



CLINTON

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2024

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Clinton Community,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! The beginning of the school year is a time filled with anticipation, enthusiasm, and a lot of energy. We are always excited to welcome our students and staff back after a warm and relaxing summer break. We have much to look forward to this year.

This edition of our newsletter is filled with highlights from the end of the 2023-2024 school year and information about some of what the 2024-2025 school year will have to offer. Congratulations and best wishes to the class of 2024, and welcome to our kindergarteners - the CCS class of 2037!

It has been a tremendously busy and productive summer on campus. In early July we welcomed over 125 elementary students back to school for our Summer Adventure Academy, an incredibly enriching and supportive program that will help many of our youngest learners continue to thrive this year. Capital Project construction started in August that will transform areas throughout our District into cutting-edge, modern, and innovative spaces for our students. And, our administrative team has been hard at work hiring a number of remarkable new staff members who are highlighted later in this newsletter. In September, we are thrilled to welcome our newest and youngest Comets to the CCS family with the launch of our two new Universal Pre-Kindergarten classrooms at the Elementary School. We are well positioned to start this year off strong and with positive momentum. On behalf of the Board of Education and the entire District, I would like to thank our community for your continued support and enthusiasm for our students and programming.

I am pleased to share that our Board of Education recently adopted District goals with four critical areas of focus for our school district this year:

Goal 1: Culture

The District will enhance collaborative partnerships to create an inclusive culture of continuous improvement, fostering active engagement and holistic student development.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 29
Staff Development Day

SEPTEMBER 3
Staff Development Day
Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 4
Classes Begin

SEPTEMBER 5
General PTA Meeting,
7:00 p.m., Senior Lounge

SEPTEMBER 6
Bus Safety Drill

SEPTEMBER 11
9/11 Memorial Ceremony and
Brick Garden Dedication

SEPTEMBER 12
Middle School Open House, 6:00 p.m.
High School Open House, 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 18
CCSD Foundation Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 20 & 21
Homecoming Weekend

SEPTEMBER 24
Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m.



Mission Statement

Clinton Central School proudly educates and empowers all students to realize their potential in becoming thoughtful, empathetic and contributing members of a global society.

Table of Contents

- 02 | 2024 Graduates
- 04 | 5th Graders Celebrated
- 05 | 8th Grade Moving Up
- 06 | Staff Updates
- 07 | Notices



Celebrating the Class of 2024

On June 22, the students in the class of 2024 became the newest graduates of Clinton High School. Family and friends were in attendance to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of each of the graduates. Congratulations to the class of 2024 and best of luck in your future endeavors!

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alexandra C. Abraham | Nicholas Lyubezhanin |
| Audra Alex-Hart* | Victoria Maier* |
| Kaylee Almond | Kyle F. Majka* |
| Pressley Anderson | Amari Martini |
| Scarlett Barker* | Vincent P. Martino* |
| Ashantii R. Beck | Skyler McFadden* |
| Christopher Irving Brady | Sean McNichol |
| Joseph J. Brewer | Delia Memmer |
| Ava Brice | Ian Mummer* |
| Alicyn Calcara* | Will O'Brien* |
| Ace Carhart | Victoria Elena Panasyuk* |
| Ian Chang* | Elise Violet Pape* |
| Olivia Cofano | Michael Pascucci* |
| Nick Colucci | Brielle Marie Pearl |
| Logan Cook* | Ben Pelkey* |
| Barry Dancy* | Elyssa Perry |
| Georgia Deep* | Olivia Peto |
| Lydia DeTraglia* | Gabriella G. Pinto |
| Dakota Deveans* | Nicholas D. Pinto |
| Mariah Doris* | Taylor Rice* |
| Alec Emery* | Camila Rodriguez-Plate |
| Aidan Evans* | Jimmy Rojop Alvarez |
| Dylan Fedor | Tyler Patrick Royce* |
| Chloe Rose Filippo* | Conner Rudwall |
| Joshua Florentino | Aiden Ryan* |
| Christopher Paul Fostini* | Colin Sanderson* |
| Chloe Freund* | Amalia Schillinger* |
| Eva Gaetano* | Natalie Sebastian |
| Alia Graziadei* | Shanty Sencion |
| Julianna Griffiths | Ethan Thomas Sheldrick |
| Trinity Hajduk | Joshua Ray Sipe |
| Ben Harrold | Gabriel Skinner* |
| Darcy Head | Kelsey Smith* |
| Abigail Hemstrought* | Zachary J. Smith |
| Lydia B. Hepler* | Aiden W. Soika* |
| Tega O. Igho* | Matthew G. Squires* |
| Derrick Jewell | L. Katherine Stephens |
| Andre' Kalil Jackson* | Trevor Stockbridge |
| Maeve Jackson | Kyler Stoddard |
| Zaretta Jellerson-Zerrick | Elijah Stutevant* |
| Talon Jones* | Anna Faye Tague |
| Maliki Kabba-Suggs* | Ellie Thompson* |
| Herman Keegan | Ethan Topi |
| Amarra Kiley* | Gray Turk |
| Matthew King* | Fiona Vogel |
| Avery Knaperek* | Zachary Wallace |
| Tyler Joseph Kulpa | Abel S. Widiss* |
| Adriana LaBuz | Nate Williams* |
| Natasha Lang | Alena Wratten* |
| Isla Langsdorf* | Gary Zalewski III* |
| Ava Lopata* | |
| Margaret Erin Lutz* | * Student Athletes |

