

SWEET HOME SOURCE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE



SUMMER 2024
ISSUE 03

END OF YEAR FUN

From Color Runs to the Panther Games, Leadership Days to Field Days, our Panthers had a lot of fun activities to wrap up a great school year!

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2024

We celebrate and honor the graduates of the Sweet Home Class of 2024 as well as our scholarship winners and award winners.

FOND FAREWELL

We thank the 41 teachers and staff retiring this school year for a combined 1,105 years of service.

EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Sweet Home Community,

Summer is always a time of reflection on the great accomplishments of the past school year, and a shift of focus to the important and rewarding work ahead. I want to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous achievements and growth we have witnessed across the Sweet Home Central School District during the 2023-2024 school year. We have seen incredible academic accomplishments, inspiring artistic performances, and outstanding athletic achievements by the students of Sweet Home. Watching the Class of 2024 walk across the stage was certainly the culmination of all of these efforts, and we again congratulate our students and families for reaching this milestone. In this issue, we are proud to showcase an extensive list of scholarships, awards, and accolades earned by our entire student body this year. We are also grateful to celebrate the incredible 1,105 years of service our 41 retirees have given to the district. They have each left an indelible mark on our Panther Family, and they will be truly missed.

This year promises to be one of continued growth and opportunity. Year one of implementation of the Strategic Plan built a strong foundation for moving forward to ensure our students are "Ready for the Future." In year two of implementation of the Strategic Plan, we will use this foundation as a platform to implement key initiatives in the District. We are now ready to fully implement our comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) plan designed to improve academic outcomes in literacy and mathematics, as well as support our students' social and emotional needs. While goal three, the Whole Child, is directly tied to MTSS, you will see evidence of its importance in all areas of the plan. As we deepen our support for students, we will strengthen the connections between the Strategic Plan and our focus on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) so we continue to lift all voices across the district.

During the 2024-2025 school year, we will also solidify our plans for our next capital project, incorporating many of the needs our community highlighted in last year's ThoughtExchange and stakeholder focus group work. With our growing enrollment, you made it clear that there is a need for more space, and more efficient utilization of that space, especially at our elementary buildings. Stakeholders also mentioned that the District needs to address our smaller parking lots at some of our elementary buildings and reimagine library spaces to support STEM education. Our community also wants to see improvements to playground spaces, athletic facilities, overall building aesthetics, classroom storage, technology, meeting spaces, and security updates. We thank our community for providing honest and helpful feedback which will inform our work moving forward. We recognize that our facilities play a crucial role in shaping the educational experience of our students, and we are committed to investing in infrastructure that falls in line with the Strategic Plan and supports our mission and vision at Sweet Home.

We also continue to be committed to ensuring Sweet Home is a place for all. The work of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative now enters year four. This committee and its five subcommittees will continue to examine the operations of the District to ensure that opportunities exist for everyone. We are also proud of the work that has been done in the past year to develop and strengthen our Student Alliance for Cultural Transformation (ACT) team. This group of students encompasses leaders from grades 4-12 who meet regularly to lend their voice and guidance on the climate and culture of their buildings and comment on their overall experiences at Sweet Home.

We will also move into year two of our Athletic Council. This group of stakeholders meet to advise the District on best practices in athletics and to open the door for all who wish to participate in sports. This group of key volunteers is also charged with preserving our rich history as a premier destination for athletic excellence and ensuring Panther athletics grows as a point of pride in our great community.

All of these plans will soon be highlighted on our new District website, which will be the next phase in rebranding and diversifying our communication efforts. That project will be ready to roll in the next several weeks.

We have an incredible level of excitement for the 2024-2025 school year at Sweet Home. As "One Community," we will ensure that each student is prepared for success. We look forward to working with our entire school community to make Sweet Home the very best experience for all we are fortunate to serve.

Best wishes for a great 2024-2025!

Dr. Michael V. Ginestre
SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS

END OF YEAR FUN

OUR PANTHERS HAD A LOT OF FUN ACTIVITIES TO WRAP UP A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!

The end of the school year is a busy time when our students wrap up all their hard work and celebrate the anticipation of summer. This year was no exception.

Throughout the final months of the school year, our students participated in events such as field days, Special Olympics, our annual Panther Games, color run fundraisers, family nights, our ENL family dinner event, and much more.

Many of these events would not be possible without the countless hours of volunteerism by our PTAs, PTO, and PTSAs.

At the high school level, The Panther Games are an annual

athletic competition and this year the competition was definitely fierce! Students try out for various events ahead of time, and representatives from each grade level are chosen. The atmosphere was electric on the turf as the chosen athletes ran through grueling challenges like a tire flip and weighted bucket carry. Their classmates cheered them on from the stands, sidelines, and right next to them. Congratulations to Qadir McGrath, Jared Veal, Abduali Mukumov, Suman Arash, Sofia Guadagna, and Aalayah Hood. Thank you also to retiring high school teacher Mark Basehart for his organization and leadership of this event each year.

JUST A SAMPLING...

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

We are so proud of our athletes, coaches, and volunteers who participated once again in the Special Olympics on May 18, held at Tonawanda CSD. Our group consisted of 18 athletes and 19 volunteers. Our own Clay Naughton and Blake Wagner participated in opening ceremonies by carrying the torch and announcing the oath.

Athletes participated in events such as the softball throw, 50m run, long jump, and more. Special thanks to Coach (and retiree) Andrea Jarvis for organizing this amazing event every year.

ENL FAMILY DINNER

For over 20 years, the Sweet Home English as a New Language (ENL) department has been hosting a fun family dinner for students and families to gather, share food from their cultures, and enjoy the end of the school year together. This year's event was extremely well-attended despite a rainy day. We can't wait to do it again next year!

TRACK & FIELD DAY

A little friendly competition from school to school is the basis of our Elementary Track & Field Day each spring. Fourth and fifth graders from each of our elementary schools gathered at the high school fields wearing their designated colors. After some pep talks from their team leaders, students participated in a variety of challenges and were scored on each one. There were events like sprints, relay races, long jump, softball throw, and of course everyone's favorite, tug-of-war!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!



