallery. Some of their many service activities included food drives, the springtime Paddle and Pour fundraiser, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Great Strides Walk, Erie Canal Path/Auburn Trail trash pickup, "Spread the Word" campaign in schools to promote inclusion, and the Polar Plunge to raise funds for Special Olympics. Additionally, Interact students could be seen at assisted living centers sharing in craft projects with residents and volunteering at countless community, PTSA and school festivals and events throughout the year.



Brianna Walker and Annalise Borrelli Named 2023 Outstanding Seniors

Congratulations to Mendon High School graduate Brianna Walker and Sutherland High School graduate Annalise Borrelli for being selected as Pittsford Central School District's 2023 Outstanding Seniors!

The award is sponsored by the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents and presented annually to an exceptional senior from each of the county's high schools based on character, service and scholarship.

Brianna Walker was nominated for this award in recognition of her excellence in the classroom and her outstanding ability to be an effective leader and role model. Throughout her time at Mendon High School, Brianna worked tirelessly to raise awareness and advocate for student voices. As President of Mendon's Roc2Change group, she brought students together for difficult conversations surrounding race, and advocated with administrators on issues like increased transparency and learning opportunities for students and staff alike. Brianna also successfully led the campaign for Black Excellence month at MHS, bringing teachers, students and administrators together for this common goal.

"Brianna has an innate ability to both listen and lead," said Superintendent Pero. "She consistently advocates for others and has the ability to bring people together to create a vison, implement an action plan and tackle tough issues," he said.

Annalise Borrelli's nomination for the award was based on a number of factors, including her accomplishments as a student, artist and leader among her peers. Demonstrating both technical skills and imaginative thinking, her artwork has been recognized with numerous awards during her time at Sutherland High School. As a member of the Superintendent Advisory Committee, Vice President of the Executive Student Council and Art Club, and as a Link Leader, she has dedicated a lot of time to others and promotes inclusion and diversity in all she does, ensuring that everyone has a voice. Annalise has completed over 360 hours of volunteer work in the community and in her chosen extracurricular activities.

"One of Anna's greatest strengths is her caring nature and remarkable ability to make quick connections with those around her," said Superintendent Pero. "She demonstrates a strong sense of compassion, integrity and genuine curiosity in everything she does and works to make the world a better place," he said.







Annalise Borrelli (SHS)

Update on Capital Improvement Projects

Pittsford Schools are moving forward with implementing safety initiatives included in the recently approved capital improvement project that details additional safety and security measures for students and staff. The initial focus will be to harden the main entrances and create a secure, single point-of-entry at each school. This will be accomplished through various means, including architectural, technological, and procedural methods.

Architectural enhancements will involve constructing or enhancing double-door vestibules at each school location. The vestibules will regulate traffic flow by creating a chamber with a transaction window where visitors will check-in before being granted access to the school building. Intruder locks for large assembly areas like auditoriums and gymnasiums will be enhanced later this year. This phase of the capital project is focused on containing and delaying unauthorized entry into the building and large gathering spaces.

Technical improvements will include upgrading security systems District-wide, including security cameras and card readers. Procedural improvements will involve a comprehensive review of current policies and procedures, especially as it relates to single point-of-entry.

Main entrance door construction plans have been submitted to the New York State Education Department for approval. Based on their estimated five-month approval process, followed by soliciting bids for competitive pricing on labor and materials, the construction is expected to commence next summer. The anticipated completion of this phase will be by the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

Broadway Music Director/Alumna Lena Gabrielle Returns to Speak with Students

Lena Gabrielle, Mendon High School alumna and Music Director for the Tony Award®-winning musical SIX ("Boleyn" Tour) came back to her alma mater on May 17 to speak with students in MHS's music/theater program about her career in music and what it has been like to be part of the global musical sensation about the SIX wives of Henry VIII.

She was joined by Taylor Pearlstein (Alternate for the characters of Anne Boleyn,

Katherine Howard, and Catherine Parr) and Sara Gammage (Production Stage Manager), all of whom were in town for the May 16-21 performances of SIX at the Rochester Auditorium Theatre. Each spoke about their individual roles, what it is like to be on tour in a Broadway production, and how they came to this point in their careers.

In talking with students about how to be successful in the music/theater industry, they emphasized the need to approach new experiences with a sense of openness, energy and willingness to work hard. Drawing from her own experiences, Lena shared that life may not always go as planned but will ultimately contribute to personal growth and success. Remaining true to themselves and not comparing their unique abilities with those of others has been a mantra that has supported their mental health along the way.