CELEBRATING SENIORS



SENIOR WALK

On June 21, graduating seniors, in caps and gowns, walked the halls of the elementary school and through the courtyard lined by applauding middle school students and staff. This event inspires younger students and recognizes the teachers who had set them on the path of learning.



CELEBRATING SENIOR ATHLETES

SENIOR ATHLETES

Each Varsity team recognized graduating seniors and their parents at the final games of the season, celebrating their athletic careers and contributions to CCS athletics. Thank you!

SENIOR ATHLETES NOTED TO THE LEFT

Capital Project ANNOUNCEMENT

Construction work related to the capital project that was approved by voters in December 2022 has commenced. While our campus will remain open during construction, please be advised that there will be several active construction areas, heavy equipment, and materials located on our grounds and around our buildings. If you visit campus, please remain alert and avoid areas under construction.

Music Scholarships

On May 4, the B Sharp Music Club of the Greater Utica Area held its annual Scholarship Competition for local high school musicians. Several students from Clinton competed and ranked extremely well. They were:

Nora Reid (voice)
1st Place

Charlotte Gale (piano)
3rd Place

Brian Chang (piano)
2nd Place

Colin Sanderson (piano)
Hon. Mention

The criteria were incredibly challenging and we are immensely proud of these students. Bravo!



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE CTD.

Goal 2: Coordination

The District will refine and expand its coordinated approach to provide a seamless, high-quality educational experience for all students.

Goal 3: Communication

The District will enhance transparency through clear, consistent, and multi-channel communication with all stakeholders.

Goal 4: Consistency

The District will maintain a steadfast commitment to established goals, ensuring consistent support for all learners.

Our efforts this year will be centered in each of these areas as we continue to coordinate and align our programs.

As we look ahead to the many opportunities that this school year will present, I also recognize that our District has been no stranger to change throughout the last 18 months. During that time, our school community has navigated changes in district leadership and building leadership, welcomed many new instructional staff members, and introduced or adjusted many of our student programs in each of our school buildings. In some cases, these changes were expected and welcomed. At other times, they were not anticipated and brought with them some apprehension and angst. Change is a very natural and sometimes necessary part of the overall transformational growth that happens in organizations like ours. As we continue to move forward and grow, let us collectively navigate changes that come our way together, with open minds and with an outlook that is productive, forward-thinking and progressive. Remember that every step that we take forward, no matter how small, is progress.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and school district. We are looking forward to a productive and exciting school year.