VALEDICTORIAN

WILLIAM K. LACKIE



SALUTATORIAN

RISHA S. JORIZA

Samie A. Abbas
Nooralhuda M. Abdulameer
Mohammed Q. Abdulrasool
Md A. Abir
Zainab H. Abu Kaffaya
Areeba Ahmad
Talha Ahmed
Omar T. Al Mussa Al Alian
Anwar Y. Al-Jarah
Shahad I. Alasta
Kaylin E. Albrecht
Reem R. Alrashid
Lucas A. Alvarez
Lucy G. Anstey-Pape
Mila S. Aquilina
Suman Arash
Na'Dia E. Austin
Carter J. Bandelian
Varundeep Banger
Olivia S. Bantle
Rohina Basir
Adam M. Beal
Noelle K. Berta
Gavin A. Biondi
Matthew R. Bonner
Izabella P. Bonora
Jeter R. Book
Joudi N. Boulbol
Isabella G. Bowman
Madison E. Boyle
Kassandra L. Brennan
Ryein T. Bridger
Jaden S. Brown
Samara A. Brown
Vincenzo N. Bufalino
Mohamed K. Bulbol
Phillip C. Bumbaco
Julia M. Burdette
Quinn G. Burgess
Ryan A. Burke
Brandon C. Busch
Steven S. Butler Jr.
Xavier Butler
Charles J. Buttery Jr.
Joseph A. Cappellini
Jack T. Carlino
Erica C. Chan
Iyana N. Chestnut
Emily E. Childerhose

Labiba Chowdhury
Erin Clemens-Regan
Mariah B. Cline
Jaedon K. Coleman
Kelcey L. Conerly
Ishmael A. Corpening
Eli T. Crowther
Lilyanna I. Cruz
Ryan A. Darling
Tamyia K.M. Davis
Troy A. Davis Jr.
Kaleigh A. Davoli
Ilias J. Day
Nayla B. De Jesus
Matthew C. Denman
Aakriti Dhital
Jillian M. Dion
Dominic P. Distilo
Dominic P. Dunstan
Katherine N. Elmedawar
Imani C.L. Evans
Alexa G. Fadale
Daniyah A.G. Farea
Mohamed A.G. Farea
Muskaan M. Farooqui
Jade S. Fernandes
Dominic R. Ferolo
Ella M. Ferolo
Ty A. Franko
Jason J. Freda
Devyn J. Friedrich
Jason S. Galante
Avery M. Gaume
Margaret S. Gembala
Joshua K. Gilliam
Mekai L. Glascoe-Thomas
Ruqayah A. Grait
Zephyr A. Grover
Alex H. Gustafson
Nicholas X. Guzman
Khanh Emily M. Ha
Armand N. Haen
Adin D. Hall
Connor J. Hall
Damico J. Hammer
W'Rayona J. Hardy
Mohammed S. Hasan
Andrew J. Haug
Landon R. Haug



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!

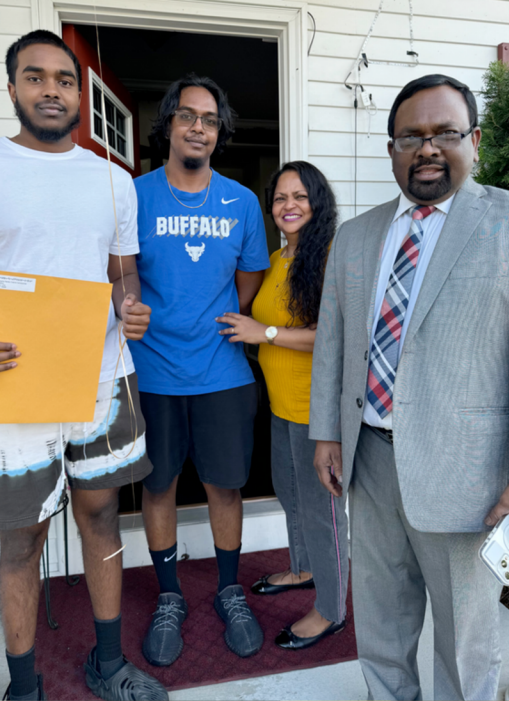
Karrar R. Hawat
Julius J. Hegwood
Isabelle M. Heine
Megan E. Henel
Riley S. Herbert
Sara J. Hernandez
Aaliyah M. Herring
Ian N. Hines
Deliyna Hoang
John J. Horvatis
Rohullah Hossain Ali
Bryce T. Hubbard
Ronald Jack Ayden Hughes
Raegan L. Humphrey
Tonia L. Humphrey
Lucas. J. Husarek
Adriana del M. Ibanez
Jaime Adrian Ibanez
Chigozie J. Ilozue
Emiya M. Iverson
Connor C. Jackman
Jason L. Jackson Jr.
Deion Lee Jackson
Aidan M. Janas
Aidan W. Janda
Anderson Jean Louis
Jarees M. Johnson Jr.
Dylan Walls Jones
Johnathan M. Jones
Risha S. Joriza
Abigail J. Jurek
Matea I. Juric
Aimee G. Kabalan
Brynn G. Kalinowski
Natalie D. Kalinowski
Yathukshika Kandeepan
Johnson M. Kassey
Margaret R. Kelly
Thomas Anthony Kirchman
Nakir D. Kirkland
Isabella G. Klein
Dakota L. Klipfel
Alexander D. Kosowski
Matthew N. Krupp
Olivia R. Kuzara
William K. Lackie
Nevaeh A. Laws
Zion K. Lee
Ava M. Leshinskie

Gianna R. Lewis
Savahanna T. Lewis
Antonio J. Livingston Jr.
Luca A. Longo
Jonathan A. Lopez
Payton L. Lowe
Thalia A. Luna
Dylan Lutz
Robert D. Lymberopoulos
Hannah J. Maciejewski
Maurice J. Mack Jr.
Majed O. Majed
Arjun S. Mankoo
Tearle V. Mann II
Bradley P. Marranta
Venus S. Martina
Morgan M. McCadden
Qadir A. McGrath
Emily N. McGreevy
Ethan M. McGuire
Corey A. McIntosh Jr.
Daniel D. McKeegan
Jayla D. McKithen
Nathan A. Meginley
Alesha Galina Melnik
Alina A. Melnik
Gianna G. Miceli
Ariana Minhas
Ali S. Mohammed
Ashley A. Moore
Michael R. Morris
Raghdah A. Mrabieh
Diya Mukherjee
Shamsatdin Mukhtasov
Amber J. Murak
Alec S. Murphy
Sarra S. Nedrick
Jack P. Nelson
Cadence N. Oddy
Anita C. Ohms
Megan M. Orgek
Arianna J. Ortiz
Kenneth L. Owens
Carlee L. Palmer
Colin D. Parucki
Gavin M. Patterson
Jordi K. Paulk
Tyler J. Phillips
Morgan E. Popp

