



## Congratulations, Churchville-Chili Class of 2024!

This year's graduation ceremony was a time to celebrate, cherish memories, and take pride in accomplishments. On June 22, our Class of 2024 crossed the stage at R.I.T.'s Gordon Field House, stepping confidently into their futures.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our Senior Choir, featured artists Maeve Rosati, Mckenzie Ennis and Violet Kolupski, Senior High Band members, and teachers Allison Chipman and Erik Reinhart, for providing beautiful renditions of traditional and touching music.

A special thanks to Senior Alexa Briggs for her inspiring address to fellow classmates.

Thank you for being part of this special moment. Let's continue to support and celebrate our graduates as they embark on their new journeys.



“ These past four years of our lives should be memories that we look back and smile upon, but we shouldn't stop living our life just because the 'best years of our lives' are over. They are just beginning! No matter how alone or scared we may feel stepping into this next chapter, we are not alone. We will still have each other and all the memories we have made.”

- Alexa Briggs, Class of 2024



### NEWS & VIEWS What's Inside:

- Employee and Student Recognition
- Triple C Awards
- Learn to Swim
- News From Our Schools
- Our Athletes and Musicians Shine
- C-C Podcast is back!

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Community,  
We successfully completed the 2023-24 school year, celebrating our 2024 seniors who achieved a graduation rate of approximately 92%, which shows the resiliency of this year's seniors who were significantly impacted by the Pandemic in their freshman year. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our graduates and their families as they embark on their next adventures in the workforce, military, or higher education.

This summer, our dedicated teachers are hard at work on curriculum writing and assessment development to align with the new State standards. Many students are also engaged in summer school programs, Continuing Education sessions, and various self-selected camps.

Our capital project is progressing smoothly, with ongoing upgrades to our athletic facilities and middle school building throughout the summer.

On behalf of our students and staff, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support. Together, we are helping our students develop their unique talents and become respectful, resourceful citizens and contributing members of our global society.

I'd also like to thank the entire school community for your support of our district and of me during my time as superintendent. It has been my honor and privilege to work with your children and watch them grow during their time in Churchville-Chili schools. I am proud of the work we have accomplished and look forward to watching the district continue to succeed under Dr. Peluso.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Orologio  
Superintendent of Schools



Dear Churchville-Chili Central School District Community,

I would like to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year. I am honored to serve as your new superintendent. It is a privilege to join this exceptional community known for its dedication and commitment to providing a high-quality education in outstanding facilities. I want to thank Dr. Orologio for her support and assistance during this transition. Dr. Orologio's 19 years of experience and contributions to our community will be greatly missed.

Over my 25 years in education, I served in various leadership roles, including superintendent, deputy superintendent, chief of schools, principal, assistant principal and teacher. These experiences have equipped me with a diverse skill set and a deep understanding of the complexities of our current educational landscape.

In my initial weeks here, I have been inspired by the pride and dedication evident in my interactions with staff, students, parents and the greater community. I am eager to build upon the rich history and traditions that define our district. Together, we will challenge all students to strive for excellence while developing their unique talents and becoming respectful, resourceful citizens and contributing members of an interconnected global society.

There is no doubt that our district's success hinges on partnership between the schools and the community. I pledge to foster open communication, remain accessible to all stakeholders, and value your insights, support and collaboration in our shared mission to support student success.

Thank you all so much for the warm welcome. It is a true privilege to serve as your Superintendent of Schools, and I eagerly anticipate the positive impact we will make on the lives of our students and the future of education in the Churchville-Chili Central School District.

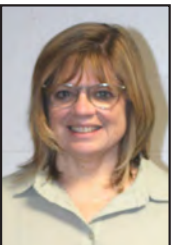
Go Saints!

Dr. Carmine Peluso

## Dr. Cheryl Repass retires from Board of Education

The Churchville-Chili Central School District thanks Dr. Cheryl Repass for serving on our Board of Education. Dr. Repass retired from the board after serving for 18 years. During her time on the board, Dr. Repass served as board officer, serving as the vice president for three years and president for five.

Dr. Repass served on the board's audit committee and wellness committee, as well as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. She has also worked as liaison for the Chestnut Ridge and the High School Parent Teacher Organizations.



"It has been a rewarding experience to serve my school community over the past 18 years," said Dr. Repass. "I am truly so proud and honored to serve alongside such an accomplished group of educators and community members."

