

CUFSD NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

HOME OF THE HAMBLETONIANS

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FROM THE
SUPERINTENDENT

CATHERINE
O'HARA

Welcome to our first issue of the 2024-2025 CUFSD Newsletter! One of our five District Goals this year is to strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among our students, staff, families, and the community.

On this page, you will see how we are working to fulfill this goal by implementing communication and engagement improvements while continuing to provide valuable resources that support our mission.

Our newsletter will now be delivered to you monthly via ParentSquare, featuring District updates alongside highlights from Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School. Here's to an exciting year of partnership in 2024-2025!

COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT



ParentSquare

Have you signed up for ParentSquare?

- This new platform streamlines communication between the district, families, and community.
- Provide contact information, receive important updates and get emergency notifications.
- For more details and to sign up on ParentSquare, [click on the ParentSquare page on our website](#)



Chester Union Free School District

Student Centered - Future Focused - Team Driven

PARENTS STUDENTS STAFF

CALENDAR



DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PARENTS

DEPARTMENTS

ACADEMICS

ATHLETICS

Visit our new, more user-friendly CUFSD website

- Find Pre-K to Grade 12 course descriptions under the Academics tab.
- Search for teacher contact information from the homepage.
- Contact the right people through the [Chain of Communication](#).

How parents can get involved!

- Family Instructional Academy has begun. Next one: Oct. 24.

[Click here to learn more about the program](#) or email Curriculum & Instruction dayanara.garcia@chesterufsd.org



- The CUFSD Parent Advisory Panel will offer opportunities this year for representatives to have discussions with each principal related to building specific conversations.
- A newly initiated CUFSD Athletics Panel will help shape the environment surrounding our athletic teams.
- Play a vital role in supporting our school and students!
[Chester Elementary PTA](#)
[Chester Academy PTSA](#)
[CUFSD SEPTSA](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

October 3

Rosh Hashanah - no school

October 5

Homecoming Game and Dance

October 9

Board of Education Meeting

October 10

CES STEAM Night

October 11

Early dismissal drill

October 14

Columbus Day - no school

October 15

Financial Aid Night

October 16

NHS Induction Ceremony

October 23

Board of Education Meeting

October 24

Family Instructional Academy

October 29

Access VR/College Transition Night

October 31

Halloween - 1/2 day of school



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FROM THE
CA PRINCIPAL

JOHN
FLANAGAN

Welcome back to the 2024-25 school year. We are excited about the amazing opportunities that are on the horizon for our students in the coming year.

I would like to start by thanking the Chester Kiwanis for including students from the Chester Academy band and chorus in the annual September 11 ceremony at the 9/11 memorial in the Village of Chester. It was truly a beautiful ceremony to remember the lives of local residents who lost their lives on that tragic day.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Open House on September 19. The relationship between educators and parents/guardians is so important to the success of our students. We encourage families to never hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns about your student.

Homecoming is nearly here! This year's homecoming pep rally will take place on Friday, October 4. We will run our pep rally bell schedule, and students will attend all classes prior to being called down to the gymnasium for the pep rally. The homecoming dance, for students in grades 9-12, will take place on Saturday, October 5. Tickets are on sale during all high school lunches.

This year Chester Academy will be hosting the kickoff of Red Ribbon Week in Orange County on Monday, October 21. What an honor this is! Students from all over Orange County will be visiting our school to attend this kickoff event.

Chester Academy seeking partners for Workplace Learning Internship Program

Chester Academy is seeking more businesses and organizations to partner with for its Workplace Learning Internship Program! This unique opportunity will allow students to get hands-on experience in potential fields they are interested in before graduating high school.

Previously, students have worked with a variety of different professionals ranging from bankers, graphic designers, police officers, farmers, council members, medical professionals, chefs, engineers, software developers, and more.

Students are able to learn about the day-to-day work life within a particular field as well as the importance of professionalism. An internship also provides students with the opportunity to determine if the field may be a right fit.

Mentors have provided insight into corporate culture and information on proper schooling students need for a particular career. They also offer networking opportunities and encouragement while building skills, as well as give guidance while sharing anecdotes from life experiences. If you are a business or organization interested in sharing your expertise with students either in the classroom or in your workplace, please fill out this form or email Jennifer Burreto, Internship Coordinator, at jennifer.burreto@chesterufsd.org.