Rachel N. Poydock
Isabella S. Priamo
Javon D. Prophet
Abdalkarem R. Qarqouz
Aya R. Qarqouz
Mohammad R. Qarqouz
Laith Z. Qasem
Vinh Quach
Lilyana R. Rabatoy
Sophia P. Radice
Bennett P. Raponi
Lily Ratinski
Madilynn T. Reed
Sarah R. Reed
Alicia R. Reid
Madison M. Rickard
Noah A. Ridgeway
Abdulrahman B. Rizeq
Tahjionna N. Robinson
Xavier J. Rogers
Nathaniel J.M. Rosado
Gavin W. Ross
Yara A. Sallaj
Ian M. Samulski
Mushfirat Sanjana
Christian A. Scime
Marina Shams
Aayden C. Shea
Aubrey N. Shocknesse
Mya G. Siegel
Evan J. Skidmore
Anthony J. Smith
Rawish Sohail
Tyler D. Solomon
Jayden K. Sosa
Sara Stanar
Ava J. Stanley
Kaylee A. Stanley
Robert E. Steele Jr.
Maxwell J. Steinberg
Elliot J. Stirling
Damarion A. Stone
Camren L. Stoudemire
Jillian L. Stramowski
Joseph P. Sullivan
Yaletsy S. Tamayo
Isabella Q. Tan
Franklin S. Terragnoli
Gianna R. Terragnoli

Nithan Thayaparan
Levi M. Thomas Turner
Amanda J. Thorpe
May Myat Thu
Jai'Vere Tillman
Hunter D. Tryloff
Emma G. Trznadel
Ryan T. Tuite
Evan D. Tyree
Justin C. Veal
Isabella M. Vega
Tyshaun D. Viverette
Drew W. Wagner
Alyssa L. Walker
Ryan N. Walp
Alyssa M. Ward
John A. Ward
Brendan M. Watson
Amber L. Wigfield
Markies O. Williams Jr.
Amir M. Williams
Hakim R. Williams
Derek J. Woodford
Anna G. Wrobel
Yuliia V. Yakovlieva
Samantha T. Yaw
Thuriea N. Zaid

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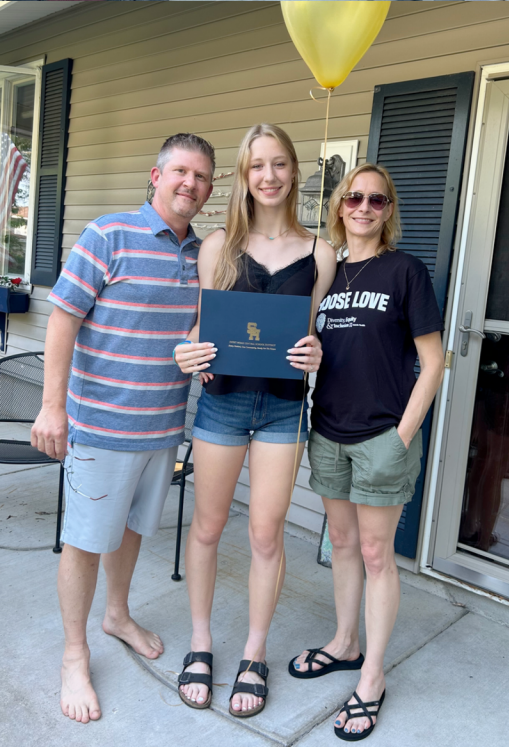


SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SHINE

**DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS AWARDS SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS
TOTALING OVER \$108,000**

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

Joann McMahon Memorial Education Scholarship - Colin Parucki
David R. Ebert Scholarship Award - Ian Hines
Nancy Ebert Memorial Scholarship - Colin Parucki
The Steve Hylkema Memorial Scholarship - Gianna Terragnoli
Kurt R. Langlotz Memorial Grant - Aimee Kabalan
Karen Morrow Memorial Scholarship \$700 - Derek Woodford
Karen Morrow Memorial Scholarship \$700 - Megan Henel
Karen Morrow Memorial Scholarship \$300 - Ryan Burke
Karen Morrow Memorial Scholarship \$300 - Eli Crowther
Dr. Elizabeth Summers Social Studies Achievement - Hunter Tryloff
Linda Caulfield Memorial Scholarship - Brynn Kalinowski
Joy Huston Memorial Award - Margaret Gembala
Lyman Hardy Memorial Scholarship - Isabella Priamo
Linda L. Edwards Memorial Scholarship \$2500 - Brynn Kalinowski
Christopher J. Hammer Memorial Scholarship - Amber Murak
Nancy Altieri Memorial Scholarship - Gianna Terragnoli
Sandra DeMarco Memorial Scholarship - Natalie Kalinowski
Joshua Wright Memorial Scholarship - Nathan Meginley
Rosanne Fatta Polyachyk Memorial Scholarship - Gianna Terragnoli
Karl J. Nicklaus Lifelong Learner Award - Riley Herbert



DEPARTMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Art Award - Moth Rivers
Business Education - Isabella Tan
English Department Award - Thuriea Zaid
ENL Leadership Award - Anderson Jean Louis
Excellence in French - Katherine Elmedawar
Excellence in French - Amanda Thorpe
Excellence in Spanish - Dominic Ferolo
Excellence in Spanish - Morgan Popp
Mathematics - Rohullah Hossain Ali
Music Department Achievement Award - Derek Woodford
Physical Education - Dylan Jones
Physical Education - Gianna Terragnoli
Science - Ryan Burke
Technology Student of the Year - Alex Gustafson
Tim Simard Award - Amanda Thorpe
Tim Simard Award - Derek Woodford
Bob Barczak - ACE Award - Morgan Popp
Bob Barczak - ACE Award - Avery Gaume
Bob Barczak - ACE Award - Zephyrm Grover
William Schwartzman Outstanding
Athlete Award - Erin Clemens-Regan



BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

Herrmann Studio Scholarship Award - Madilynn Reed
Herrmann Studio Scholarship Award - Quinn Burgess
Campus Construction Management Scholarship - Alex Gustafson
Toshiba Business Solutions Scholarship - Ava Leshinskie
Vista Security Group Scholarship - Jayden Sosa
Waste Technology Services Inc. Scholarship - Ian Samulski
L&M Financial Services Scholarship - Ariana Minhas



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SHINE

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS AWARDS SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING OVER \$108,000

