

## 2024-2025 School Budget Passes

The Pittsford Central School District 2024-2025 School Budget Passed. Thank you to the PCSD community for your support.

The results are as follows:

**Total voters:** 1,600

**Budget:** \$161,797,787 within the tax cap

Yes: 1,275      No: 322

**Proposition 1:** Purchase 13 replacement buses and communication equipment used in the operation of buses from “Capital Reserve Fund - Purchase of Buses.”

Yes: 1,348      No: 249

**Proposition 2:** Establish an “Instructional Technology Capital Reserve Fund” for the purpose of financing the purchase of computer equipment.

Yes: 1,373      No: 226

**Proposition 3:** Authorization to withdraw from the “Instructional Technology Capital Reserve Fund” for the purpose of purchasing laptops to support the 1:1 device program.

Yes: 1,385      No: 213

**Board of Education: Three Seats, Three Candidates**

- Sarah Pelusio: 1,338 votes
- Rene Sanchez-Kazacos: 1,321 votes
- Jeffrey Casey: 1,352 votes

## Class of 2024 Outstanding Seniors

Congratulations to Jorge Alegria (MHS) and Maureen Zhang (SHS) who were honored as the 2024 Pittsford Central School District’s Outstanding Seniors during the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents’ (MCCOSS) Michael C. O’Laughlin Outstanding Senior Recognition Dinner on May 8, 2024.

These students were selected for this honor based on their scholarship, leadership, volunteer service and character. The honorees were presented with a gift by Monroe One BOCES District Superintendent Dan White and Pittsford Schools’ Superintendent Michael Pero.



Jorge Alegria



Maureen Zhang

## Pittsford High Schools Ranked Among the Top Nationwide

Pittsford Mendon and Sutherland High Schools were recognized in the 2024 U.S. News & World Report’s Best High Schools Rankings as the top two schools in Rochester and among the top 3% nationwide. According to the report, Mendon High School was ranked 42 in New York State and 335 in the nation. Sutherland High School was ranked 50 in New York State and 394 in the nation. Rankings included 17,655 high schools across the U.S. and 1,210 schools in New York State.

“Pittsford Central School District is proud to be named an America’s Best High School,” said Superintendent Michael Pero. “This could not happen without the hard work and dedication that our students and staff members put forth to maintain this standard.”

Additionally, both Mendon and Sutherland High Schools were named to the Top 500 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Schools in the U.S. among the top 2,000 nationally ranked high schools. MHS was ranked #186 and SHS was ranked #114.

For the Best High Schools rankings, U.S. News & World Report uses a ranking methodology that evaluates schools based on five indicators, including college readiness, college curriculum breadth, math and reading proficiency, math and reading performance, and graduation rate.



## New Elementary School Principals

The Pittsford Board of Education is pleased to announce two administrative appointments, following a comprehensive search and interview process.:

**Richard Albano** was named the **Principal of Mendon Center Elementary School** where he previously served as Assistant Principal for the past seven years. Before joining Pittsford, Albano worked in Victor as the English Language Coordinator and inclusive classroom teacher for eight years. He also has 11 years of industry experience working in engineering, management and training for Eastman Kodak, Sara Lee Foods and SONY Electronics. He will start his new position on July 1, 2024.



Albano holds a Bachelor of Science degree in packaging science with minors in history and business management from Rochester Institute of Technology. He received his Master of Education in elementary and special education from Roberts Wesleyan University and his administrative certificate from the University of Rochester.

He lives in Pittsford with his wife, Wendy, and their three children.

**Jeffrey Pollard** was named the Principal of **Allen Creek Elementary School**. Pollard comes to Pittsford from the Rush-Henrietta School District where he served as a Principal at two different schools for 16 years and an assistant principal for two years. He also held elementary school positions for over eight years.



Pollard holds a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and Master of Science in reading education from SUNY Geneseo. His administrative certificate is from SUNY Oswego.

He lives in Pittsford with his wife, Sarah, and their four children. He will start his new position on July 1, 2024.

## Pittsford Again Named a “Best Community for Music Education”

For the 19th year, the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation has named Pittsford Central School District one of the “Best Communities for Music Education.” Pittsford CSD is among 975 school districts nationwide to receive this award that recognizes outstanding support of music education and the role it plays in enriching the lives of children and advancing student achievement.