Sincerely,
Christopher M. Clancy
Superintendent of Schools

CLASS OF 2024 FUTURE PLANS

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Binghamton University <i>Chemistry</i> | Springfield College <i>Physical Education</i> |
| BOCES LPN Program <i>Nursing</i> | St. John Fisher University <i>Biology/Pharmacy</i> |
| Boston Hockey Academy or The Albany Academy <i>Sports Medicine</i> | St. Lawrence University <i>Biology/Biomedical Science</i> |
| Clarkson University <i>Aerospace Engineering Mechanical Engineering</i> | State University of New York at Fredonia <i>Music Education (Voice)</i> |
| Connecticut College <i>Government International Relations</i> | Stetson University <i>Sports Business</i> |
| Daemen University <i>Animation</i> | SUNY Broome Community College <i>Dental Hygiene</i> |
| Fordham University <i>Environmental Studies</i> | SUNY Cortland <i>Business Economics Mathematics Sports Management</i> |
| Boston <i>Criminal Justice</i> | SUNY Genesee <i>Accounting Business Administration</i> |
| Grove City College <i>Finance</i> | SUNY Morrisville <i>Agriculture Business Development Automotive Technology</i> |
| Hamilton College <i>Government/History</i> | SUNY Oswego <i>Theater</i> |
| Herkimer College <i>Crime and Intelligence Analyst Business</i> | SUNY Polytechnic Institute <i>Business Administration/ Minor Communications Communications and Media Design Computer Science Cybersecurity Network Computer Security Psychology</i> |
| Hobart and William Smith Colleges <i>Geoscience</i> | SUNY Potsdam: Crane School of Music <i>Music Education</i> |
| Johns Hopkins University <i>International Studies/International Relations</i> | Syracuse University <i>Biomedical Engineering</i> |
| Lineman School | The City College of New York <i>Psychology</i> |
| Marist College <i>Fashion Merchandising and Business Promotion</i> | The George Washington University <i>Pre-medical/Finance</i> |
| Massachusetts Maritime Academy <i>Maritime Transportation</i> | The Ohio State University <i>Aviation Engineering</i> |
| Military | The University of Kansas <i>Communications/Undecided</i> |
| Military/Work <i>Automotive Technology</i> | The University of Vermont <i>Wildlife and Fisheries Biology</i> |
| Mohawk Valley Community College <i>Business Administration/Marketing Commercial Driver's License Class A Criminal Justice Culinary Digital Media and Art Electrical Service Technician General Studies Health Sciences Human Services and Psychology Nursing Psychology Radiology Respiratory Therapist Sports Medicine</i> | Trade School/Work |
| Nazareth University <i>Mathematics</i> | U.S. Air Force |
| Pace University <i>Biology and Language</i> | U.S. Navy |
| Paul Smith's College <i>Baking Arts and Management</i> | Union College <i>Mathematics and Studio Art</i> |
| Rochester Institute of Technology <i>Chemistry</i> | University at Albany <i>Interdisciplinary Studies/Environmental Science</i> |
| Saint Michael's College <i>Theater/Music/Undecided</i> | University of North Carolina Wilmington/North Carolina State University <i>Finance</i> |
| Skidmore College <i>Business</i> | Utica University <i>Occupational Therapy Physical Therapy</i> |
| Southeastern University <i>Pastoral Ministry</i> | Work <i>Commercial Driver's License Welding Acting Nursing</i> |

CELEBRATING GROWTH

FIFTH GRADERS MOVE UP

Musical performances by student groups, outdoor fun days, a District-wide book event, a heart fundraising challenge and a joyful Fifth Grade Moving Up Ceremony ended the school year on a high note for elementary students.

Thank you to the dedicated staff, parents, administrators and community partners for making this possible. Congratulations to the class of 2031 and best of luck at the middle school!



CELEBRATE GIVING

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Clinton Elementary students raised and donated funds to the American Heart Association. Each milestone dollar amount raised "earned" a fun student activity. Thank you to our teachers for being such good sports and to all who donated to this worthy cause. Students raised over \$17,000!



CELEBRATING PERFORMANCES

SPRING CONCERTS

Clinton Elementary School presented their annual Spring Concert with performances by cadet and concert bands, fourth and fifth grade chorus and fourth and fifth grade orchestras. Clinton music parents provided ice cream for the musicians and their families after the concert with a donation from Stewart's!



CELEBRATING TOGETHER

FUN DAY

Outdoor fun days, and a District-wide book event that included a performance by singer-songwriter Red Grammer and an appearance by the One and Only Ivan, ended the school year for elementary students on a high note. Thank you to our dedicated staff, parents, administrators and community partners for making all of this possible.



CHROMEBOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Student Chromebooks will be redistributed to students in grades 6-12 during the first week of school. As a reminder, these devices are being provided to students to use during the school day and at home until they are returned at the end of the school year. Thank you for helping your child maintain responsibility for these devices, including bringing them to school fully charged each day.