While Lena's love of music began at the age of three when she first

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Pittsford Central School District Recognized as one of the "2023 **Best Communities for Music Education**"

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation has again named Pittsford Central School District one of the "2023 Best Communities for Music Education." Pittsford CSD is among 830 school districts nationwide to receive this award in recognition of outstanding support of music education and the role it plays in enriching the lives of children and advancing student achievement.

The NAMM Foundation's Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) is a signature program of The NAMM Foundation that recognizes and celebrates school districts and schools for their support and commitment to music education and efforts to assure access to music for all students as part of a wellrounded education.



Kindergarten Registration

To be eligible for Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year, children must be five years old by December 1, 2023. If you have not yet registered your Kindergarten-age child, please access the required registration forms by visiting the Department of Student Services page of the District website at pittsfordschools.org and selecting the "Registration, Enrollment and Records" link.

Kindergarten screening will be offered during the summer as needed. To schedule your child for screening, please call the Assessment Clerk at 585-267-1022. Kindergarten Screening is mandated by New York State and assesses children in the areas of motor skills, concepts such as counting, object naming skills, and language skills.

We look forward to welcoming the class of 2036 to the Pittsford Central School District!

On Stage this Summer!

Summer Enrichment **Institute Presents:**

Circus, Circus K-2 Program July 7 at 9:30 am

Disney's Aristocats KIDS! Gr. 3-5 Program July 7 at 1:30 pm and 3 pm

Into the Woods, Jr. Middle School Program August 4 at 7 pm August 5 at 2 pm

Mean Girls High **School Version** High School Program July 28 at 7 pm July 29 at 2 pm and 7 pm

For more information visit pittsfordschools.org/SEI

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Administrator Changes Across the District

Pittsford Central School District's Board of Education approved the following administrator changes that occurred this past spring. For more detailed information, please visit the District website at pittsfordschools.org.

Elena Montgomery Appointed Director of Food Services



MHS alumna Elena Montgomery was appointed Director of Food Services, effective June 1, 2023, replacing retiring Director Paulette Vangellow.

Montgomery has extensive experience in the food industry, most recently working for Strong Memorial Hospital. She has a proven track record of delivering exceptional customer service, implementing food safety practices, overseeing inventory, building supplier relationships, and managing kitchens. Her previous roles

include Restaurant Manager at Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, Managing Partner at Longhorn Steakhouse, and Dining Services Manager at Cobblestone Creek Country Club. She has proficiency in staffing, training, and collaborating with other departments while fulfilling administrative duties.

Maria Hill Hired as Coordinator of Social Emotional Learning



Pittsford CSD has hired Maria Hill as Coordinator of Social Emotional Learning (SEL), effective July 11, 2023, pending Board of Education approval. She most recently served as the Committee on Special Education Coordinator for Pittsford Schools and replaces Stephanie Barg who has been hired as Principal of Jefferson Road Elementary School.

With 21 years of experience in the field of education, Hill worked for Buffalo Public Schools from 2008-2015

as CSE Chairperson and special education teacher from 2006-2008 and has served as a special education teacher for schools in Springville, NY, Buffalo, NY and Country Club Hills, IL.

Lindsay Marchese Ali Appointed Principal of Park Road Elementary School



Lindsay Marchese Ali was appointed Principal of Park Road Elementary School, effective July 1, 2023, replacing retiring Principal Mark Balsamo.

Ali has worked at the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District (HFL) since 2012, most recently as Director of Pupil Personnel Services. During her tenure with HFL, she also served as a Teacher on Special Assignment/Administrative Intern from 2016-2018, Special Education Teacher-Team Leader from 2012-

2016, and Coach of Modified Girls Soccer and Lacrosse.

Prior to her work with HFL, Ali served as Dean of Students (2011-12) and Resource Teacher and Compliance Facilitator (2008-11) for Torrance Creek Elementary School in Huntersville, NC, and as a self-contained teacher for children with autism at J.M. Morehead Elementary School in Charlotte, NC, from 2006-08.

Stephanie Barg Appointed Principal of Jefferson Road Elementary School



With a start date of July 1, 2023, Stephanie Barg replaces acting principal Elizabeth Konar who formerly served as principal of Sutherland High School and stepped out of retirement to fill the position when Dr. Kedley resigned earlier this year. Ms. Barg has been a general education teacher for Pittsford Schools since 2012 and most recently served as Coordinator of Social Emotional Learning in the Office of Student Services.

Tyler Manchester Appointed Assistant Principal of Pittsford Sutherland High School



Tyler Manchester has been appointed Assistant Principal of Sutherland High School, effective July 1, 2023, replacing retiring Assistant Principal Jennifer Marren.