The NAMM Foundation’s award program recognizes and celebrates outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education.



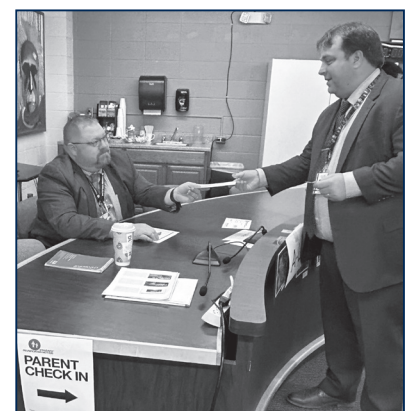
## Staff Members Practice Standard Reunification Method

At the April 2024 Superintendent’s Conference Day, the entire District took part in an important training of the Standard Reunification Method. This critical aspect of crisis response allows for accountable reunification of students with their parents or guardians in the event of an emergency incident that requires the evacuation of one or more buildings. The Standard Reunification Method, from the “I Love You Guys” Foundation, provides school and district staff members with proven methods for planning and practicing successful parent/guardian and child reunification.

With two teams, “Transportation” and “Reunification,” staff learned what their role would be during an incident if a complete building evacuation becomes necessary. During the training, staff members simulated an evacuation and took on the roles of process checkpoint people, students and parents/guardians.

During a reunification process, the Transportation Team is responsible for accounting for students in their classroom and school and guiding them to school buses. The school buses then transport the students and staff members to a secondary location that has already been established by the District.

While students and staff are being transported, the Reunification Team sets up computer system checkpoints, materials and snacks. Once students and staff arrive, they are escorted to a waiting area where some form of entertainment and nutrition will be provided while they wait for reunification. Students remain with the teacher who accounted for them on their roster.



## Pittsford CSD in National Spotlight for Calkins Road Middle School’s “Midnight at Midday: The Musical Tales of an Eclipse”

It’s not every day that a middle school musical makes the national news. But, if you follow Good Morning America, CBS Nightly News or The New York Times, students from the Calkins Road Middle School musical, “Midnight at Midday: The Musical Tales of an Eclipse,” were front and center in some national news coverage of the Great North American Eclipse. The process of bringing this original musical to life was told in images and stories captured by news and film crews bustling around the set, the school, and the greater Rochester Community as they shared some small-town magic occurring during the larger-than-life total solar eclipse event.

“The excitement around the eclipse and this musical was palpable,” said Superintendent Michael Pero. “It is fitting that Pittsford was in the path of totality for the eclipse since the convergence of hard work, creativity and talent shined on stage just days before the celestial event. Both the eclipse and the musical are sure to illuminate the minds and hearts of generations to come,” he said.

The heartfelt script of “Midnight at Midday: The Musical Tales of an Eclipse,” was written by Calkins Road teacher John Beel and tells the story of several strangers who meet at the moment of totality. It is rich with science and folklore from around the world, with a distinct Rochester flavor. The music, by award-winning composer Casey Filiaci, features a dozen original songs that capture the magic and mystery of the eclipse experience and the joy of human connection.

## Catch Up on Power Hour Topics

Pittsford Schools’ quarterly Power Hours provided opportunities for parents/guardians and staff members to learn together how best to support our students. This year’s topics included: Supporting Students through Academic Transition Years, Disability Awareness, Raising Healthy Tweens and Teens, and Managing Stress. **View an on-demand library of videos at [pittsfordschools.org/PowerHour](https://pittsfordschools.org/PowerHour).**



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## PTSA Life Membership Awards

Thirteen members of the Pittsford community were honored with New York State PTSA Life Membership Awards during a ceremony on April 24, 2024. Congratulations to: Beth Albert, Dwayne Cerbone, Amy Daniels, Anne Dunning, Lisa Housler-Rojas, Kim Huels, Marie LoRe-Geigel, Kate Munzinger, Shelly Osinski, Eva Regan, Laura Shemancik, Nita Singh, and Elizabeth Woods.

Award recipients are nominated by community members and selected by a committee of PTSA members for going above and beyond normal job or volunteer expectations in showing dedication to Pittsford youth in three categories: volunteer efforts, outstanding personal qualities, and ongoing availability and willingness to serve the needs of youth.