CELEBRATING STEPPING STONES

EIGHTH GRADE MOVING UP CEREMONY

On June 24, eighth grade students took the stage and were recognized by an enthusiastic audience for completing their middle school course of study and ushered into the next phase of their education. End of year events included musical performances and a farewell dance before leaving for the summer recess. Thank you to all of the teachers, staff members and administrators for helping the students shine.

Congratulations to the class of 2028 and best of luck at the high school in the fall!



UNTIL NEXT YEAR

Middle school students said goodbye to each other and the 2024-25 school year at the annual Farewell Dance and enjoyed some outdoor activities during Fun Day.



SPRING CONCERTS

Clinton Middle School displayed the results of their hard work and talent at their June 6 concert. Thank you to the CCS teaching staff for enabling our students to shine, to our parents/guardians for their support, and to our students for performing so well!



SUMMER SCHOOL

For four weeks during the summer, 130 students in grades K-5 enjoyed a wide range of themed learning activities aimed at reinforcing core subjects as well as providing additional support. Thank you to Ms. Taranto, Ms. Gabree-Huba and all of the dedicated teachers who have ensured that lessons are informative, interactive and enjoyable. Special thanks to the CCSD Foundation and Town Gown Fund for providing the financial resources to make this possible.



SAFETY TEAM

School safety continues to be a top priority for the Clinton Central School District. Mr. Bentley, Director of Athletics, Safety and Wellness; with the assistance of staff, students and community members, revised and created policies and procedures to address needs and gaps. Thank you to all who contributed and to our Special Patrol Officers who keep our students safe every day.



WELCOME NEW STAFF

CCS is proud to introduce new staff members for the 2024-2025 school year:

Kassie Berry
Elementary Teacher

Jill Huggins
Long-term Substitute
Elementary Teacher

Giovanni Magagnoli
Orchestra Teacher

Sara Carr
District Treasurer

Stephanie Hughes
Elementary Teacher

Ethan Martin
School Business Administrator

Stephanie Ciotti
Special Education Teacher

Tara Kellen
Special Education Teacher

Roger Maxam
Elementary Teacher

Kristina Donley
Business Teacher

Linda Kennedy
Long-term Substitute
Special Education Teacher

Julia Prichard
Elementary Teacher

Michele Dunn
Interim Secondary Math Teacher

David Langone
Interim High School Principal

Matt Reilly
Interim Middle School Principal

Michelle Engle
Payroll Clerk

Ellen Lyga
Secondary Social
Studies Teacher

Dominique Spellman
Elementary Teacher

Kim Gomez
Middle School AIS Teacher

Kelsey Storey
Secondary Science Teacher

SUMMER STAFF

Thank you to our custodial, office and administrative staff who spend the summer months hard at work preparing classrooms, hallways, gyms, grounds, athletic fields and equipment, as well as hiring new staff and purchasing supplies. Somehow, when students arrive, we are ready.



A FOND FAREWELL

Congratulations to our retirees:

- Michele Dunn**
- Chris Carbone**
- Norm Deep**
- Meredith Callaghan**
- Katie Petrie**
- Tammy Mickle**
- Tracy Abrams**
- Sarah Hullar**
- Patty Houser**
- Mary Anne Murry**
- Angie Thieme**
- Gary Zalewski**



PARENTSQUARE

ParentSquare is the most commonly used communication tool for District and Building notices. Please make sure that your student's building office has your most current contact information on file so that you receive these important communications.

WEATHER EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS/DELAYS

The decision to close/delay school because of adverse weather conditions is not made lightly or easily. The road conditions in the District are reviewed personally by District and town staff. The final decision is made by the Superintendent after consulting with those who have checked the conditions.

A text message alerting parents of closings or delays will go out through ParentSquare to the phone number provided to your child(ren)'s school building office. The local media are informed and information is posted on the website at www.ccs.edu.

DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

No student should feel that it is not safe to come to school and participate in all school activities. No student should ever be prevented from concentrating on schoolwork because another student or a school staff member is teasing you, making fun of you or threatening you in some way, because of your actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin (where your family comes from), ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity or expression), or sex, or for any other reason.

No student may act toward another student in a way that might reasonably make them feel threatened or unsafe, or that might reasonably make them unable to concentrate on their schoolwork because of what you might think about their race, color, weight, national origin (where their family comes from), ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity or expression), or sex, or for any other reason. It is against school rules for any student or staff member to do this by physical actions or by verbal statements, including electronic messages. This kind of behavior is prohibited on school property, on school buses, and at all school-sponsored events.

