



SWEET HOME CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Report

OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT,
ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.



2023 - 2026

#WEARESWEETHOME



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April 16 BOE Voting Session at NWACC

2023-2024

#WEARESWEETHOME

YOU'RE
INVITED

APRIL 16
6:30 PM

Northwest Amherst
Community Center
220 N Pointe Pkwy,
Buffalo, NY 14228

SWEET HOME BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

@ the Northwest
Amherst
Community
Center

Join us to learn more about our
District and the programs and
facilities of the Northwest
Amherst Community Center.



Join our team!





**SWEET HOME CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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2024-25 Budget Adoption

**April 16, 2024
Northwest Amherst
Community Center
6:30pm**

2023-2024

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SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Budget Process & School Board Elections Important Dates

Detail	Deadline
Final Tax Cap Calculations Due to the State	March 1, 2024
School Board Candidate Nominating Petitions Due*	April 22, 2024
Last Day for BOE Adoption of Proposed Budget	April 26, 2024
Property Tax Report Cards Due	April 29, 2024
Required Public Hearing on Proposed Budget	May 7 - 14, 2024
Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election	May 21, 2024

**Term of Joshua Feldmann expires on June 30, 2024*

**Seat vacated by Kailey McDonald resignation (1 year term)*

**Top vote getter wins five-year term; runner-up fills out remainder of Ms. McDonald's term (1 year)*

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2024-25 Budget Development Process

Sweet Home Dates

Detail	Date(s)
Budget Development: Update State Aid & Property Tax Cap Calculation, Meet with Administrators & Department Heads to review Budgetary Needs, Initial BOCES participation meeting, Meet with Financial Advisor to review aid projections & debt service	January 2024
Budget Study Session #1: Program Maintenance Budget based on Executive Proposal / Budget Development Objectives & Priorities	February 10, 2024
Budget Study Session #2: Preliminary Budget / Estimated Revenues & Updates / Staffing Recommendations	March 19, 2024
Budget Study Session #3: Budget Update Discussion / NYS Budget Completion & Final State Aid runs	April 9, 2024
BOE 2024-25 Budget Adoption	April 16, 2024
Annual Budget Public Hearing & Meet the Candidates Night	May 7, 2024
Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election	May 21, 2024



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Update: Revenues

★ Four Major Areas that impact revenue side of budget:

- State Aid - **NO MOVEMENT / WAITING ON NYS BUDGET APPROVAL / INFLATION FACTOR**
- Real Property Taxes (Tax Cap) / PILOTs - **FINAL TAX CAP FILED TO NYS - 3.9% INCREASE**
- Sales Tax - **3rd QUARTER PAYMENT - \$1,406,518 PAID TO DISTRICT ON 3/31**
 - **Trending toward \$5.1-\$5.2M in Sales Tax Revenue for 23-24**
 - **Budgeted \$5,000,000 for 24-25**
- Use of reserves to close potential budget gaps / lower tax levy

★ New York State promised to fully fund Basic Foundation Aid by 23-24

Foundation Aid 23-24 Enacted Budget	Foundation Aid 24-25 Fully Funded	Foundation Aid 24-25 Executive	Difference
\$21,764,913	\$23,856,725	\$23,536,375	(\$320,350)