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

Alumni Anita Young-Johnson Girls Soccer Scholarship - Aimee Kabalan
Alumni Digital Media Arts Scholarship - Quinn Burgess
Alumni Women in STEM Scholarship - Erica Chan
Alumni Pat Mergenhagen Son/Daughter Scholarship - Derek Woodford
Alumni Mark Borer Scholarship - Morgan Popp
Alumni Association Scholarship - Erin Clemens-Regan
Alumni Association Scholarship - Khanh Ha
Alumni Judith B. Cross Memorial Foreign Language - Amanda Thorpe
Alumni Rocco Casullo Automotive Services Scholarship - Damico Hammer
Alumni Matthew R. Young, DDS Scholar Athletes Scholarship - Morgan Popp
Alumni Military Wall of Honor Scholarship - Eli Crowther
Alumni Mark Frederick Smith Science Scholarship - Erica Chan
Alumni Lyman Hardy Panther Volunteer Scholarship - Hunter Tryloff
Alumni Patrick Young Boys Hockey Scholarship - Joseph Sullivan
Alumni DePasquale Family Scholarship - Erin Clemens-Regan
Alumni Business Scholarship / Lenkiewicz Family - Ian Samulski
Alumni David Croop Memorial Scholarship - Ryan Burke
Day Family Women in Stem Scholarship - Olivia Bantle
Alumni Robert J. Grandits Scholarship - Derek Woodford
Alumni Class of 1978 Award - Megan Orgek
Alumni Peter Wachtel STEAM Scholarship - Armand Haen
Alumni Marion Niblock Nursing Award - Gianna Terragnoli
Alumni Wendy Tolsma Wexler Nursing Scholarship - Gianna Terragnoli
Alumni Class of 2023 Scholarship (3 Winners) - Megan Henel
Alumni Class of 2023 Scholarship (3 Winners) - Gianna Terragnoli
Alumni Class of 2023 Scholarship (3 Winners) - Avery Gaume
Alumni First Generation College Student Scholarship - Venus Martina
Alumni Women in Stem & Business - Deliyha Hoang
Alumni Class of 1973 Vocational Scholarship, 2year, \$500/yr. - Luca Longo
Alumni Jack MacRitchie Golf Scholarship \$1,000 - Quinn Burgess

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Heritage Heights Scholarship Award - Eli Crowther
Heritage Heights Scholarship Award - Johnson Kassey
Maplemere Scholarship Award Grant - Derek Woodford
Willow Ridge Scholarship Award Grant - Isabella Vega
Richard McBride Glendale Sterling Scholarship Award - Erica Chan
Middle School Scholarship Award Grant - Amanda Thorpe
Middle School Scholarship Award Grant - Amber Murak
SHHS PTSA Educational Grant Award - Ian Samulski
SHHS PTSA Educational Grant Award - Amanda Thorpe
SHHS PTSA Educational Grant Award - Derek Woodford
SHHS PTSA Educational Grant Award - Megan Henel
Anthony J. Day Leadership Award - Labiba Chowdhury

SERVICE/COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

Amherst Lions Club Award - Nevaeh Laws
Willow Ridge Community Scholarship - Amber Murak
Willow Ridge Community Scholarship - Ian Samulski
Jolly Boys Community Service Scholarship - Erin Clemens-Regan
All Class Leadership Council Scholarship - Colin Parucki
Ron Young Bookworm Scholarship - Riley Herbert
Deborah J. Sarkees Accounting Scholarship - Jaden Brown
Liska Family Scholarship - Madilynn Reed

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

Music Department Scholarship Award Grant - Matthew Denman
Music Department Scholarship Award Grant - Megan Orgek
Music Department Scholarship Award Grant - Eli Crowther
Sweet Home Band Parents Organization Awards:
John Philip Sousa Band Award - Ryan Burke
Band Directors Award - Eli Crowther
Louis Armstrong Jazz Award - Megan Henel
National School Orchestra Award (NSOA Award) - Derek Woodford
Choral Directors Award - Ariana Minhas
National Honor Society Scholarship Grant - Amanda Thorpe
Sweet Home Board of Education Scholarship - Hunter Tryloff
Sweet Home Education Association Scholarship - Hunter Tryloff
Sweet Home Service Employee
Association Scholarship - Daniel McKeegan
Sweet Home Athletics Hall of Fame Scholarship - Morgan Popp
Sweet Home Athletics Hall of Fame Scholarship - Ryan Tuite

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS AWARDS

Dollars for Scholars Ready for the Future Award - Megan Henel
Sweet Home/Scholarship American Legacy Award - Morgan Popp
Sweet Home/Scholarship American Legacy Award - Daniel McKeegan
Dollars for Scholars 1 Year Awards:
Hunter Tryloff, Isabella Tan, Labiba Chowdhury, Erica Chan, Isabella Klein, Amber Murak, Amanda Thorpe, Colin Parucki, John Horvatis, Aiden Janas, Alicia Reid, Jayden Sosa, Yara Sallaj, Ava Leshinskie, Olivia Kuzara, Sara Hernandez, Charles Buttery, Jaden Brown, Eli Crowther, Avery Gaume, Derek Woodford, Ryan Tuite, Gianna Terragnoli, Matea Juric, Aakriti Dhital, Damico Hammer, Megan Orgek, Ian Hines, Jason Freda



PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Principal's Academic Award
Valedictorian - William Lackie
Salutatorian - Risha Joriza
Principal's Panther Award - Erin Clemens-Regan
Principal's Panther Award - Alicia Reid
Principal's Panther Award - Damarion Stone
Principal's Panther Award - Derek Woodford

GLENDALE ELEMENTARY ACHIEVES LIGHTHOUSE CERTIFICATION



AFTER YEARS OF HARD WORK, GLENDALE IS AWARDED LIGHTHOUSE CERTIFICATION BY THE 'LEADER IN ME' PROGRAM

Glendale Elementary School has recently achieved an accomplishment by being recognized as a 'Leader In Me' Lighthouse School. This status is awarded to schools that have demonstrated a commitment to implementing the principles of Franklin Covey's 'Leader In Me' program, which focuses on developing leadership skills in students. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff, students, and parents at Glendale Elementary School. Glendale follows in the footsteps of their fellow colleagues and student leaders at Willow Ridge and Maplemere who both received Lighthouse Certification in June 2021.