Manchester comes to Pittsford Schools after most recently serving as principal of the Rochester Academy Charter School since 2019. He began his career at the Rochester Academy Charter School as a social studies teacher, then assistant principal, and most recently served

as the school's principal. He also served as an Academic Intervention Services (AIS) tutor in the Brighton and Pal-Mac Central School Districts from 2012-2015.

Athletic Director Scott Barker to Retire



Scott Barker, Pittsford Schools' Athletic Director, retires on October 1, 2023, after 28 years of service in the Pittsford CSD. Barker began his 28-year career as a PE teacher at Pittsford Middle School (now Barker Road Middle School).

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with so many outstanding coaches and thousands of student-athletes who represent the best of high school athletics," said Scott Barker. "I was fortunate to work and

live in an amazing place where my sons grew up and where my wife, Julie, also works. I could not ask for a better district to have spent the majority of my career."

Barker was named the 2013 NYSAAA Chapter V Athletic Director of the Year and the 2014 SAANYS Region 11 Director of the Year. He served as the President of the MCPSAC, Section V Football Chairman, and Section V Hockey President. He was a member of the Section V Executive Committee and the Section V Athletic Council.

Catch Up on the Power Hour Topics You Might Have Missed This Year

In its commitment to provide opportunities for parents/guardians and staff members to learn together how best to support our students, Pittsford Schools hosted Power Hours quarterly during the 2022-2023 school year.

View the on-demand library of Power Hour videos at pittsfordschools.org/powerhour.

Navigating Social Situations: April 25, 2023

A panel of building and District administrators and mental health experts discussed what parents can anticipate at each stage of development and how parents can support their children through conflict, relational aggression, and bullying.

Impacts of Social Media: February 16, 2023

Basketball coach and public speaker Scott Fitch warned about the harmful consequences of inappropriate social media usage among teenagers. Scott's presentation reminds us that online comments can have real life results as he shared a story about a student athlete he coached no longer being recruited for a college due to his social media activity. This consequence is a practice not uncommon today as colleges rescind admission offers, job opportunities are lost or people are let go from employment all due to things they've said or done on social media.

Anxiety and Worry: December 5, 2022

This Power Hour focused on how anxiety is a normal reaction to stressful situations that can look different for everyone. A panel discussed and answered questions about understanding how anxiety and worry can look at different developmental ages, strategies to support children with anxiety or worry, and how to identify when additional support may be needed.

School Safety & Mental Health: October 24, 2022

Creating a safe and affirming school environment is a priority at Pittsford Schools. A panel of staff members discussed and answered questions about the interrelationships between mental health and school safety.

High School Students' Digital Art Recognized with Digies Awards

Congratulations to Sutherland High School students Charlie Ritter and Adriana Ochoa and Mendon High School student Skylar Wilson who won awards at the 17th Annual Digies Media Festival recognizing outstanding student work in digital media.

- Adriana Ochoa: 1st Place (grades 10-12) in video for "Fetch"
- Charlie Ritter: 2nd Place (grades 10-12) in video for "Dots"
- Skylar Wilson: 1st Place (grades 10-12) in graphic arts for "Hands with Water"

The Digies is an annual digital media festival run by the School Library System of the Genesee Valley BOCES. The festival encourages students to be active creators of digital media and celebrates their achievements. Judging criteria is based on the following rubrics: artistic impact, composition/design, technical execution, and integrity related to copyright laws and use of information.



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Broadway Music Director/Alumna Lena Gabrielle Returns to Speak with Students

started playing violin and later when she learned piano and began composing music and writing songs, she didn't realize being a musical director was even a job until she was 25 years old. She recalled auditioning for a part in a musical and being asked to step into the role of music director after the production's music director had suddenly quit. It was by complete happenstance that she entered the career she now loves and has experienced so much success in.

Lena's interest in music has been a lifelong endeavor. She began composing classical music in elementary school, and as a teen discovered her love of writing pop songs. She was involved in high school orchestra, chorus and theater, and in 2007, started a wizard rock band themed around Harry Potter, releasing three CDs and performing in two national tours.

Lena holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Theory with a Piano Performance minor from Ithaca College. After graduating and living briefly in Portland, OR, and New York City, Lena relocated to Pittsburgh. During her two years there, Lena music directed over 20 shows, taught numerous voice and theatre workshop classes, and was the composer for three original productions. "Tink," for which Lena wrote the music and lyrics, was presented at the New York Musical Festival in 2016 and received a citation for excellence in family theatre.