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Update: Total Revenue

2024-25 Revenue: \$100,410,422 / Increase: \$3,523,834 / 3.6%

ACCOUNT CODE	ACCOUNT NAME	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 BUDGET	AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE	2022-23 BUDGET	AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE	2023-24 BUDGET	AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE	2024-25 BUDGET	AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
1001.0	REAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$49,532,205	\$51,105,559	\$1,573,354	3.2%	\$53,321,588	\$2,216,029	4.3%	\$53,321,588	\$0	0.0%	\$54,268,072	\$946,484	1.8%
1040.0	APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	\$2,420,000	\$2,420,000	\$0	0.0%	\$2,420,000	\$0	0.0%	\$2,420,000	\$0	0.0%	\$2,420,000	\$0	0.0%
1040.1	USE OF RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE	\$825,000	\$50,000	(\$775,000)	-93.9%	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%
1040.2	USE OF UNEMPLOYMENT RESERVE	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%
1040.3	USE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS LIAB. RESERVE	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	0.0%	\$220,350	(\$879,650)	0.0%
1040.4	USE OF WORKERS COMP. RESERVE	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%
1040.5	USE OF TAX CERTIORARI RESERVE	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%
1040.6	USE OF DEBT SERVICE RESERVE	\$900,000	\$490,000	(\$410,000)	-45.6%	\$705,000	\$215,000	43.9%	\$800,000	\$95,000	13.5%	\$515,000	(\$285,000)	-35.6%
1081.0	PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$495,000	\$589,000	\$94,000	19.0%	\$558,000	(\$31,000)	-5.3%	\$558,000	\$0	0.0%	\$505,000	(\$53,000)	-9.5%
1120.0	NON-PROP TAXES-SALES TAX	\$3,120,000	\$3,620,000	\$500,000	16.0%	\$3,900,000	\$280,000	7.7%	\$4,500,000	\$600,000	15.4%	\$5,100,000	\$600,000	13.3%
1315.0	COMM ED TUITION & FEES	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$0	0.0%	\$115,000	\$0	0.0%	\$95,000	(\$20,000)	-17.4%	\$95,000	\$0	0.0%
2230.0	TUITION-OTH DIST-FOSTER	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%	\$100,000	\$25,000	33.3%	\$100,000	\$0	0.0%
2230.2	TUITION-OTHER DISTRICTS	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$0	0.0%	\$575,000	\$0	0.0%	\$300,000	(\$275,000)	-47.8%	\$300,000	\$0	0.0%
2401.0	INTEREST / POTENTIAL FEM	\$200,000	\$220,000	\$20,000	10.0%	\$150,000	(\$70,000)	-31.8%	\$140,000	(\$10,000)	-6.7%	\$165,000	\$25,000	17.9%
2413.0	RENT REAL PROPERTY-BOCES	\$420,000	\$430,000	\$10,000	2.4%	\$440,000	\$10,000	2.3%	\$455,000	\$15,000	3.4%	\$490,000	\$35,000	7.7%
3101.0	STATE AID-BASIC FORMULA	\$15,005,000	\$15,966,000	\$961,000	6.4%	\$17,500,000	\$1,534,000	9.6%	\$21,675,000	\$4,175,000	23.9%	\$23,530,000	\$1,855,000	8.6%
3101.0	STATE AID-BUILDING AID	\$2,956,000	\$2,973,000	\$17,000	0.6%	\$2,050,000	(\$923,000)	-31.0%	\$3,300,000	\$1,250,000	61.0%	\$3,400,000	\$100,000	3.0%
3101.1	ST AID-EXCESS COST	\$4,069,000	\$4,500,000	\$431,000	10.6%	\$4,555,000	\$55,000	1.2%	\$5,150,000	\$595,000	13.1%	\$5,700,000	\$550,000	10.7%
3103.0	BOCES AID	\$1,280,000	\$1,450,000	\$170,000	13.3%	\$1,600,000	\$150,000	10.3%	\$1,600,000	\$0	0.0%	\$1,650,000	\$50,000	3.1%
3104.0	STATE AID-CHAPTER STUDENTS	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%
3260.0	TEXTBOOK AID	\$205,000	\$205,000	\$0	0.0%	\$210,000	\$5,000	2.4%	\$219,000	\$9,000	4.3%	\$222,000	\$3,000	1.4%
3261.0	COMPUTER HARDWARE AID	\$47,000	\$45,000	(\$2,000)	-4.3%	\$49,000	\$4,000	8.2%	\$51,000	\$2,000	3.9%	\$53,000	\$2,000	3.8%
3262.0	COMPUTER SOFTWARE AID	\$56,500	\$55,000	(\$1,500)	-2.7%	\$57,500	\$2,500	4.5%	\$59,000	\$1,500	2.6%	\$62,000	\$3,000	5.1%
3263.0	LIBRARY AID	\$26,500	\$20,000	(\$6,500)	-24.5%	\$20,500	\$500	2.5%	\$22,000	\$1,500	7.3%	\$25,000	\$3,000	13.6%
3289.0	STATE AID-OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$540,000	\$540,000	0.0%
Other Receipts		\$900,485	\$895,000	(\$5,485)	-0.6%	\$875,000	(\$20,000)	-2.2%	\$846,000	(\$29,000)	-3.3%	\$875,000	\$29,000	3.4%
DISTRICT TOTALS		\$83,347,690	\$85,923,559	\$2,575,869	3.09%	\$89,351,588	\$3,428,029	4.0%	\$96,886,588	\$7,535,000	8.4%	\$100,410,422	\$3,523,834	3.6%