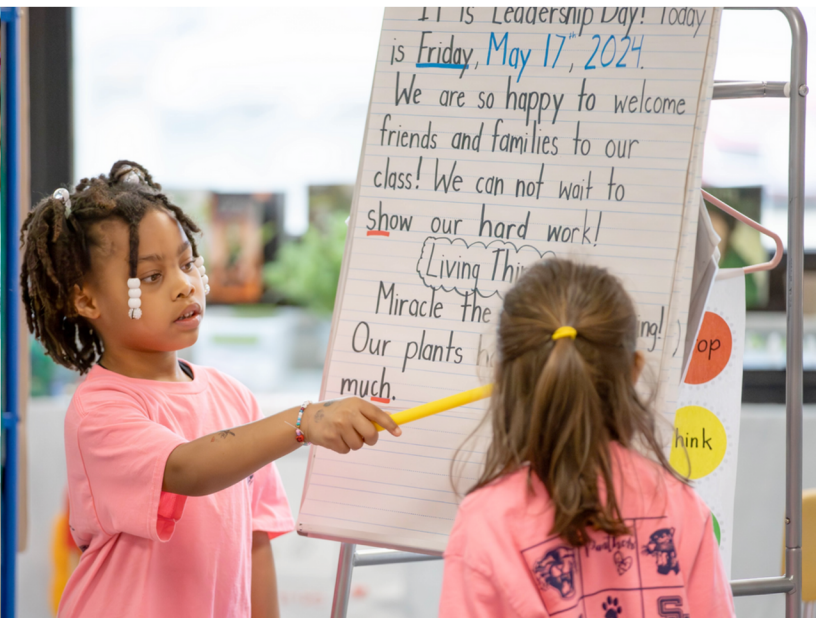
Adding another Lighthouse School to our district is a significant accomplishment that should be celebrated by the entire school community. This recognition highlights our commitment to fostering leadership skills in our students and to creating a positive and empowering learning environment.

To achieve Lighthouse status, schools must undergo a rigorous evaluation process that assesses their implementation of the 'Leader In Me' program. This includes demonstrating how the school has integrated the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People into its curriculum and school culture.

According to LeaderInMe.org, "Schools use a Lighthouse Rubric to measure outcomes in three areas: teaching leadership principles, creating a leadership culture, and aligning academic systems. Schools also measure their success as it relates to their unique school. Lighthouse Schools serve as exemplars to their community and other schools."

Throughout the school year, activities, projects, celebrations, and presentations are consistently tied back to the tenets of 'Leader In Me', and those tenets reflect in the work that our students do. This work is highlighted during Leadership Days, when families are invited into our buildings to learn about all the great things happening in our classrooms. These days are planned and implemented, in large part, by our students.

Achieving Lighthouse status is a prestigious distinction and a testament the strong leadership and vision of the building leadership, staff, families and students at Glendale Elementary School. By embracing the principles of the 'Leader In Me' program, Glendale has demonstrated its commitment to providing a high-quality education that goes beyond academics. Our schools with Lighthouse Certification are recognized for their dedication to developing well-rounded students who are prepared to succeed in all areas of their lives.





WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL?

Glendale Elementary School Principal Karen DeLaPlante reflects, "I am incredibly proud of the leadership that is infused into our building through Leader in Me. Receiving the phone call from our Leader In Me Coach, Gary McGuey, to share the incredible news of obtaining Lighthouse Status made me so proud to be a Panther. Our Glendale Team has worked tirelessly to provide unique experiences for our Glendale Panthers, allowing them to take the lead in their own learning, celebrating personal growth, and creating a positive school culture that you can feel the moment you step into our building."

" IT IS TRULY INSPIRING TO SEE EVERYONE COME TOGETHER TO CREATE A POSITIVE AND EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENT WHERE LEADERSHIP FLOURISHES."

- Karen DeLaPlante, Glendale Elementary Principal

"This hard work is a result of the collaborative efforts of our Lighthouse Coordinators, Adult Lighthouse team, Student Lighthouse team, and all of our staff and families who embrace the 8 Habits each day. It is truly inspiring to see everyone come together to create a positive and empowering environment where leadership flourishes. It is wonderful to follow in the footsteps of my colleagues, Principal of Willow Ridge, Robert Polino and Principal of Maplemere, James Ryan and the leadership opportunities and experiences they are providing to their Panthers, along with the 600 Lighthouse Status Schools around the world. I am grateful for the dedication and commitment of everyone involved in making Glendale a place where empowering leadership is not just taught, but lived every day. I look forward to continuing to provide unique experiences for our Panthers for years to come."

At the heart of the 'Leader In Me' work at Glendale is a team of students and staff who are known as our "Lighthouse Teams". Congratulations to them and to everyone involved in obtaining this distinction.

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF AND STUDENT LIGHTHOUSE TEAMS FOR LEADING THE CHARGE!

Students: Alaska Krygier, Brady Root, Emily Heslin, Eliza Kornacki, Talia Benning, Lukos Monroe, Matthew Rickert, Arya Ferron, Jenna Sztuk, Blythe Layton, Jia Patel, Kane Doyle, Norah Pulver, Cooper Datillo, Juliette Kornacki, Katelyn Monroe, Leo Rogan, Charleigh Tubin, Diyan Patel, Aidan Huxley, Ava Huxley, Piper Dafgard, Jackson Girdlestone, Makenna Mazurek

Staff Lighthouse Coordinators: Kelly Gravel (Music teacher) and Danielle Papero (5th grade teacher)

Adult Lighthouse Team: Megan Land, Aley Ciehowski, Jill Hopcia, Dominique Dibble, Nicole Eckler, Kendra Ciezki, Lynn Kawa, Teri Lavin Ruh

CONGRATS MS/ES AWARD WINNERS

CELEBRATING THE HARD WORK OF ALL OF OUR PANTHERS FROM THIS SCHOOL YEAR

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Virginia Crahan ELA Award - Jessica Cwierley
Joan Stoll Science Award - Alyssa Stohl
Peggy Smock Math Award - Mason Beuchat
Joseph Marien Social Studies Award - Ryan Rybarczyk Inhelder
Vergil's Outstanding Student of the Year - Noah Clendenden

MAPLEMERE ELEMENTARY

President's Excellence Award

Margaret Benzinger, Cameron Christy, Parker Eberhardt, Payton Klein, Kataleya Luna, Tyler LoBue, Mustafa Syed, Evan White, Lilliana Gadawski, Jackson Klein, Charlotte Korman, Angela Ren, Peyton Fish, Jannahtul Aysha, Briannah Faith, Rei Fujiyama, Olivia Imerese, Brandt Martin, Easton Pisarek, Caroline McMillan, Amelia Thompson, Sujeeth Prasath, Lola Carriero, Elizabeth Gefell, Carl Bennett

President's Achievement Award

Laylani Davis, Zahra Noor, Noah Thompson, Peyton Lohr, Cecelia Engel, Christopher Kabalan, Maxwell Reynolds, Rigel Yeung, Lily Bolton, Radman Rabbani, Marta Semeniv, Brianna Boitschenko, Kelsie Brand, Elena Callahan, Emily Maciejewski, Emunah Schwed