Pittsford PTSA will make a donation in honor of all the awardees to the New York PTA Twin Projects fund, a scholarship program benefiting high school seniors seeking an education degree or mid-career educators pursuing advanced study.



## 2024 Spring Sports Roundup

Congratulations to our spring sport athletes who excel on the field and in the classroom! Pittsford athletes brought home five Section V team titles and numerous individual titles.

ALL of Pittsford Schools' varsity spring sports teams were named NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Teams and both Mendon and Sutherland High Schools qualified for the Scholar-Athlete Schools of Distinction award for the seventh consecutive year. This distinction is awarded to schools when all varsity teams receive the Scholar-Athlete team award during their respective sports seasons. To qualify, the team's average GPA must be greater than or equal to 90.0 for 75% of the roster. Spring teams included: Mendon and Sutherland Baseball, Softball, Outdoor Track/Field, Boys Golf, Boys Tennis, and Pittsford Boys and Girls Lacrosse.

As of press time the complete list of All Greater Athletes has not been released. View the full list of Scholar-Athlete Teams and Individuals at <https://nysphsaa.org/>.

### Sectional Champions

- Mendon Boys Track and Field
- Mendon Girls Track and Field
- Sutherland Baseball
- Sutherland Softball
- Sutherland Boys Tennis

### Individual Champions *(continued)*

#### MHS Track and Field Individual Sectional Champions

- Girls: Tamara Dorval, Mallory Hildreth, Avery Bunner
- Boys: Alex Leduc, Brad Pollard, Ethan Shea

#### SHS Boys Tennis

- Dylan Bhatia – All Greater Rochester Athlete, Individual State Participant, Section V Class A2 Doubles Champ, Section V State Qualifier Doubles Champ
- Charles Thyroff – All Greater Rochester Athlete, Individual State Participant, Section V Class A2 Doubles Champ, Section V State Qualifier Doubles Champ

#### SHS Track and Field Individual Champions

- Girls: Teah Silliman
- Boys: Gabe Cromer, Will Tempest



### Continued from pg. 1 - *Staff Members Practice Standard Reunification Method*

Parents/guardians are asked to not go to the affected school during any emergency incident. Students will not be released at this site. The address of the secondary location will be shared with parents. The process of accounting for all students and staff members is a lengthy one. No student will be reunified with their parent/guardian until all students are accounted for. Parents/guardians will be asked to wait in line while this process is underway. While in line, they will complete an information form including their child(ren)'s name(s). This process could take hours, but nothing is more important than ensuring that students are reunited properly through a strict chain of custody.

Next, parents will bring their completed reunification card and photo identification to a checker who confirms that they are approved to pick up the child(ren) listed on the card. At this time a staff member will escort the identified child(ren) from the supervised waiting area to the parent/guardian. A school leader will assist families as they exit.

To view a video explaining this process from the parent's perspective, please visit <https://www.pittsfordschools.org/Page/613>.

Throughout the entire reunification process, mental health services and victim services will be available for students, staff and parents.

The District regularly practices emergency evacuation plans for various situations, including extreme weather, chemical spills, medical emergencies, bomb threats, and active shooter scenarios. The Standard Reunification Method will be an integral part of these plans.

## AP Statistics Students Cinch 10 of the Top 12 spots in Data Analytics Competition

Pittsford Mendon AP Statistics students swept awards at Rochester Institute of Technology's Pre-College Data Analytics Competition by landing 10 teams in the top 12 of the competition and placing first, second, and third.

The competition required students to use the World Bank Inquiry to look at data, analyze trends that they saw, and create two submissions: a data report and a three-slide presentation containing a full analysis of the provided data set. The report had to be formatted in a style similar to that of a research paper, and students were solely responsible for providing complete information in the competition, with advisors simply overseeing their progress. Additionally, both anonymous and non-anonymous reports were submitted to ensure impartial grading.

Participation in the competition is not limited to AP students, and the only prerequisites are a strong interest in statistical data analysis, and a desire to collaborate with other ambitious students to further knowledge in the field of science.