- 1
- 2
- 3

1. Reduced levy by \$320,350 realized from full State Aid - not in State Budget as of April 15, 2024
2. Used \$220,350 in Employee Benefits Reserve to offset lack of full State Aid funding
3. Increased sales tax projection \$100,000 to \$5,100,000

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2024-25 Budget Snapshot

Balanced Budget with Full State Aid

Revenue Summary	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25 Percent Increase
Budgeted Revenues	\$96,886,588	\$100,410,422	3.6%
Local Tax Levy	\$53,321,588	\$54,268,072	1.8%

Expenditure Summary	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25 Percent Increase
Budgeted Expenditures	\$96,886,588	\$100,410,422	3.6%

Surplus: \$0

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2024-25 Budget Snapshot / Tax Rates

Assumptions:

- **Assessed Values remain at 2023 levels for Tonawanda**
- Amherst Equalization Rate **increased** from 62% to 100%
- Tonawanda Equalization Rate reduced from 29% to 24%
- Rates based on going to a balanced budget tax cap of \$54,268,072

Town of Amherst Taxable Assessment Values

- **Homestead: \$1,166,200,477 / 2023-24**
- **Homestead: \$2,050,183,407 / 2024-25**
- **Non-Homestead: \$1,158,217,124 / 2023-24**
- **Non-Homestead: \$1,980,827,570 / 2024-25**

**Information provided by Town Assessor Office*

School Tax on an Average Assessed Value Home				
	Amherst		Tonawanda	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Equalization Rate	62.0%	100.0%	24.0%	24.0%
Assessed Value	\$93,000	\$150,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
Tax Rate	\$15.47	\$9.16	\$40.11	\$39.20
Calculated Tax Bill	\$1,439	\$1,374	\$1,444	\$1,411
Estimated Increase (Decrease)		-\$65		-\$33



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2024-25 Budget Voter Propositions

Proposition #1: Approval of \$100,410,422 / 2024-25 Budget

- Budget increase of 3.6% // Tax levy increase of 1.8% over current year

Proposition #2: Use of General Funds to Extend Maplemere Temporary Classroom Lease through October 31, 2026

- Allowance to spend total of \$52,920 over the next two budget years to maintain the temporary classrooms on Maplemere campus

Proposition #3: Election of two (2) Board of Education Members

- Term of Joshua Feldmann expires on June 30, 2024 / Remainder of term of seat vacated by Kailey McDonald resignation
 - Top vote-getter receives a five-year term expiring on June 30, 2029
 - Second place finisher receives remainder of Ms. McDonald's term / One (1) year - term expires June 30, 2025





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Questions from the Board



ANY
QUESTIONS?