You should report acts of bullying, discrimination, harassment and other inappropriate actions that harm others to your Dignity Act Coordinator. Contact information for your Dignity Act Coordinators are:

Elementary School

Mr. Edward Waskiewicz, Principal
315.557.2256

Middle School

Mr. Matthew Reilly, Interim Principal
315.557.2260

High School

Mr. David Langone, Interim Principal
315.557.2233

USE OF PESTICIDES

The District recognizes that pests can pose a significant risk to health and property, and that significant risks exist in using chemical pesticides in the school environment. In accordance with CCS Policy 8115, pesticides will not be used on District playgrounds, turf, athletic or playing fields unless an emergency occurs, which will be handled in accordance with applicable law and regulation. In the event that this becomes necessary, all District staff and parents/guardians will be notified.

ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act of 1987 (AHERA), and CCS Policy #7100, a copy of building inspection reports is available for review by appointment. CCS Policy #7365 ensures that all areas disturbed through renovation or demolition are tested for lead and asbestos. Please contact Mr. Kulinski at 315.557.2390 with any questions.

ACCESS TO TEACHERS' APPR SCORES

Regulation 9420-R.1 of the District Policy Manual explains procedure enabling parents to request information regarding the APPR scores for their child(ren)'s teacher using Exhibits 9420-E.1 and 9420-E.2. The District Policy Manual can be found on the website at www.ccs.edu.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The most current Code of Conduct can be found on the website at www.ccs.edu, as well as in your child's beginning of the year agenda or handbook. Many questions regarding acceptable behavior and apparel can be found in this document. The District Policy Manual can also be found on the website at www.ccs.edu.

LIVESTREAMING

Many school events are livestreamed, and are announced at least a day in advance. Select events continue to be available for viewing at www.youtube.com/@ccstv3556. Recordings of Board of Education meetings will be posted on the District website under the Board of Education page.

CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETICS

How Do I Sign Up?

CCS uses FamilyID to enroll students in athletic programs. Information will be shared through ParentSquare with the FamilyID link provided for each sports season. You can also find documents including sign-up requirements, the Athletic Code of Conduct, Section III Updates, Athletic Calendar and directions to playing fields at www.ccs.edu/departments/athletics.



FACEBOOK

Like us on Facebook

Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Christopher Clancy

Clinton Board of Education

Ms. Melinda Leising, *President*

Ms. Lisa Magnarelli, *Vice President*

Mr. Sam Catterson

Ms. Rachael Clark

Mr. Orlando Guitián

Mr. Patrick LaVeck

Ms. Erica Shaw

CCS TAKES IMPORTANT STEPS FORWARD WITH
Literacy Instruction

Teaching children how to read is one of the most important responsibilities of a school system. Learning to read is a human right that gives people access to information, independence, knowledge, and helps every individual reach their full potential. Decades of literacy research have shown that human brains are not “hardwired” for reading and that most children must be taught how to read. Teaching young children to decode and depend on phonics as their primary decoding strategy yields consistent, reliable results. Researchers illustrate that the most efficient and effective way to teach reading is a structured literacy approach that maps letters to sounds in the brain.

Throughout the last year, the Clinton Central School District has taken significant steps toward helping all of our students learn to be effective readers. Much of this work has been centered around the Science of Reading, a large, interdisciplinary body (education, psychology, linguistics, neuroscience, sociology, speech and language pathology, implementation science) of research around how children learn to read and write. Many of the District’s instructional staff and administrative team members engaged in several professional development opportunities to learn more about literacy instruction. Several teachers earned a microcredential designation in the science of reading from an institution of higher education, while others learned about quality literacy instruction through a Literacy Symposium hosted by the New York State Education Department.

Additionally, a District Literacy Committee was established during the 2023-2024 school year with the task of helping to chart a path of enhanced literacy instruction forward at CCS. As a result of their work together, the Committee made a recommendation to adopt Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts as a new literacy curriculum and program. Amplify CKLA is a leading early literacy program that is grounded in the science of reading and reflects many of the literacy instructional methods that have been explained in research. Our K-2 teachers recently received training in this new program and are set to begin implementation in September. The District looks forward to continuing to build our literacy framework during the 2024-2025 school year.