PTA Awards

Switzer - High Academic Achievement: Sujeeth Prasath
Zoerb - Outstanding Citizenship: Brandt Martin
Crooks - Outstanding Character & Integrity: Elizabeth Gefell
O'Dien - Outstanding Science: Noah Thompson
Ann Audio Paw Pride: Caroline McMillan & Jackson Klein

Exceptional Education Award

- Matthew Anthon
Friendship Award - Presenter, Olivia Imerese: Ameila Thompson & Benjamin Pietraszewski

Leadership Essay Presenters - Brianna Boitschenko & Charlotte Korman

Physical Education - Miss Carlson and Mr. Graham
Evan White & Amelia Thompson

Music - Mrs. Udy

Outstanding Achievement in Music

Christopher Kabalan & Philip Shekochikhin

Choral Directors in Music

Ben Pietraszewski & Angelina Williams

Library - Mrs. Gefell: Heather Cox

Art - Mr. Lynch: Peyton Fish

Soaring to Success - Mrs. Bonghi: Elena Callahan & Zachary Newman

ENL - Mrs. Campbell: Radman Rabbani

NYS Awards

Triple C - Courage, Character, & Commitment: Peyton Fish & Payton Klein
Comptroller Award: Olivia Imerese, Charlotte Korman, Magaret Benzinger, Brandt Martin, Lilliana Gadawski, Lola Carriero, & Caroline McMillan

HERITAGE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

Academic Achievement Award

Zunaira Asif, Ammar Belegic, Maurice Brown D'Apollo, Asher Bystrzak, Gurshawn Chahal, Journey DePass, Kayleigh Greaves, Wesley Greaves, Leyan Kadib Alban, Harleen Kaur, Liam Maul, Mehjabin Mehek, Skylar Moussa, Amy Nguyen, Jordyn Rainey, Jordan Stoudemire

Ellen Erdmann Spirit of Kindness Award

Ammar Belegic, Journey DePass, Natalie Mikos

Francesca Lumia Science Award: Kayleigh Greaves

Golden Rule Award

Benjamin Albrecht Jr, Avery Anthon, Shalom Assefa, Eanswida Atuick, Mackenzie Barbeau, Azariel Brittain, Bradley Brown, Usman Chib, Julia Coleman, Mary Decheine, Declan DeFelice, Judy Farhan, Camdyn Fumerelle, Payton Hermann, Sarah Hillery, Leah Jackson, Rishika Nirmalakanth, Sofia Orłowski, Michael Ottaviano, Jionus Ramanadas, Hazel Ryan, Rosalynn Stritzinger, Meryem Tuncer, Faythe Vilonen, Bryson Welch

HH School & Community Citation of Excellence Award: Miriam Sallaj

Matthew Klaister Triumph Award for Outstanding Effort

Yazan Almoalem & Leyan Kadib Alban

News Crew Award: Bella Iraci & Emily Rellinger

PAWs Award

Wyatt Acara, Zahra Ali, Liya Assefa, Nolan Beardsley, Joshua Bedoya Farfan, Cameron Beitz, Josiah Collins, Johnathan Eiland, Evan Flatley, Oliver Hannes, Nicolas Iraci, Sara Kadib Alban, Aaron Khanal, Matthew Kleparek, Evangeline Knapp, Treasure Land, Jayceon Leonard, Marwa Mohammadi, Thomas Niedziela, Zarghona Pashtoon, Mikayla Potts, Nasir Roderick, Jaxon Scharlock, Lucas Severino, Amilia Sykes, Jayvion Worthy, Samir Abdollahi, Youssef Ahmad, Annabelle Allsop, Yazan Almoalem, Valentina Amaro Figueroa, Zunaira Asif, Joseph Bedoya, Cooper Beitz, Cayden Brenda, Ali Chib, Liviana Conable, Misael Da Cunha, Julianna Dadou, Avah Davis, Zaila Edmonds, Jomar Figueroa, Castiel Green, Tristan Hale, Madilyn Henry, Payton Hermann, Denzel Hill Jr, Carter Hord, Harleen Kaur, Roseleen Manni, Maheera Mohamed, Roaa Mohammed, Sameer Musleh, Amy Nguyen, Sofia Orłowski, Emaryurith Parra Chaci, Jordyn Rainey, Sophia Rattanavong, Evan Reger, Avery Roberts, Armani Ruffin, Finnegan Schroeder, Lorenzo Sciandra, Jordan Stoudemire, Addison Vollmer, Miles Ware

Principal's Award

Abraham Aseri, Luiza Asmandarova, Elijah Echevarria, Denzel Hill Jr., Rose Koemeh, Shabahat Mrnia, Charles Nuako Jr., Arianna Orłowski, Andres Roa, Jiantae Rose-Smith, Aliza Utomo

Scott Wolf Seven Habits Award: Liam Maul

Student Service and Leadership Award: Amy Nguyen

Triple C - Courage, Character, & Commitment: Maurice D'Apollo Brown



CONGRATS MS/ES AWARD WINNERS

GLENDALE ELEMENTARY

MVP

Kaden Fraser, Eliza Kornacki, Emily Heslin, Ethan Kornacki, Vanessa Melnick, Allie, Krygier, Lukas Monroe, Alucard Malay

Most-Improved Panther

Jajuan Bolden, Shimee Wilson, Jiovanni Maldonado, Na'Ryah Harris, Jordan Kincade, Jabez Adams, Carmello Frazier, Diane Zeigler, Jakob Azim

Panther Pride

Jackson Brantley, Sadie Kingston, Zachary Krygier, Brady Root, Zyla Dent, Milana Ristic-Scime, Henry Szymendera, Cooper Orr, Arianna Tiedemann

State Comptroller Award

Kaden Fraser, Zachary Krygier, Kamden Miller, Matthew Rickert, Arianna Tiedemann, Christopher Russell

Sunshine

Thomas Dinkins IV, Jaxson Grunzweig, Tessa Fournier, Liam Erickson, Lily Paulk, Carter MacDonald, Zoey Melson, AJ Dimino, Christopher Russell

Leader Awards, Private Victory

Mason Miller, Abriana Orce, Castiel Angelom, Lillian Graue, Alexander Kloch, Alessandro Andretta, Arya Ferron, Tyler Vatter, Talia Benning, Arik Martin

Leader Awards May/June, Public Victory

Remy Spencer, Edgar Klenke, Vanessa Melnick, Dylon Holland

Music

Zahriah Meradith, Zachary Krygier, Ethan Kornacki, Talia Benning, Christopher Russell

Art

Ethan Kropczynski, Emily Heslin, Tae'la Cameron, Arik Martin, Arianna Tiedemann

P.E.