**SWEET HOME CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

STRATEGIC PLAN - GOAL 3

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSSi) Recommended Screening Tools

April 16, 2024

Steering Committee Members

Academic:

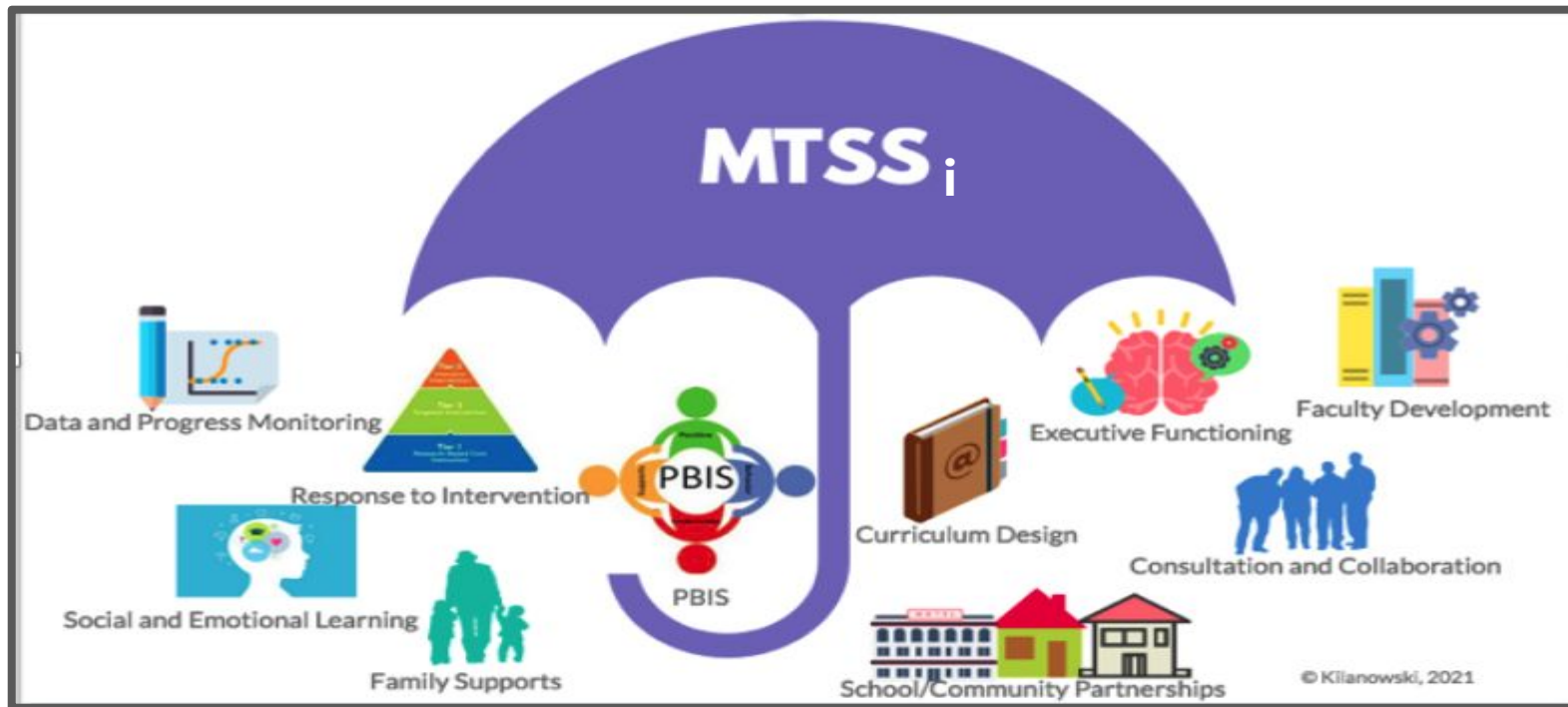
Marissa Dauria
Karen DeLaPlante
Antonio Perry
Bob Polino
Jim Ryan
Nikki Martello
LeighAnn Hildreth
Marisa Adams
Julia Ryan
Morgan Chase
Julie Roberto
Jamie Bower
Molly DiPirro
Jamie Riddoch
Kim Gugin
Heather Pfeiffer
Bonnie Lorentz
Lacie Cristofanelli
Katelyn DiRosa
Lauren Hearn
Samantha Kio
Toyia Wilson
Beth Kosakowski
Lindsay Marcinelli
Katie Barillari
Lisa Kilanowski

Social-Emotional:

Kendra Ciezki
Simran Singh
Evelyn Watson
Lacie Cristofanelli
Katelyn DiRosa
Lauren Hearn
Samantha Kio
Julie Eberle
Sal Glorioso
Morgan Wiacek
Wendy Januchowski
Lynn Kawa
Anne Nowak
Marissa Dauria
Karen DeLaPlante
Antonio Perry
Bob Polino
Jim Ryan
Steve Shepherd
Toyia Wilson
Lindsay Marcinelli
Katie Barillari
Lisa Kilanowski



What is MTSS*i*?



