June 2025 – July 2025 Volume 21, Issue 6

"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"

Congrats Class of 2025!



EVAN SNYDER
Valedictorian

Evan Snyder has been named the Valedictorian of the Olean High School Class of 2025. He is the son of Tobi and David Snyder and will graduate with an Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors and Mastery in math and science. He maintained high honor roll throughout all four years of high school while enrolled in advanced and college credit courses.

Evan participated in many extracurricular activities, especially those involving music. He played violin in the school's string orchestra for nine years, regularly participating in the NYSSMA Solo Festival. He displayed excellence in his solo pieces, eventually being selected to participate in the Area All-State ensemble in 2024. He played violin in the pit orchestra for the school's performance of the musical, "*The Wizard of Oz*," and frequently attended the Spring String Festival held at Houghton University. In athletics, Evan competed on the varsity tennis team for four years. He made the starting lineup as a junior, where he won matches to help the team make the state championship in New York City and received the doubles award with his partner. Additionally, he was elected to the student government as a senior class officer where he worked to plan and manage activities for the senior class of 2025.

Evan's academic achievements led him to receive many honors. He was named the JCC College Connections Student of the Year in both his junior and senior years. He was also a recipient of the Cattaraugus County Youth Citizenship award for his academics and involvement in the community. Other notable honors include the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, Harold Dutton Spotlight Award, National Honor Society, 20/40 Point Award, scholar athlete, and academic excellence awards in various subjects.

Evan will attend St. Bonaventure University in the fall where he will study cybersecurity.

CONGRATS EVAN!



SULLIVAN HOFFMAN
Salutatorian

Sullivan Hoffman has been named the Salutatorian of the Olean High School Class of 2025. He is the son of Michael and Ellie Hoffman. Throughout high school, he has taken dual-enrollment courses, been a member of the National Honor Society, and on the high honor roll. He received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizens Award and the George Eastman Young Leaders Award.

Sullivan has been a member of DECA for three years where he served as vice president his junior year and president his senior year. He competed in the New York State DECA competition for two consecutive years. Sullivan played soccer and basketball throughout all four years of high school and baseball in his senior year. He was a scholar athlete all four years.

Sullivan has been involved in many school and community programs. He participated in Homeless Huskies and Unified Basketball and worked as a holiday helper at the Washington West Holiday Shop. He was a volunteer through the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce, where he helped with Gus Macker, the Corporate Challenge, Santa Claus Lane Parade, and a basketball skills competition. Sullivan also participated in volunteer opportunities through his parish, St. Johns, including serving food, delivering food and gifts to homebound parishioners, the Souper Bowl of Caring, and making luminaries for the Genesis House. Additionally, he served as a volunteer for the local Remote Area Medicine clinic and helped with the inclusive trick or treat and spring fling events. Sullivan also worked as a lifeguard for the City of Olean and summer maintenance at St. Bonaventure University.

Sullivan will attend Duquesne University in the fall, majoring in finance with plans to attend law school. He plans to be on the Certified Financial Planning track and earn a pre-law certificate.

CONGRATS SULLIVAN!



Class of 2025 Honor Graduates

Michael Bader is the son of Chad and Mary Jo Bader. Throughout his high school career, he has taken dual-enrollment courses earning fifty college credits. Michael was a member of the National Honor Society and maintained high honor roll. He was a member of DECA for three years and competed in the New York State DECA competition for two consecutive years. Outside of school Michael was a member of the Olean Area Youth Hockey Association (OAYHA) for eleven years. As a member of the Olean Arrows and Ka-Bar Blades, his team made the New York State Tournament three years in a row. Michael participated in various school and community programs as well. He participated in Homeless Huskies and volunteered at the Exceptional Track and Field Day. Michael volunteered his time on Saturday mornings helping teach beginners of OAYHA the great sport of hockey. He volunteered at the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce's Santa Claus Lane Parade and walked dogs for the SPCA. Michael also worked as a lifeguard for the City of Olean during the summers and a skate-guard during the winter months. Michael plans to attend SUNY Geneseo in the fall, majoring in finance.

Brenden Bailey is the son of Lisa Bailey and Donald Bailey. Brenden was a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Activities Council. Brenden was also on the high honor roll and was a scholar athlete throughout his high school career. He participated in one year of junior varsity and one year of varsity soccer, as well as four years of varsity tennis. Brenden participated in public services, including Homeless Huskies and volunteer work at the SPCA. He completed the Project Lead the Way engineering courses and took numerous college courses throughout high school. Brenden plans to attend Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall, majoring in aerospace engineering.