Sadie Kingston, Thomas Dinkins, Kaden Fraser, Brady Root, Remy Spencer, Lilly Graue, Kamden Miller, Griffin Orr, Timiyah Thomas, Lukas Monroe, Talia Benning, Frank Diminuco, Alucard Malay

Library

Kaden Fraser, Cody Guppenberger, Timiyah Thomas, Frank Diminuco, Alucard Malay

WILLOW RIDGE ELEMENTARY

NYS Comptroller Award

Ava Anthony, Grace Laible, Sumaiya Omer, Ruby Thorne, Aria Doty, Brooke Ruffner, Emily Arrasjid, Parisa Chowdhury, Emma Comeau, Makayla Goudy

Presidential Excellence Award

Muhamed Diedhiou, Chasen Frazier, Grace Laible, Ryder Lane, Sumaiya Omer, Ruby Thorne, Maggie Adams, D'Shawn Jones, Ari Kaczmarek, Elise Marshall, Emily Arrasjid, Emma Comeau, Makayla Goudy, Christopher (CJ) McDuffie, Finn McNess

Presidential Achievement Award

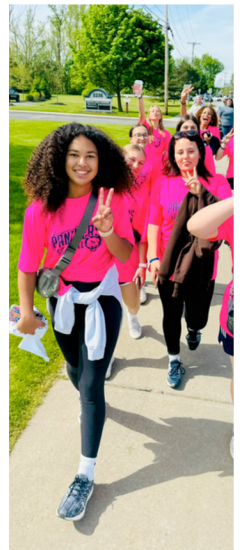
Jason Pradhan, Isabelle Schultz, Mariah Singer, Kevelia Thompson, Omar Bhamji, Mason Ross, Love Toney, Kahlil Ward, Sadie Damstetter, Anci Acharya, Norah Arena, Zoey Belous, Annabella Caviness, Nicholas Chaplin, Parisa Chowdhury, Tessa Laws, Layla Pitz, Savannah Richter, Avery Thorne, Christopher Yuwar

Triple C - Courage, Character, & Commitment

Carlos Jouregui Niquitadermos & Makayla Goudy

PTO Good Friend Award

Viviana Camann & Kennedy Gadawski



SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRATS TO ALL OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES AND COACHES FOR THEIR HARD WORK THIS SPRING SEASON



Girls Lacrosse

- Finished the season 13-3, won Conference 3 with a +79 goal differential
- Camryn Smith led the Panthers with 74 goals & 88 total points; Emma Kielbasa: 66 goals & 78 total points
- 1st Team All-Conference: Camryn Smith, Emma Kielbasa, McKenna Flatau, Amanda Thorpe; 2nd Team All-Conference: Kayla Arcadi, Natalie Coughlin; 2nd Team All-WNY: Emma Kielbasa; 3rd Team All-Conference: Carly Battaglia, Stephanie Koons; 3rd Team All-WNY: McKenna Flatau; WNY Underclassmen All-Star Game MVP: McKenna Flatau

Boys Lacrosse

- Finished the season 3-12
- Team was led by Jeter Book and Nick Schmitt who both had 10 goals
- Evan Korte led in assists with 7
- Ty Franko and Cameron Guppenberger led the team with 33 ground balls

Boys' Tennis

- Finished the season 7-8 overall
- Six players qualified for ECIC tournament: Rohi Hossain-Ali, Chigozie Ilozue, Ryan Walp, Eli Fuqua, Eli Crowther, & Drew Wagner
- MVP award: Senior captain Ryan Walp
- First year assembling a JV team

Baseball

- Finished the season 7-10
- Defeated Kenmore West 7-6 in the first round of playoffs
- Team led offensively by Rob McLoughlin, Rocco Panepinto, Tom Caruana & Carter Bandelian
- Sammie Abbas led on the mound w/ a 3.73 ERA. Frankie Bellanti, Kyle Hall and Aiden Mroz all saw significant time on the mound.

Unified Basketball

- Finished the season 2-7
- Fun and positive experience was created for athletes and partners
- Caesar Nance led the team in points
- Vincent Biondi had a few 3 pointers throughout the season
- Caesar Nance received the character award and Vincent Biondi received the sportsmanship award at the year-end culminating event

Softball:

- Finished the season 9-11
- Defeated Kenmore West in the first round of playoffs 9-7
- Senior Avery Gaume led the team with a .558 average, 29 hits and 5 home runs
- Seventh grader Madison Miller batted .446 with 25 hits and 4 doubles
- Eighth grader Samantha Mullen batted .400 and led the Panthers on the mound
- Seventh grader Elise McDuffie batted .354 with 20 hits and 3 triples

Flag Football

- Finished the season 7-7-1
- Team offense led by Erin Clemens-Regan with 15 receiving TDs & 872 receiving yd
- Quarterback Amber Murak threw for 30 TD and ran in 10
- Lauren Webb (9th): 1 pass TD & 6 recv.
- Kaila Frazier: 283 rushing yds & 1 rush TD
- Erin Clemens-Regan: 9 INT & Christiana Christian: 3 INT & 11 pass deflections
- Clemens-Regan: All-WNY team, Div 1 First-team and First-team All-Bee at WR & LB
- Amber Murak: Division 1 First-team and All-WNY; Morgan Popp: All-WNY
- Alayla Ridgeway: Div 1 honorable mention & All-Bee honorable mention
- Kaila Frazier: Div 1 First-team and named All-Bee honorable mentions
- Lauren Webb and Elena Cordova were named Div 1 honorable mention

Boys' Outdoor Track & Field

- Four students qualified for NYSPHSAA State Championships: Camren Stoudemire (4x100), Alex Jemison (4x100), Brenton Baker (4x100, High Jump, Long Jump), Nnear Patterson (4x100, 100M)
- Coaches Award- Camren Stoudemire
- MVP track- Nnear Patterson
- MVP field- Brenton Baker
- ACE (Accepts the Challenge for Excellence) Award- Zephyrum Grover
- Most Improved Panther- Anson Spates

Girls' Outdoor Track & Field

- NYSPHSAA State Championships: Kimaya Hall (100HH), Ta'Lynn Harris (High Jump)
- Coaches Award- Michelle Baker
- MVP Track- Kimaya Hall
- MVP Field- Talyann Harris
- ACE (Accepts the Challenge for Excellence) Award- Taylor Nugent
- Most Improved Panther- Pembe Kolo



CONGRATS RETIREES

THIS YEAR WE SAY A FOND FAREWELL TO 41 TEACHERS AND STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO THE PANTHER FAMILY. THANK YOU!