"As a board member, Cheryl has made countless contributions to our district," said Board of

Education President Kathleen Dillon. "Her steadfast support and contributions have helped ensure quality facilities for our students, staff and community. She has also been instrumental in supporting our International Baccalaureate Program, numerous course offerings at the high school increased support for math, literacy and English language programs, as well as the growth of our mental health supports for our students."

Outside of her work on the board, Dr. Repass is a professor of psychology, psychology department chair and the traditional undergraduate/graduate psychology program co-director at Roberts Wesleyan University. This past May, she was recognized as a leader in our community when she was honored with the Rochester Business Journal's Women of Excellence award.

Dr. Repass is a lifelong resident of our district, a graduate of CCCSD schools and worked in the district as a school psychologist for fourteen years. We wish Dr. Repass all the best and thank her for everything she has done for the district.

## Employee Recognition

We are proud to honor the hard work and dedication of our Churchville-Chili staff members earning tenure and milestone years of service or retiring. Thank you all for your service!



### 25 Years

Daniel Hunt (FRS),  
Nancy McMahon (NGA),  
Ernest Orlando (MS),  
Jennifer Bayley (MS)

### 30 Years

Jonathan Woodard (SHS),  
Peter Tabone (SHS),  
Lisa Kunz (MS),  
Paul Dick (FRS),  
Margaret Baleno (MS),  
Lisa Leonardi (FRS),  
Diane Gratton (CES),  
Jody Melnyk (CRS)



### Tenure

**Left to right:** Korie Buttles (SHS), Charlyne Olick (FRS), Rachael Heltz Herman (MS), Katie French (MS), Brooke Weinstein (MS), Jennifer Dale-Sheehan (MS), Karen Mersich (DW), Mary Kay Osborne (FRS), Jessica Keipper (MS), Jennifer Hendel (MS), Chester Palozzi (CES), Sara Glasser (MS), Melissa Dillon (CES), **Not pictured:** Amanda Wilson (SHS)



### Retirees

**Back row (left to right):** Jonathan Woodard (SHS), Nancy McMahon (NGA), Breeda Kobler (DW), Robert Camman (DW), James Brahaney (DW), Cassandra King (CRS), Roberta D'Agostino (DW), Judith Dubin (CES), **Front row (left to right):** Peter Tabone (SHS), Donna Magar (MS), Christine Erne (MS), Patricia Saucke (MS), Loretta Orologio (DW), David Santangelo (FRS), Jennifer Brush (CES), Charmagne Dodd (MS), Daniel Hickey (MS), **Not pictured:** Cheryl Kuttner (MS)

## Colleen Parker joins Board of Education



During the July 9 Reorganization Meeting, the Oath of Office was administered to re-elected BOE members Jonathan Payne and Alycia Nagle and newly elected member Colleen Parker. Colleen Parker is a school psychologist in the Brockport Central School District. She has lived in the Churchville-Chili district for 12 years and has a son who will be a sophomore at the high school and a daughter who is entering 7th grade at the middle school. Jonathan, Alycia and Colleen will each serve their appointed term until July 2027. For more information on our BOE and members, please see our district website: [www.ccsd.org/district/board-of-education](http://www.ccsd.org/district/board-of-education).

## 2024 Teacher of the Year



High School social studies teacher, Jeremy Burchell, has been honored as the 2024 Teacher of the Year by the Churchville-Chili chapter of National Honor Society (NHS). Students selected Mr. Burchell because of his ability to actively engage his students with his energetic personality. Many students also mentioned that his sense of humor always gets them laughing, even during first period!

The tradition of naming a Teacher of the Year is a special one. Being recognized by students for going above and beyond to make a difference as a teacher is an extraordinary achievement, and he will be the guest speaker at the fall NHS Induction ceremony. Congratulations, Mr. Burchell!



## Denise Niewiemi named C-C Transportation Employee of the Year

Each year, member districts of the Rochester Area Transportation Supervisors Association (RATSA) select recipients for the Professional Pupil Transportation Employee of the Year award. Nominations are based on good attendance, safety, a friendly disposition, if the individual readily accepts and exceeds responsibilities and if they relate well with fellow workers, parents and students.

This year, Denise Niewiemi has been selected as Transportation Employee of the Year for Churchville-Chili. Denise has bus runs at the high school, middle school, CES, BOCES and the late run at FRS. She says she is honored by this recognition.

Denise was nominated by her colleagues in the Transportation Department due to her willingness to help with everything and her great, friendly personality. Denise has been a bus driver for the district for six years.