Ava Borer is the daughter of Lynn Sweitzer and Jeffrey Borer. She was a member of the National Honor Society, a high honor roll student, and the Public and Media Relations Specialist of the Student Activities Council. Ava was a part of the varsity track and field team for four years where she received awards including Rookie of the Year, MVP, and the sportsmanship award. Ava participated in indoor track and field for two years and varsity soccer for four years. In her senior year, she served as a captain of the soccer team. Ava was a scholar athlete throughout her athletic career. She was an active member of many organizations including the World with Water Club, Prom Committee, and the Souper Bowl of Caring where she was a student coordinator her senior year. Ava also participated in many events such as Homeless Huskies, Unified Sports, and Winter Carnival. She will be attending Daemen University enrolled in the five-year Physician Assistant program. Ava will also be running track and field.

Cavan Boutillette is the son of Marc Boutillette and Molly Sear. He was a member of the varsity cross country team for three years, varsity soccer for one year, varsity swimming for three years, and varsity tennis for five years. During his years of tennis, Cavan has enjoyed multitudes of success with the team, including qualifying for the sectional tournament five times, and the state tournament twice for doubles as well as making to team states. Throughout his years of tennis, he has received the coaches award, a doubles award, MVP, and a singles award. Cavan was a member of DECA for two years as well, serving as secretary and vice president. He participated in many school events including Homeless Huskies and class competitions. Cavan completed the Project Lead the Way engineering courses, and he was also a member of the National Honor Society. Cavan plans to attend John Carroll University to major in political science and compete on the varsity tennis team.

James Burrows is the son of Danielle Zawatski and Timothy Burrows. James was a member of the National Honor Society and a high honor roll student. He participated in Homeless Huskies and was the treasurer of the Esports club. James also attended BOCES for Culinary Arts, held honor roll consistently, and was one of the few students named an Outstanding Student by his instructor. James plans to attend SUNY Niagara this fall. He will be majoring in culinary arts and minoring in education.



Class of 2025 Honor Graduates

Autumn Cassford is the daughter of Sandra and Corey Cassford. Autumn was a member of the National Honor Society and was a high honor roll student. She was a member of the Art Club, Science Club, Creative Writing Club, and the Driftriders Snowmobiling Club. Autumn volunteered at the SPCA and for the Driftriders Club. She plans to attend Jamestown Community College in the fall to major in business.

Willow Chase is the daughter of Terri McFall. Willow was an honor roll and high honor roll student throughout her high school career. She was a member of the varsity swim team earning the title of swim captain in her junior and senior years. Her swimming achievements include participating in sectional competitions. Willow participated in Homeless Huskies and received the geometry award. She will attend Jamestown Community College in Jamestown and compete on the swim team.

Asher Cummings is the son and youngest child of Bridgette and Joshua Cummings. He was on the high honor roll throughout his high school career. Asher had a fondness for the arts and took many art classes, creating several pieces which were featured in the Olean High School's art showcases. After high school, he plans to join the workforce.

Molly DeRose is the daughter of Michael and Melissa DeRose. Molly was a member of the National Honor Society and received the Outstanding Honor Society Member Award her senior year. She served as the Executive Secretary of the Student Activities Council and was class president from eighth to tenth grade. She represented Olean High School through many earned opportunities including: the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program, the St. Bonaventure University Summer STEM Research Program, and All-County Choir performances. Additionally, Molly was actively involved in TV Studio, the World with Water Club, Souper Bowl of Caring, and participated in Homeless Huskies. Molly was a soprano section leader of Select Chorus and Bel Canto; she participated in theater for the first time her senior year and was cast in the role of Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz." Molly participated in varsity track, golf, and soccer and was a soccer team captain during her senior year. She volunteered in and out of school with the Special Olympics, Coaches vs. Cancer Golf Tournament, and Unified Sports. Molly will attend Syracuse University in the fall with a dual major in business and public communications.

Emma Edwards is the daughter of Amie Merchel and Greg Edwards. She was a member of the National Honor Society and a high honor roll student throughout high school. During her time in National Honor Society, Emma led a fundraiser to help the SPCA by organizing a donation drive. Emma was a part of the varsity soccer team for five years and received the "We're Impressed" Award twice. She also served as a captain of the soccer team in her senior year. Emma competed on the varsity softball team for five years; she was named captain beginning in her sophomore year. Emma earned Rookie of the Year and Offensive MVP awards for softball. Emma was a part of the music department for her senior year. She performed as the Wicked Witch in "The Wizard of Oz." Emma will attend Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas in the fall where she will major in psychology. She will also be competing on the softball team.