Universal Screening

- Administered to all students multiple times a year
- Quickly identifies specific sub-skill performance
- High predictive validity and reliability
- Identifies students who exceed expectations, are on track with grade level learning, and those that may be at risk for not meeting achievement expectations



aimswebPLUS Measures Selected

Early Numeracy & Early Literacy, Grades K-1

Number Naming Fluency
Quantity Total Fluency
Concepts and Applications
Number Comparison Fluency- Pairs
Math Fact Fluency- 1 Digit

Initial Sound Fluency
Letter Naming Fluency
Phoneme Segmentation
Letter Word Sound Fluency
Nonsense Word Fluency
Oral Reading Fluency

Math & Literacy, Grades 2-8

Number Comparison Fluency- Triads
Concepts and Applications

Vocabulary
Reading Comprehension
Silent Reading Fluency
Oral Reading Fluency



Universal Screening Outcomes

- Identifies specific areas of need
- Considered alongside other measures to determine what intervention(s) a student may benefit from
- Calculates a rate of improvement based on ongoing progress monitoring



	FALL					WINTER					SPRING				
	NIle	SGP	F↗W	ROI	NIle	SGP	F↗S	ROI	SGP	F↗S	ROI	SGP	F↗S	ROI	SGP
Students (30)															
Spring Tier 1 (3 Students)	7	4	15	0.38	45	0.53	25	0.45							
Bail, Joe	7	4	15	0.34	45	0.80	45	0.56							
Berry, Russ	10	9	15	0.40	35	0.40	15	0.40							
Davidson, Emma	18	10	15	0.40	35	0.40	15	0.40							
Spring Tier 2 (3 Students)	38	8	5	-0.17	85	1.40	5	0.56							
Best, Agnes	38	9	5	-0.17	85	1.40	5	0.56							
Spring Tier 1 (26 Students)	60	63	55	1.54	63	1.40	63	1.47							
Allison, Glenn	10	80	75	1.09	26	1.40	85	1.23							
Berger, Julius	20	59	95	2.52	60	1.07	95	1.85							
Bowers, Felipe	74	89	85	2.52	90	1.67	95	2.13							
Christian, Elena	30	62	95	2.70	75	2.20	95	2.47							
Cline, Ernest	71	24	65	1.78	76	1.40	75	1.60							
Collier, Barb	35	63	55	0.92	30	1.53	65	1.20							



Social Emotional and Behavior Screening



Assessing the behavioral and emotional functioning of children and adolescents helps us catch potential problems and allows us to provide prevention and intervention to promote student success!

- Systematic way to assess students' behavioral and emotional strengths and areas that require support
- Easy to administer- <than 15 minutes (Student Form Gr. 3-12)
- 20 short questions
- Requires no specialized training to administer
- Screens:
 - Internalizing Risk Index
 - Self Regulation Index
 - Personal Adjustment Risk Index

Subindexes form an overall BERI Composite



Study and Rollout of Academic Screening Tool

PREPARE

STUDY

DECIDE + LAUNCH

Review of Current
Screener

Grades K-8

2023-24

2024-25

July 2024

2025-26

Summer School
Pilot Program

Grade 9

aimsweb
PLUS



Study and Rollout of Social Emotional Screening Tool

Study and Trial Options

2023-24

Spring 2025: GL
Grade 3, MS Grade
7, Ready Academy

2024-25

2024-25

Nov. 2024: GL
Grade 3, MS Grade
7, Ready Academy

2025-26

K-12



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Questions?