## Make All the Difference Scholarship

Churchville-Chili senior **Avary Antonio** received a \$5,000 Make All the Difference scholarship from the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Educational Foundation. Avary was chosen for excelling in their alternative or non-traditional educational paths.



*congrats*

## Inspiring the Next Generation

Graduating seniors headed back to the Middle School and then to their respective elementary schools for the annual March of the Senior Saints. Impressive in their caps and gowns, seniors revisited familiar hallways at Churchville Elementary, Chestnut Ridge and Fairbanks Road schools where their educational journeys began. They delighted and encouraged younger students, and many took a moment to rekindle relationships with favorite teachers.



## Faculty Awards



This year's winners **Elijah Bailey** and **Mckenzie Ennis** were chosen by faculty and staff members who judged them to be outstanding in citizenship, scholarship, leadership, character, responsibility and service. (Shown here with SHS Principal Scott Wilson and CCEA President Keri Stonehouse)

## 2024 Senior Decision Day



We spent the spring recognizing our amazing seniors, as they prepare to move on to college, vocational programs, the military or the workforce. During Senior Decision Day, students had the chance to share plans and celebrate the future together. This year's Decision Day theme was Paint Your Own Masterpiece.



## Congratulations 2024 Summa Cum Laude Graduates

Graduating at the top of their class with GPAs of 97 or above: **(Top row - left to right)** Ryan Johnson, Tanner Inges, Isabella Mettler, Jacob Miller, Madison Noll, Silas Payne, Wesley Smith, Gabrielle Toates, Aidan Vogler, Samuel Weilert, Angelia Agnello, and Kaitlyn Allen. **(Bottom row - left to right)** Ethan Hopenwasser, Luke Herring, Matthew Hayes, Sydney Goettel, Shane Girolamo, Ryan Giglia, Talan Finnigan, Matthew Ewell, Mckenzie Ennis, Ethan Britton, Alexa Briggs and Elijah Bailey. **(Not pictured)** Emily Berardicurti, Conner Guenter, Haley Leonard, Trevor Markert, Tyler Nguyen, Nora Patterson and Christopher Strong.



# Great Showing at NYS Skills USA



The 2024 New York State SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Championships took place in April. Churchville-Chili was well-represented at the event by students who participate in BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education.

- **Andrew Shurina** (Carpentry) had a first-place team finish in Occupational Health and Safety, alongside Carpentry students from Spencerport.
- **Andrew Burke** (Carpentry) also medaled at the event, earning silver in the TeamWorks event with BOCES 2 teammates from Brockport, Hilton and Holley.
- **Payal Gajmer** (Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy) was also elected to represent SkillsUSA at the state level as New York State Officer at Large. Gajmer is one of 11 BOCES 2 CTE students eligible to compete in Atlanta this June.
- Leadership activities are also a core function of the event and seven BOCES 2 CTE students represented the chapter as delegates including Churchville-Chili student **Cooper Moffatt** (Criminal Justice).

In total, 25 BOCES 2 CTE students combined for 11 medals and two were elected to officer positions. The chapter also won Gold Chapter of Excellence for the fourth year in a row.



Nurse Assisting and Associated Health Careers student **Maria Simzer** (Churchville-Chili) and teammates during the Health Knowledge Bowl competition at the 2024 New York State SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference.

# Planning a Future in SPORTS

Congratulations to our Class of 2024 student-athletes who will continue their sports at college!



Back row (left to right): **Dominic Agostinelli**, Ithaca College, Cross Country and Track; **Joshua Campbell**, Alfred State, Football; **Michael Sardou**, Monroe Community College, Baseball; **Braedon Reina**, Monroe Community College, Baseball; **Evan Putney**, Monroe Community College, Baseball; **Chase Shepanski**, Alfred State, Football; **Emma Healy**, Russell Sage University, Basketball; **Madelyn Sichak**, Ithaca College, Cross Country and Track. Front row (left to right): **Alexander Gitsis**, Keuka College, Lacrosse; **Eric Neal**, Buffalo State, Football; **Jake Broussard**, Wagner University, Football; **Ricky Lagares**, Cornell University, Football; **Nikolas Gitsis**, Keuka College, Lacrosse.