Class of 2025 Honor Graduates

Blake Foster is the son of Traci and Michael Foster. Blake was a member of the National Honor Society and received honor and high honor roll throughout his high school career. Blake also participated in public services including Homeless Huskies. Blake was active in two different clubs in his senior year, the Tabletop Club and Esports Club. He served as the secretary of the Esports club. He attended BOCES for Audio Visual Production developing many skills and earning various awards. Blake earned first place at the SkillsUSA regional competition, the Best in Show Award at St. Bonaventure's Communications Day, and an honorable mention in the national NOCTI video competition. He also went to SkillsUSA state competitions for two years competing in Digital Cinematography. Blake attended New York State Summer School of the Arts in the summer of 2024 expanding his knowledge in film and helping to further his career skills. He plans to attend SUNY Niagara for two years majoring in Digital Media before transferring to SUNY Fredonia to finish his college career and step into the vast world of filmmaking.

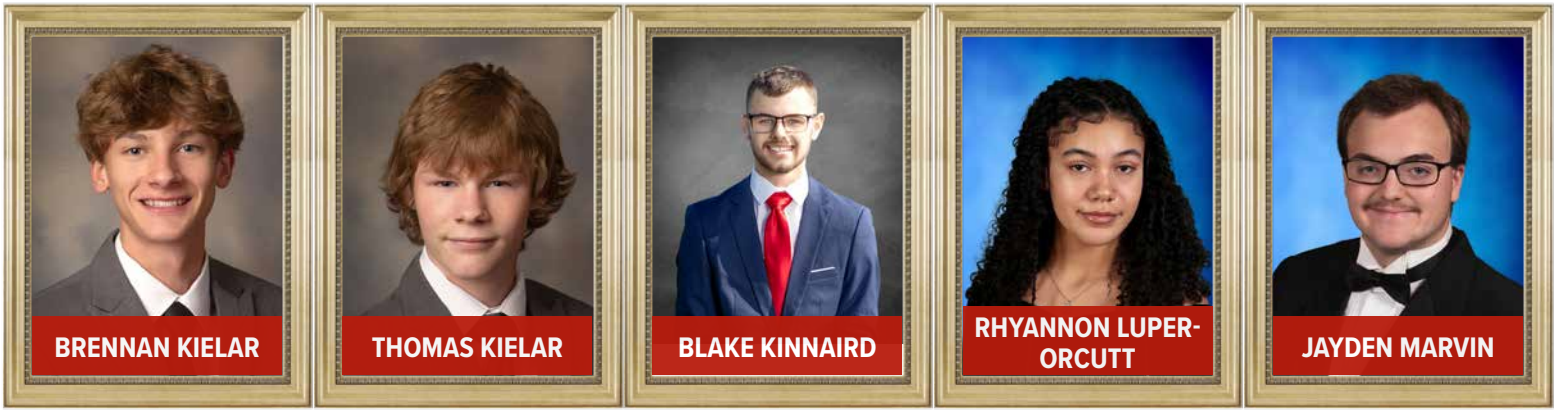
Alyssa Gaylor is the daughter of Brandace Gaylor and Terry Gaylor. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the vice president of Student Council. Alyssa was a part of the Senior Competition Team at Step Up Dance Academy throughout high school. She was also an active member and the student treasurer for the OHS yearbook. She participated in events such as the Souper Bowl of Caring, Homeless Huskies, and class competitions. Alyssa plans to attend the University at Buffalo, majoring in psychology.

Jackson Gonzalez is the son of Nichole Gonzalez and Paul Gonzalez. He was a member of the National Honor Society and earned high honor roll. Jackson also participated in cross country for five years, soccer for one year, and track for two years. Jackson was a scholar athlete in all the seasons he participated in sports. Jackson was also a member of the Ski Club for four years. He was a speaker at the National Honor Society's induction dinner in 2025. Jackson also volunteered to assist in many public services, including Homeless Huskies, Exceptional Track and Field Day, Winter Carnival, and volunteered at the SPCA. He plans to attend SUNY Binghamton's Thomas J. Watson College of Engineering and Applied Science in the fall with a major in engineering.

Spencer Greenstein is the son of Kristie Greenstein and Kosta Arabatzis. Spencer was a member of the National Honor Society. He attended BOCES for Culinary Arts in pursuit of his goal to become a culinary teacher. While at BOCES he participated in Skills USA and earned second place at the 2025 Area One regional competition at Alfred State. He also was a member of the Tabletop Club, the vice president for the Esports Club, and participated in Homeless Huskies. Spencer plans to attend SUNY Niagara in the fall where he will major in culinary arts and minor in education.