## Pittsford Teacher and Standards Leader Nicole Barry Appointed Teacher Center Director

Nicole Barry has been hired as the new Teacher Center Director, beginning July 1, 2024. She replaces Julie Barker who is retiring after many years of service to the Pittsford School District, the last 17 of which she served as Teacher Center Director.

Barry has been with Pittsford for 21 years, teaching Social Studies at Mendon High School. For the past nine years, she has also served as the Secondary Social Studies Standards leader, effectively leading the Social Studies department through the implementation of new standards and assessments.



## Students Achieve Second Place Wins at Odyssey of the Mind World Finals

Pittsford Schools' Odyssey of the Mind teams competed in the WORLD finals held in Iowa against students from the U.S., Hong Kong, Poland, Korea, China, Japan, Germany, Mexico and more! Both teams earned a second-place category win and landed in the top 10 overall out of 47 highly competitive teams.

**Team A placed 2nd in the style category and 6th overall.**

- **Congratulations to:** Grace Bylund (SHS), Rachel Dean (SHS), Tess Heffernan (SHS), Anne Bylund (SHS), Mesude Ersoz (MHS) and Ishann Ramesh (MHS).

They created an impressive visual and musical show in their Led Zeppelin inspired Viking Rock Band in the Performance Problem: Rockin' World Detour complete with a long boat and life-size moving dragon!

**Team B placed 2nd in the spontaneous category and 7th overall.**

- **Congratulations to:** Anne Bylund (SHS), Audrey Filiaci (SHS), Norah Kirkebye (SHS), Tess Heffernan (SHS), Alex Wazowicz (SHS), and Cerys Malouf (CRMS). Riley Kottkamp (SHS) was unable to attend the world finals, but competed at the regional and state levels.

The team created a clever and comical parody of "Pride and Prejudice" and "Les Miserables" in the Classics Problem: Opening Night Antics including a dance-off of "France Dance Revolution" and a well-engineered stage. Their exceptional "quick thinking", earned them the second-place win in the spontaneous portion of the competition.



## Pittsford's FIRST Robotics Team Goes to Worlds

Pittsford's FIRST Robotics Team 3181 qualified for and attended the FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston, TX in April. The team placed 44th in its division out of 74 teams, with a 4-6 record in the championship round-robin tournament. At the FIRST Championship, 1,015 student robotics teams from 58 countries competed and exhibited.

This was Team 3181's first time qualifying for the championship. They earned their chance to compete in Houston by winning in the Tech Valley Regional in Albany.





Board of Education Honors Pittsford Pride Recipients

Nine students received the Pittsford Pride Citizenship Recognition Award during the May 14, 2024, Board of Education Meeting for demonstrating excellent citizenship and positive leadership.

Congratulations to:

Sage Bell, grade 8, Barker Road Middle School; Mila Berno, grade 4, Allen Creek Elementary School; Delaney Fusco, grade 4, Mendon Center Elementary School; Andrew Holvey, grade 12, Sutherland High School; Presley Imburgia, grade 8, Calkins Road Middle School; Island Jacobs, grade 12, Mendon High School; Charles (Charlie) McConnochie, grade 5, Park Road Elementary School; Quinn Morrisette, grade 1, Thornell Road Elementary School; Isabella Vuittonet, grade 4, Jefferson Road Elementary School.

View the video from the ceremony on the Pittsford Central School District's YouTube channel.



Mendon High School Identified as a Unified Champion School

Pittsford Mendon High School has been named as a Unified Champion School. Also known as "Project Unify" or "Champions Together," the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program promotes social inclusion by using intentionally planned and implemented activities that encourage systems-wide change in K-12 schools and on college campuses.

As one of the first schools in New York State to offer Unified Sports, Pittsford Schools' Unified program has grown to include Unified Basketball and Unified Bowling at the high school level. The inclusion of these sports help foster environments where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in all activities, opportunities and functions.

Pittsford's focus on inclusion also branches out to other areas of the school district in a number of ways, such as establishing a leadership group of staff and students to participate in the annual Youth Activation Summit hosted by Special Olympics of New York; training those participants in Whole School engagement; and partnering with the Best Buddies program, TIES, and Interact clubs.