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2024-2025 School Calendar

2023-2024

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Sweet Home Central School District Student/Teacher Calendar DRAFT > 2024-2025 < DRAFT



AUGUST 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

OCTOBER 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

DECEMBER 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

Total Teacher Days = 187
Total Secondary Student Days = 187
Total Elementary Student Days = 184

Revised 4/8/2024

August
29 Opening Day/Staff Dev- Service
Opening Day/Staff Dev
completion - SHEA

September
2 Labor Day Observation
3 First Day for Students

October
14 Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day

November
5 Staff Dev Day/ Election Day
11 Veteran's Day
27-29 Thanksgiving Recess

December
6 Elem Staff Dev/Report Card
13 Elem Parent/Teacher Conference
23-31 Winter Recess

January
1 New Year's Holiday
20 M. L. King Jr. Day Observation
21-24 January Regents Exams
29 Lunar New Year Observation

February
17-21 Mid-Winter Recess

March
7 Staff Dev/ Elem Report Card Day

April
14-21 Spring Recess
7 Start of Computer Based Testing
Window

May
16 End of Computer Based Testing
26 Memorial Day Observation

June
4 Regents Exams (Life Sci)
10 Regents Exams (Geometry)
17-25 Regents Exams
19 Juneteenth Observation
25/26 Elementary Half Days
26/27 Rating Days
27 Rating Day/Staff Dev

JANUARY 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

APRIL 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

MAY 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

JUNE 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				



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District Calendar Committee

Parents: *Liz Bechtel & Lisa Cazes (HS), Michelle Thorpe (MS), Julie Thompson & Wendy Manhardt (MM), Sara Juico & Deepa Saini (WR), Vicki Wilkinson (GL), Katie Mikos (HH)*

SHEA: *Lisa Feyes (HS), Kristin Garnatt (MS), Jessica Wander (ELEM), Paul Szymendera (SHEA)*

SHSEA: *Frank Martinelli*

SHASA: *Bob Polino, Jim Ryan*

District: Don Feldmann, Finune Shaibi, JoAnn Balazs

2023-2024

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Calendar Considerations

- NYSED Regulations
- NYS Assessments & Regents Exams
- Legal Holidays
- Contractual Language
- Stakeholder Interests
- Regional BOCES Calendar
- Emergency Closures

2023-2024

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Heritage Heights Teachers Trip to Ghana This Summer



HH4GlobalEdu

GHANA GROOVES & YOGA MOVES

A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR

with Jill Grungale

April 24, 2024

Event Check In: 5:30-6:00 PM

Yoga Class: 6:00-7:00 PM

Heritage Heights Elementary School

2545 Sweet Home Road, Amherst, NY 14228 (side door entrance)

Minimum Donation: \$5 per person

1. Registration



please bring your program & your money to this committee

2. Payment



please bring your program & your money to this committee



WHAT TO BRING

TOWEL

WATER BOTTLE

BRING A MAT BUT NOT REQUIRED



GLOBE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

UNITING KIDS & TEACHERS FOR LEARNING!

ABOUT US

Teachers at Heritage Heights Elementary School have teamed up to educate in their own lives, with the support of a family devoted to enrich our school and the Ghanaian community. Our goal is to nurture lasting global connections between students.

REMINDER
GHANA
DONATION
DRIVE

PAPER SUPPLIES

PAPER
 NOTEBOOKS
 POST ITS
 AND MORE

Spreading Kindness one Note at a Time!

DONATE

[illegible]



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Superintendent Report

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Hiring Season at Sweet Home

2023-2024
#WEARESWEETHOME



Teaching Positions

- Over 400 applications.
- Screened each candidate with a minimum credential.
- All committee members must receive training on implicit bias and proper interviewing techniques before being allowed to sit on a hiring committee. Outstanding turnout by administrators, teachers, staff members.
- Expanded recruitment efforts.
- List to principals for their screening after TRDs.
- Panelling candidates throughout April and May.
- Entire Team Effort



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OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY,
READY FOR THE FUTURE.