## Congratulations, Outstanding Athletes!



Athletes of the Year: **Ricardo Lagares** and **Alexa Briggs**

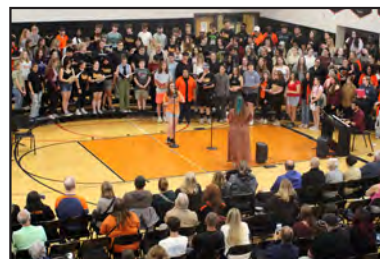


Career Athletes: **Olivia Hogan** and **Elijah Bailey**

# An Outstanding Season of Music

It's been an exciting spring for Churchville-Chili Central School District's music program! In addition to being named a 2024 Best Community for Music by the NAMM Foundation for the ninth consecutive year, the district hosted the annual Jazz Night sponsored by the Music Boosters where we welcomed the Fairport Senior High Jazz Band as guest performers. The Senior High Orchestra hosted the Roberts Wesleyan Community Orchestra for a Side-by-Side concert in April and we invited elementary students from schools throughout Monroe County to attend an RPO Tiny Tots performance in the CCPAC in May. Additionally, the CRS Musical production of 101 Dalmatians and the fifth grade musical production of Finding Nemo both had amazing runs! We also celebrated the return of the Drama Club Coffee House performance and held the annual Community Music Festival in early June.

CCHS band and chorus ensembles earned top rankings during the New York State School Music Association's Major Organization Festival in May. Symphonic Band received Level IV Gold and Wind Ensemble



received a Level VI Gold with Distinction rating. Ninth Grade Treble Choir received a Level IV Gold and Concert Choir received a Level VI Gold with Distinction.

In June, the Senior High Bands and Varsity Vocals competed at Darien Lake Music Competitions, all placing first in their divisions and the Wind Ensemble and Varsity Vocals were each awarded the Grand Judges Award for receiving the highest score of any band or choir to perform that day respectively.

Congratulations to all our music students and their teachers on a spectacular year of music!

## Saying hello to hatchlings

First grade classrooms at Fairbanks Road, Chestnut Ridge and Churchville Elementary schools had the opportunity to watch chicks hatch this spring! The chicks were part of the Animal Superpowers unit, where students learned about various animal structures and behaviors and how it helps the animals survive. Students replicated a mother hen's behavior through incubation and brooding, including candling the eggs to see inside during development. This is the first year students observed the hatching chicks, which were donated by and returned to Lilyfire Farms in Chili.



**Churchville Elementary School**  
students in Miss Dowd's class observe chicks hatching

## Local author inspires writers during visit

Brian Yanish, author of *Shark and Bot*, visited Churchville-Chili elementary schools this spring to share his writing process with students. While visiting, Mr. Yanish read excerpts from some of his books, such as *Pirate Chicken*. Third and fourth grade students also had the opportunity to learn from Mr. Yanish during a writer's workshop.



Brian Yanish with students during writer's workshop at **Chestnut Ridge School**

## Staying safe behind the wheel

The **Senior High School** Class of 2024 had an opportunity the morning of the Senior Ball, to witness a DWI accident simulation. The annual demonstration is a long standing tradition with the intention to have an impact on students and help them make good decisions and stay safe. The simulation began when first responders arrived to the school to respond to a vehicle that was involved in a mock crash. Student volunteers helped demonstrate how first responders proceed upon arriving to a scene, including rescue and transport of those involved in the accident.



## Managing Money

Third grade students learned about money management in a fun way this spring! Each school held a Market Day for third graders, where each student received a job, salary and money inside an envelope. Students then visited stations and made choices on how to spend their money. Stations included housing, vehicles, health and food, entertainment, pets and chance.



After making choices at each station, students were able to decide if they would like to save or donate their remaining funds.

**Fairbanks Road School** students budget their assigned salaries during Market Day



## Exploring American History in Boston

**Middle School** students visited Boston for the Eighth Grade American History Trip at the end of May. Students learned the history of Boston and New England during a haunted footsteps ghost tour, a Freedom Trail tour, a duck boat tour and exploring Quincy Market. They also visited the Boston Museum of Science, New England Aquarium and attended a Blue Man Group performance while in the city. This was the first time Churchville-Chili Middle School eighth graders traveled for an American History Trip.



## Triple C Award



The Churchville-Chili Triple C Awards honor students, community members and staff who exemplify our district's core beliefs and who go above and beyond to make our schools great environments for learning. Congratulations to our High School Triple C Award winners!



Congratulations to (left to right) students **Eric Neal**, **Jaise Newman**, **Noah Berg** (not pictured) and **Miguel Brito** (not pictured), and to staff members **Margaret Crawford**, **Karl Biedlingmaier** and **Sue Martin**.