"We are proud and honored to be recognized as a Unified Champion School," said Pittsford Superintendent Michael Pero. "Pittsford Schools works with students, faculty, staff, parents and the community to support an inclusive environment. We are proud of our participation in and growth of the Unified Sports program, and look forward to continuing to honor our commitment to promoting inclusion for all students."



Students Win Numerous RBTL Stars of Tomorrow Awards

Mendon and Sutherland High Schools' theatre students were recently honored and celebrated at the Rochester Broadway Theatre League's (RBTL) Stars of Tomorrow gala awards night.

Congratulations to the cast, crew and pit orchestra of Mendon's production of Seussical and Sutherland's production of The Little Mermaid!

Awards included: Excellence in Vocal Ensemble; Excellence in Acting Ensemble; Excellence in Dance Ensemble; Excellence in Student Orchestra; Excellence in Production Crew; Excellence in Overall Production; Achievement in a Leading Role; Special Production Team Recognition; and Adjudicators' Tip of the Hat.



Scholastic Awards Recognize Excellence in Student Art and Writing

Pittsford high school students were the recipients of 43 regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, including nine Gold Keys, 12 Silver Keys, 22 Honorable Mentions and one American Vision Nominee. The Gold Key winners and the American Vision nominee advanced to the national competition where Rena Li won a National Gold Medal for her painting "Unsung Heroes of Science."

Gold Keys

MHS: Leixi Chen (1); Aleah Gilmer (1); Rena Li (2); OlaRose Ndubuisi (2); Sarah Rutledge (1); Skylar Wilson (1). SHS: Ace Frankel (1)

Silver Keys

MHS: Claire Baek (1); Leixi Chen (2); Charlotte Engin (1); Cailey Huang (2); OlaRose Ndubuisi (5) SHS: Michael Shi (1)

Honorable Mentions

MHS: Leixi Chen (3); Charlotte Engin (1); Andrew He (1); Campbell Kazacos (1); Addison Lester (2); Rena Li (2); OlaRose Ndubuisi (8); Sarah Rutledge (1); Skylar Wilson (3)

American Vision Nominee and National Gold Key Winner: Rena Li (MHS)

The Scholastic Awards began in 1923 and are administered by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers in New York City. Pittsford students participate in the Western NY Art Region. This year's entrants were judged by the faculty of Alfred University who work in the arts field. Students, not teachers, are responsible for selecting and digitally submitting images of their art/writing and related paperwork.



Company Merger Requires PCSD Website Migration

A new District website is scheduled to launch early this summer due to a merger between Pittsford Schools' current website provider Blackboard and new provider Finalsity. While functionality and ease of navigation will continue, website users may notice some changes. The website address will remain the same at pittsordschools.org.

New website platforms no longer offer teacher pages, therefore, teacher webpage content will be moved to the teacher's Seesaw or Microsoft Teams pages, depending on grade level and needs. A staff directory with teacher bios will be available on the new site. These bios provide links to teachers' Teams/Seesaw sites or other materials. Department leaders and school staff have developed migration plans for their pages. This should ensure a successful migration and enable a smoother transition for families who are using the website.

On Stage this Summer!

Summer Enrichment Institute Presents:



"E-I-E-I Ooops!"

Grade K -2 Production

July 19 at 9:30am  
Calkins Road Middle School



"Seussical KIDS!"

Grade 3-5 Production

July 19 at 1:30pm & 3pm  
Calkins Road Middle School



"Disney's Camp Rock: The Musical On Act Edition"

Middle School Production

August 9 at 7pm and  
August 10 at 2pm  
Calkins Road Middle School



"The Prom: School Edition"