Hiring Season at Sweet Home

WE ARE SWEET HOME

- 42+ LANGUAGES SPOKEN
- 94% GRADUATION RATE
- 3700+ STUDENT ENROLLMENT
- LEADER IN ME DISTRICT
- \$100,410,422 DISTRICT BUDGET
- JOIN OUR TEAM!

EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.

716-250-1408

sweethomeschools.org

1901 Sweet Home Road
Amherst, NY 14228

#WEARESWEETHOME

GET TO KNOW US...



Our City

- Located in the towns of Amherst and Tonawanda, which border the city of Buffalo
- 22% lower cost of living compared to NY State average
- Close proximity to several professional sports teams
- Vibrant area with parks, recreation, restaurants, art, music, & universities

Our District

- 94% graduation rate with 54% advanced designation
- 3700+ students with enrollment steadily growing from year to year
- Franklin Covey Leader in Me District
- Full-day UPK programs
- Technology-focused, 1:1, mobile campus, with an iPad for each student
- Highest potential teacher earnings in Western NY
- Robust mentoring and supportive professional development programs, including attendance at national conferences
- Career & Technical Education (CTE) partnership with Erie 1 BOCES
- Apple & Google designated school with a laptop & iPad for each teacher
- Participation in the Big Picture Program (Ready Academy)
- All students UPK-12 receive free meals daily through the Community Eligibility Program (CEP)
- Strong community connections and partnerships with the Towns of Amherst and Tonawanda

Our Panther Family

- 42+ languages spoken by our students & staff
- Committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion through our DEI Committee and Students ACT team (Alliance for Cultural Transformation)
- Free district tuition for children of faculty members
- Staff mini-grants awarded each year by the Sweet Home Education Foundation (SHEF)

WE ARE SWEET HOME



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Report

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Erie County Association of School Boards

Hodgson Russ LLP 2024
Excellence in Collaboration
Award

Northwest Amherst
Community Center

#WEARESWEETHOME



The Sweet Home CSD and the Town of Amherst, the Amherst IDA and Zaeplf Development collaborated when the groups found that the North-end neighborhoods saw a need for a safe, accessible community center. Sweet Home CSD agreed to allow new spaces within a business complex to be used for a community center, which included a day care center, a gymnasium a fitness room and several satellite offices to serve the community. The center hosts after-school programs, child care, day camps, programs for seniors; support services for families, mental health and behavioral health counseling and other services. Surrounding communities are surveyed for input to determine the services that they would like to see offered. The program developed as a PILOT agreement between the town

Hodgson Russ LLP 2024
Excellence in Collaboration Award
*Northwest Amherst
Community Center*

of Amherst and the Sweet Home CSD. In addition the Town of Amherst and the Sweet Home CSD collaborated with Zaeplf Development, the landlords of the community center to develop a lease agreement with a buy out option. The community center offers services that cover the youngest children to elderly community members. All Sweet Home CSD residents as well as Town of Tonawanda will have access to the community center and all of its services at a reduced cost. Affordable childcare, and safe recreational activities for the most underserved community members for free or at a reduced cost. The program is the communities first collaboration between multiple governmental organizations, local businesses and communities that truly serve the people of the Sweet Home community. The project has been thoughtful, respectful and responsive to the needs of the community that it serves. Each partner involved in the project benefits in the development of the project. The project can serve as a model for all Western New York Communities as districts and town look to utilize space within their organizations.

**The Northwest Amherst
Community Center benefits
everyone in the community
from the young child, to the
elderly adult. The programs
and services assist families
with providing much needed
services at either no cost or
a low affordable cost.**

"In this day and age when schools are having to provide more and more services to students and families, the ECAB Awards Committee felt that this program 'checked off the boxes' and provided much needed services that were lacking in the community prior to the collaboration between the town of Amherst, Zaeplf Development, the Sweet Home CSD, and the Amherst IDA."



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Report

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Questions from the Board?

#WEARESWEETHOME