## Superintendent's Outstanding Senior



We are proud to announce **Eliza Burley** as our district's Outstanding Senior. Eliza was chosen by Churchville-Chili Superintendent Dr. Lori Orologio for exemplifying the core belief of treating others with respect, dignity and honesty. Eliza challenged herself by taking IB coursework while engaging in Executive Council and the Leo Club, as well

as participating in the cheerleading and flag football teams. Eliza was also the 2023-24 student representative to the Board of Education. The award is sponsored by the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents.

## MS students recognized for academic excellence

We were proud to celebrate outstanding students from the Middle School during the end-of-year awards ceremony. Each year, the New York State Attorney General Triple C Award is presented to students who show a commitment to learning, to their community and also to their fellow classmates. This year, **Addison Gerhardt**, **Noah Indovino** and **Andrew Ippolito** were presented with the award. Visit [cccsd.org](http://cccsd.org) for the full list of award winners.



## Congratulations, Black Scholars

We're proud to announce the newest members of the Urban League of Rochester Black Scholars Honor Society. The program provides academic recognition, college readiness assistance and scholarship incentives to students who achieve and maintain a "B" or better average throughout high school. We're proud to honor (in alphabetical order) **Olufemi Akinpelu**, **Isabella Akins**, **Phillip Clark**, **Serenity Jager**, **Emma Jenkins**, **Ricardo Lagares**, **Camella Roberts** and **Olivia Walker Lightle**.



(pictured left to right) **Serenity Jager**, **Phillip Clark**, **Ricardo Lagares**, **Olufemi Akinpelu**, **Isabella Akins**, **Emma Jenkins** (not pictured) **Camella Roberts** and **Olivia Walker Lightle**

## Recognizing student excellence and achievement at the NGA

We were proud to celebrate scores of outstanding students from the Ninth Grade Academy in an end-of-year ceremony. The Ninth Grade Academy chose freshmen **Sarah Ciminelli** and **Nicholas Piper** as representatives of the spirit of NGA, embodying the qualities of leadership and integrity. More remarkable freshmen were honored with awards for excellence in art, English, math, music, science and more. See the full list of winners at [cccsd.org](http://cccsd.org).



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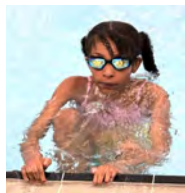
## SHS and NGA Library named School Library of the Year

Churchville-Chili's Senior High School and Ninth Grade Academy Library was recently named as School Library of the Year by the Rochester Regional Library Council!

In order to be considered, school librarian Sarah Wergin submitted a nomination to the council explaining why the SHS and NGA Library deserves to be recognized. "I wanted to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of all the staff in the SHS and NGA Libraries," said Mrs. Wergin. "I am also quite proud of the program we've built, which has significantly improved throughout the last 6-7 years, particularly our push to help students overcome some of the social-emotional hurdles in the wake of COVID-19."

The recognition includes a \$500 prize and a plaque/banner to display in the library. Mrs. Wergin has also been invited to speak at the Rochester Regional Library Council's legislative event taking place in the fall.

## Learn to Swim with Churchville-Chili



Did you know that community members are invited to enjoy our pool facility throughout the year? There are several no-cost opportunities available to Churchville-Chili residents, as well as adaptive, individual and group swim lessons through our Continuing Education programs.

You can find information about community swim and swim lessons on the Continuing Education website: [www.ccsd.org/continuingeducation](http://www.ccsd.org/continuingeducation)

## The In the Know Podcast is back!

We are happy to share that the In the Know Podcast, brought to you by the FLASH Network, is back! The podcast is intended to educate and empower parents by addressing important topics impacting their children and families. Each episode will discuss a different topic related to academics, social emotional wellness, mental health supports, or behavior and provide useful resources to caregivers. New episodes include sleep hygiene with Dr. Melissa Heatly and end-of-year stressors with Kelly Kostek. The podcast can be found on the Churchville-Chili Wellness Hub, on the district website.



## Transportation Reminder



If your child will need to be transported to or from daycare or a private/parochial school for the upcoming 2024-25 school year, you must complete the necessary transportation request forms as soon as possible to ensure busing for the first day of school. Please see our district website: [www.ccsd.org/transportation](http://www.ccsd.org/transportation) for the required forms.

## Save the Date

Celebrate Churchville-Chili is Friday, September 20, 2024 from 5-7 p.m. The event will be held in the Fairbanks Road Elementary School parking lot, with parking at the Middle School. If you are interested in ordering a commemorative "75 years of educational excellence" tee shirt, please visit the district website to place your order before Monday, August 26, 2024.