High School Production

August 2 at 7pm and  
August 3 at 2pm & 7pm  
Sutherland High School

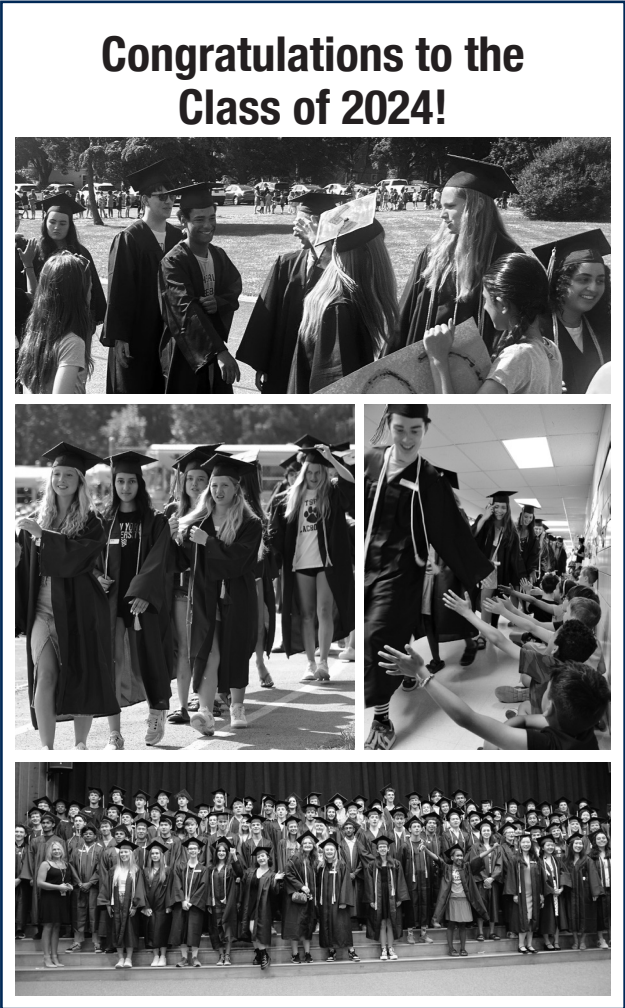
Kindergarten Registration

To be eligible for Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, children must be five years old by December 1, 2024. If you have not yet registered your Kindergarten-age child, please access the required registration forms by visiting the Department of Student Services page of the District website at [www.pittsordschools.org](http://www.pittsordschools.org) and selecting the "Registration, Enrollment and Records" link.

Kindergarten screening will be offered during the summer as needed. To schedule your child for screening, please call the Student Services office at 267-1023. Kindergarten Screening is mandated by New York State and assesses children in the areas of motor skills, concepts such as counting/object naming skills, and language skills.

We look forward to Welcoming the class of 2037 to the Pittsford Central School District!





## Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

## Summer Construction Update

Over the past several years, the district administration and Board of Education have been developing a long-range facilities plan to assess current and future capital improvement needs and the means to responsibly achieve them. The voter-approved 2023 Capital Project is one example of this and will address our highest-priority facility issues, beginning with the hardening of all school entrances.

These plans focus primarily on safety and security as each of our nine school buildings will receive a single point-of-entry double-door main entrance vestibule. These new entrances will consist of a doorbell with audio system to allow visitors into a self-contained entrance. While in this first vestibule, visitors will be required to show identification and sign in. Once verified, the visitor is admitted into the school.

The school entrances will be upgraded over the summer break with work starting in late June and continuing through late August/early September, as follows:

- High Schools will begin at the end of June through July
- Middle Schools will begin late July through August/September
- Allen Creek, Park Road, and Mendon Center Elementary Schools will begin late June through July
- Jefferson Road and Thomell Road Elementary School will occur during the month of July

As work commences, temporary entrances will be established. Clear signage will be installed to direct visitors to the alternative entrance at each school. It is recommended that during construction visitors call ahead to make an appointment with the person they intend to meet.

Along with this summer work, there will be some asbestos remediation. This is limited to Jefferson Road Elementary School, Mendon Center Elementary School, Park Road Elementary School and Barker Road Middle School. The abatement process follows strict regulations, including third party clearance testing to confirm that there are no leaks from the area of abatement before work begins with checks throughout the process.

Staff will be notified when asbestos removal is taking place, but it is safe to be in the building as this work is being completed. Any questions about this process should be directed to the school principal.



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

### Pittsford Central Schools

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Pittsford, NY 14534

(585) 267-1000

[www.pittsfordschools.org](http://www.pittsfordschools.org)

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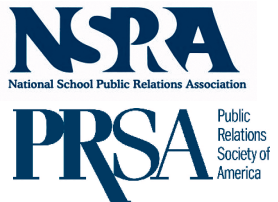
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State and National Award  
Winning Publication





# Pittsford

School District News

# 2024

## Summer

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