Rosalia Dziomba
 Barbara Rupiec
 Karin Pierce
 Kathryn Stepniak
 Deborah Kennedy
 Scott Murray
 Robin Dziura
 Joel Gebhardt
 Brian Kisker
 David Zelakiewicz
 Thomas Roberts
 Karen Scozzofava
 Patricia Connelly
 Kara Serianni
 Maureen Henderson
 Michelle Murray
 Kathryn Neelon
 Mark Basehart
 Pamela Daigler
 Edwin Hawkins
 Suzanne Rizzo

Pamela Hornung
 Karen Bassano
 Paula Adams
 Andrea Jarvis
 Shari Seefeldt
 John Seiler
 Daniel Murphy
 Wenda Moran
 Margaret Connolly
 Kelli Brooks Bogacz
 Rebecca Mattison
 Barbara Baer
 Katie Conway
 Kathleen Land
 Gilda Bonnevie
 Deborah Crist
 Marikay Wachala
 Jeffrey Hughes
 Christina Mack
 Mia Banks

41

RETIRING
STAFF
MEMBERS

1105

COMBINED YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE
DISTRICT

ONE COMMUNITY

TEEN 'DRESS FOR SUCCESS' EVENT SPONSORED BY SHEF AND NORTHWEST AMHERST COMMUNITY CENTER

In April, the Sweet Home Education Foundation (SHEF) collaborated with Northwest Amherst Community Center to host a FREE Teen Dress for Success event.

Teens attended express workshops on topics ranging from Interview Prep, Resume Building, Dressing for the Interview and Money Matters: Budgeting in Real Life! Workshops were offered by professionals in the field, including Workforce Buffalo, at Buffalo Employment & Training Center, and Mia Burse, author of Saving Money with Randall and Jerome.

By attending 2 express workshops, students earned a ticket to shop for FREE at SHEF's Teen Professional Clothing closet. Lisa LaBrake, Sweet Home Teacher and SHEF President shared, "The goal of the Sweet Home Teen Professional Clothing Closet is to provide professional clothing to teens for college, job and scholarship interviews, sports banquets, internships, and other professional events."

The closet is stocked with fashionable, professional clothing appropriate for interviews and work settings, including dress pants, skirts, collared shirts, blazers, and even scrubs. Accessories are also available such as shoes, handbags, and ties. Each student was allowed to select five free articles of clothing.

Students also had an opportunity to meet with Northland Workforce Training Center, Amherst Youth Police Academy, Amherst Junior Firefighters, SUNY Erie and the Town of Amherst for post high school volunteer and training opportunities.

LaBrake continues "The partnership between Sweet Home Education Foundation and Northwest Amherst Community Center has been so positive. Due to the tremendous interest in this event, there is a discussion of replicating it in the fall for more high school students. We want to work together to see Sweet Home Students succeed!"



**SWEET HOME
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MANY WAYS SHEF GIVES BACK TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY, VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT SWEETHOMEFOUNDATION.ORG AND FOLLOW THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA.



ONE COMMUNITY

NW AMHERST COMMUNITY CENTER TO OFFER SUNY ERIE PATHWAYS PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER

SUNY Erie is teaming up with the Northwest Amherst Community Center to offer community members a pathway to college. All programs are non-credit and tuition-free. The goal is to provide easy access to free classes close to home, which can help students achieve a program certificate or college degree.

The **GED Program** assists eligible individuals in obtaining their New York State GED and prepare for the national GED exam. This one semester class runs Monday through Friday in a morning or evening session.

The **Pre-Collegiate Program** offers developmental courses in math, reading and writing to prepare students for college-level courses. These one-semester classes runs Monday through Thursday in a morning or evening session.

According to Justin Kiernan, Director of Pathways to Success "Our program is designed to meet the needs of a diverse student body and contribute to regional economic vitality by providing excellent, flexible, affordable and accessible educational programs in a multi-campus environment."

Classes begin in early September at Northwest Amherst Community Center, 220 Northpointe Parkway, just off Sweet Home Road. Reserve your spot by August 15. Please indicate your preference for a morning or evening class.

SUCCESS STORIES

Nicolas

- Foreign Diploma
- Enrolled in Pathways Pre-Collegiate classes in the Fall of 2018
- Enrolled into Automotive Technology Fall 2019
- Graduated May 2021 with high distinction
- Employed by a local automotive center

Adele

- Enrolled Pathways Pre-Collegiate classes in the Summer of 2016
- Enrolled at ECC in fall 2016 and completed her pre-requisites for nursing
- Accepted into the Nursing Program in Spring 2017
- Graduated May 2019 with distinction
- Employed as a school nurse for a local school district

**WE ENCOURAGE
YOU TO CALL
716-631-7132 TO
LEARN MORE.**

ALUMNI WALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS CHOSEN



On May 17, 2024, we welcomed Mark Rouse, Class of 1998, and Lorena Mathien, Class of 1988, to the Sweet Home Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame. Congratulations to our honorees!



NOMINATE AN ALUMNUS

If you are interested in nominating someone for the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame, please visit our website, sweethomeschools.org, for more information, or contact Nicole Kuss at nkuss@sweethomeschools.org.

FIND US ONLINE

Information about the Alumni Association, including our Alumni Wall of Honor nomination form, can be found on our district website sweethomeschools.org.



Official Sweet Home Alumni Association



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District Office	(716) 250-1400
Central Registration	(716) 250-1600
Family Support Center	(716) 250-1228
Transportation	(716) 250-1434
Athletic Director	(716) 250-1207
High School	(716) 250-1203
Middle School	(716) 250-1452
Glendale Elementary	(716) 250-1500
Heritage Heights Elementary	(716) 250-1525
Maplemere Elementary	(716) 250-1550
Willow Ridge Elementary	(716) 250-1575

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Amy Battaglia, President
Peter Bellanti, Vice-President
Danyelle Anthon
Marianne Jasen
Scott Johnson
Brian Laible
Dirk Rabenold



Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools
Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Plant Services
Dr. Toyia Wilson, Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction



Track your student's bus schedule and receive updates via the Stopfinder app. Contact our Transportation Department at businfo@sweethomeschools.org to activate a Stopfinder account for your family.