Since returning to New York City in 2015, Lena has broadened her work as a music director, performer, and educator, and she has shifted her focus to collaboration and arrangement for new theatre. In the past two years, she has collaborated with over 10 writing teams to help bring their shows to life through new arrangements and orchestrations. Favorite NYC and regional credits include: "Emojiland" (The Duke - New York Times Critics Pick) the world premiere of "The Most Miserable Christmas Tree," "Endangered: The Eco Musical" (Davenport Theatre), "You, Me, I, We" (Royal Family Productions), "The Full Monty" (Timber Lake Playhouse), and "Aida" (John W. Engeman Theatre at Northport).

Students Win NYS First in Math Tournament

Congratulations to Thornell Road Elementary School (TRE) students Naveen Madhavan, Herene Shim, and Kazimir Povelaites for winning 1st place in the NYS First in Math Tournament on May 20, 2023! Coached by Jaya Madhavan (Naveen's Dad) and Johanna Mahan



(TRE Instructional Challenge teacher), they won a combined total of \$6,000 for Thornell Road Elementary (\$1,000 in the first round in March and \$5,000 at the Finals in Albany). They also got to meet Robert Sun, the inventor of the 24 Game and creator of First in Math.

"They represented Pittsford Schools in the most amazingly brilliant way possible and have so much to be proud of," said TRE Elementary Math and Science Standards leader Dennise Zobel who served as proctor for this hardworking group of students.

Pittsford Student to Represent New York at JDRF Children's Congress

Every two years, more than 160 children living with type 1 diabetes (T1D) gather for the JDRF Children's Congress in Washington, D.C., to meet with Federal lawmakers and share their unique stories. In July, Pittsford fifth grader Isabella Martinez



will be in attendance as one of nine representatives from New York State, along with representatives from all 50 states and Washington, D.C., as well as Australia, Canada, Israel, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

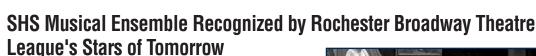
Isabella has been advocating and raising awareness for T1D since the third grade when she began making posters for her class about the differences between hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia. In the fourth grade, she dedicated months of research and writing for a class presentation about T1D. She plans to use her voice to share her story and highlight the importance of funding research for a cure.

MHS Graduate Peter Foley Receives Eastman Scholarship

Pittsford Schools congratulates Mendon High School 2023 graduate Peter Foley for being the recipient of the Rochester International Jazz Festival/Eastman School of Music Jazz (RIJF/ESM) Scholarship! The award was presented during the festival's free Jazz Scholarship Concert on June 26 at Kodak Hall.

While in high school, Foley studied double bass at Eastman School of Music, was a member of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra and played Varsity football for MHS.

The scholarship program is made possible through the financial support of the annual Rochester International Jazz Festival. Its mission is to provide jazz education opportunities for area high school students who have been involved with the Eastman Community Music School and the Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra, with the goal of investing in the next generation of musicians.



Congratulations to the Sutherland High School students who participated and were recognized at the Rochester Broadway Theatre League's Stars of Tomorrow ceremony for "The Addams Family" musical.

Pittsford Sutherland Theatre Arts received recognition for Excellence In Overall Production, Dance Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble, Acting Ensemble, Student Pit Orchestra, Production Design.

Individual Recognitions were awarded to: Arabella Torrado "Morticia," Spencer Orton "Gomez," Aaliyah Nicholas "Wednesday," Ainsley Teeters "Pugsley," Mick Casey "Uncle Fester," Maya Simonetti "Alice Beineke," Thomas Raith "Mal Beineke," Charlie Ritter "Lucas Beineke,"

"Tip of the Hat" went to Caroline Bauer, "Grandma"/Student Director Asst., and "A Round of Applause" went to: Felix Warrington, Stage Manager; Caroline Bauer, "Grandma"/Student Director Asst.; Riley Vinci, "Bride ancestor." Special Recognition was given to Rose Diekmann and Maya Simonetti.

Spencer Orton and Maya Simonetti were selected Jimmy Award Nominees.



Thanks to the Jewish Federation's Partnership2gether program, students from Thornell Road Elementary School had the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with students from Asif School in Modi'in, Israel. In addition to six classroom pairings, Thornell Road Elementary School students collaborated on art and music projects with the students in Modi'in.

For the cross-cultural art exchange project, students from both schools created line drawings of local buildings that they shared electronically, printed out and colored to learn about the communities and built environment of their partner cities.