District hosting Red Ribbon Week kickoff event

The Chester Union Free School District is hosting students from all Orange County schools for the 2024 Red Ribbon Week Kickoff at Chester Academy from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. on Monday, October 21, 2024. The event will feature keynote speaker Stephen Hill, founder of Speak Sobriety and renowned national speaker on substance use prevention and mental health awareness.

Red Ribbon Week highlights the importance of living a drug-free life by reinforcing the drug-free messages schools share with their children throughout the year.

HOMECOMING

Spirit Week

September 30 - October 4

Show your school spirit!

Sep. 30 MONDAY	Matching Monday Duo Day Come dressed as a duo or match with your friends
Oct. 1 TUESDAY	Jersey Day Rep your favorite team
Oct. 2 WEDNESDAY	Country vs. Country Club Come dressed in your best country western or preppy attire
Oct. 3 THURSDAY	No School Rosh Hashanah
Oct. 4 FRIDAY	Blue - Orange Day Show your Hambo pride!



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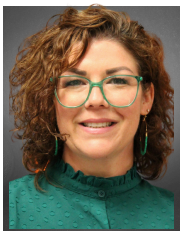
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FROM THE
CES PRINCIPAL

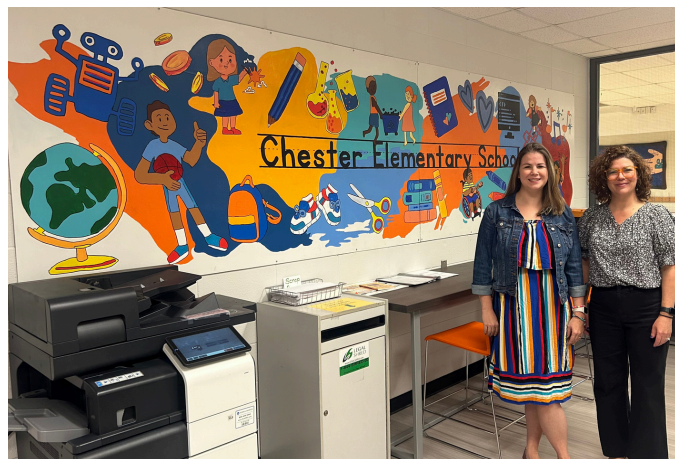
MARY KATE
BOESCH

We are constantly striving to create an inclusive and supportive environment for all CES students. One of the key ways we accomplish this is through our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework. This year, we've taken another step in supporting student achievement by integrating a WIN (What I Need) period into our daily schedule. The WIN period is a dedicated time for students to receive Academic Intervention Services (AIS), enrichment, and targeted interventions to meet their individual needs. Whether a student requires additional support or opportunities for enrichment, the WIN period is designed to ensure that all students have access to what they need to succeed.

WIN is part of our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and allows us to provide tiered academic and behavioral support tailored to each student. During the WIN period, teachers work closely with students to offer interventions within the classroom, promoting a collaborative and inclusive environment. This model ensures students receive timely, evidence-based interventions without missing instruction time.

By embedding WIN into our daily schedule, we're maximizing every moment of the school day to support learning and growth. This period not only strengthens our AIS program but also ensures that every child's needs are met. Whether through PBIS, WIN, or our broader MTSS approach, CES is committed to providing the best educational experience for all students.

Student-created mural now displayed at Chester Elementary School office



A week before the 2024-2025 school year, Chester Elementary School hung up its newest student masterpiece in the main office, so students could see their completed work for the first day of school.

In spring 2024, the entire third grade class at Chester Elementary School came together to help create and participate in painting the newest artwork; a 16-foot by 4-foot mural showcased in the school.

The idea came about by Emily Daunicht, art teacher at CES, during mid-winter break while the main office was being renovated. She noticed a large blank white space and was inspired to spruce it up with art. Mrs. Daunicht discussed her idea with Principal Mary Kate Boesch, then began creating the mural, which students helped bring to fruition. Mrs. Daunicht worked with the third grade students to brainstorm ideas and aspects of the school to incorporate into the mural. The piece encompasses images and themes that are a part of everyday life at the school, such as reading, writing, social studies, science, robotics, art, music and technology.

"I really like that this is something that the students can see up in the building forever that students created," said Mrs. Daunicht.

[Click to read full story](#)

Students attend new year PBIS assemblies

Students at Chester Elementary School gathered for their first Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) assemblies of the year. Students learned about positive actions they can do in school and how to be ready, responsible, respectful, and safe.



[Click to read about the Pre-K and Kindergarten Assembly](#)

[Click to read about the Grades 1-5 Assembly](#)



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