Similarly, music teachers at Thornell Road Elementary School in Pittsford and Asif School in Modi'in, Israel, worked with their students on a collaborative project. Students at both schools were taught a section of the song "Imagine" by John Lennon, which was then recorded separately and later edited together by Sam Bell from Mendon High School to create a video demonstrating that while the students may live in different parts of the world with different life experiences, the power of music is universal.

Access the video link at: pittsfordschools.org/educationbridge.

2023 Spring Sports Roundup

Congratulations to our spring sport athletes who excel on the field and in the classroom!

SPRING SEASON RESULTS

Pittsford athletes brought home four Section V team titles, five individual sectional titles and one NYS Federation title!

NYS Federation Golf Champion

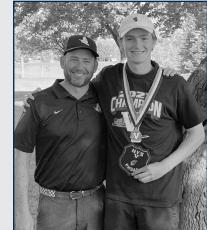
Owen Corby (SHS)

Sectional Champions

- Boys Lacrosse
- Mendon Girls Outdoor Track & Field
- Mendon Boys Tennis
- Mendon Boys Golf

Individual Track and Field Champions

- \bullet Avery Brunner (MHS) Girls Shotput and Discus
- Colin Burke (MHS) Boys 1600 and 800 Meter Runs
- Tamara Dorval (MHS) 100 and 200 Meter Dashes
- Will Tempest (SHS) 3200 Meter Run
- Gabriel Cromer (SHS) 400 Meter Dash



NYS Federation Golf Champion Owen Corby with Coach Dylan Bronson

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Congratulations to ALL of Pittsford Schools' varsity spring sports teams for being named NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Teams. To qualify, the team's average GPA must be greater than or equal to 90.0 for 75% of the roster. Spring teams included: Mendon and Sutherland Baseball, Softball, Outdoor Track/Field, Boys Golf, Boys Tennis, and Pittsford Boys and Girls Lacrosse.

Congratulations also to the 175 athletes who earned the title of Scholar-Athlete Individuals. These athletes earned a minimum GPA of 90.0.

This is the sixth consecutive year both Mendon and Sutherland High Schools qualified for the Scholar-Athlete Schools of Distinction, which is awarded to schools when all its varsity teams receive the Scholar-Athlete team award during their respective sports seasons. View the full list of Scholar-Athlete Teams and Individuals at *nysphsaa.org*.

Board of Education Honors Pittsford Pride Recipients

Nine students received the Pittsford Pride Citizenship Recognition Award during the May 9, 2023, Board of Education meeting for demonstrating excellent citizenship and positive



leadership. Congratulations to: Cain Cook, Gr. 5, Park Road Elementary School; Teagan Green, Gr. 7, Calkins Road Middle School; Ava McFall, Gr. 4, Allen Creek Elementary School; Luis Medina, Gr. 4, Thornell Road Elementary School; Brendan Rook, Gr. 8, Barker Road Middle School; Rory Selinger, Gr. 12, Sutherland High School; Erin Uzun, Gr. 5, Mendon Center Elementary School; George Valasek, Gr. 5, Jefferson Road Elementary School; Brianna Walker, Gr. 12, Mendon High School.



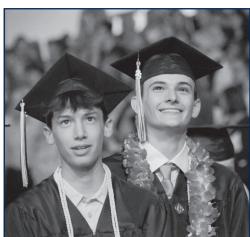
Students Inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Eleven students from Mendon and Sutherland High Schools were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) through Eastern Monroe Career Center (EMCC) on May 24. **Congratulations to:**

- Nestor Ical Tzul (Gr. 12, SHS)
- Kate Liavanava (Gr. 11, SHS)
- Sophia Maloney (Gr. 11, SHS)
- Kyle Moore (Gr. 11, MHS)
- Lucia Ricos-Garcia (Gr. 12, SHS)
- Damien Schumacher (Gr. 12, MHS)
- Jesse Schwartz (Gr. 12, SHS)
- Carmine Sellers (Gr. 11, MHS)
- Nicole Sylvestri (Gr. 12, SHS)
- Elijah Willard (Gr. 11, MHS)
- Jenny Zhao (Gr. 12, MHS)

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!









The Pittsford Central School District does not discriminate in access, admission, employment, or treatment of participants in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, color, handicapping condition, or ethnic or national origin. This is in compliance with Title IX, OCR Guidelines, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Inquiries regarding compliance issues may be addressed to: Shawn Clark, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Administration Building, Pittsford Central Schools, 75 Barker Road, Pittsford, New York 14534.

State and National Award Winning Publication



Pittsford Central Schools

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Pittsford school District News









Summer 4

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