Carmen Hasper is the daughter of Heather Vaughn and the late Jason Hasper. Carmen has been involved with many school events including Homeless Huskies where she was one of the highest fundraisers, the Souper Bowl of Caring, and the stage crew of the school play. She was elected class secretary her sophomore year where she helped coordinate and run school events and fundraisers. Carmen was also a member of the band for five years where she played the trumpet and earned All-County honors. She also received the Harold Dutton Award for picking up trash during her walks around town. Carmen was a high honor roll student throughout her high school career. She plans to further her education at Jamestown Community College, majoring in psychology.





Class of 2025 Honor Graduates

Brennan Kielar is the son of Danielle and Steve Kielar. Brennan was an eight-time scholar athlete and a National Honor Society member who maintained high honor roll status throughout high school. He has participated in varsity soccer, varsity track and field, Ski Club, Interact Club, and orchestra while volunteering with organizations like Homeless Huskies, Unified Sports, and the Souper Bowl of Caring. As a dedicated member of Boy Scout Troop 677, Brennan achieved Eagle Scout rank in 2025 by creating a retired flag collection box for the Allegany American Legion. His scouting activities included Toys for Tots drives and honoring veterans by placing flags at local cemeteries. This fall, Brennan will attend the SUNY Brockport Honors College to study criminal justice with a minor in forensic science.

Thomas Kielar is the son of Danielle and Steve Kielar. He was inducted into the National Honor Society in January of 2025. Thomas was on high honor roll each quarter of his high school career and served as the manager of the varsity soccer team during the 2024 season. He also participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring, Exceptional Track and Field Day, Homeless Huskies, orchestra, and Interact Club. Thomas has been an active member of Boy Scout Troop 677, earning his Eagle Scout rank in 2025 by constructing a garden bed for Camp Penuel in Eldred, PA. As a Boy Scout, Thomas contributed to his community through initiatives like Toys for Tots, placing flags on veterans' graves, performing flag retirement ceremonies, and other volunteer efforts. Since joining the Ski Club in 2022, Thomas has developed a passion for skiing, one that even influenced his college decision. This fall, he will attend SUNY Plattsburgh majoring in environmental science, which is located near Whiteface Mountain. This will offer the perfect opportunity for him to combine his academic goals with his love of skiing during the winter months.

Blake Kinnaird is the son of Heather Kinnaird and Chris Bartholomew. Blake was a member of the National Honor Society and a high honor roll student throughout his high school career. He was a member of the varsity football team for three years, during which he received the Kevin Whitehead Memorial Award in both his junior and senior years. He was a member of the varsity wrestling team for three years, the varsity indoor track and field team for one year, and the varsity track and field team for four years. Blake is also in the Olean High School track and field record books for being one the best pole vaulters in OHS history. He was a scholar athlete in every athletic season. He took advantage of the Project Lead the Way program, in which he took three different engineering classes from his freshman year to his junior year. Blake will attend Ithaca College this fall where he will be majoring in physics. He will also compete on the indoor and outdoor track and field teams.

Rhyannon Luper-Orcutt is the daughter of Cristina Orcutt. Rhyannon was a member of the National Honor Society and a high honor roll student. She participated in band, Bel Canto, Select Chorus, and orchestra throughout her high school career. She was also a member of the Art Club and French Club as well as fundraising for and participating in Homeless Huskies. Rhyannon attended BOCES for cosmetology, where she was also an honor roll student. She will be attending the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford in the fall, majoring in radiology.

Jayden Marvin is the son of Melody and Paul LeBlanc. Jayden was a member of National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society, and President of Treasury for the Student Activities Council. Jayden was a member of the varsity football team for four years, varsity track team for three years, and varsity basketball team for one year. He was also a member of the prom committee for two years and participated in Homeless Huskies, Unified Basketball, Exceptional Track and Field Day, and volunteered for Winter Carnival. Jayden plans to serve in the United States Army for six years after graduation as an infantryman. After completing his service, Jayden plans to earn a bachelor's degree in business and pursue a career in law enforcement or serve as a Secret Service agent.



Class of 2025 Honor Graduates

Isabella Morelli is the daughter of William Morelli and Elizabeth Morelli. She was a diligent worker who believed in always putting forth her best effort. Isabella regularly did volunteer work at the Olean High School library by shelving books and helping with projects. Isabella received several Harold Dutton Awards for helping others and setting a good example for her peers. She also received many awards from her teachers highlighting her hard work. Isabella will join the workforce while taking continuing education classes.

Desiree Muir is the daughter of Melissa Muir and David Foster. She served as the junior and senior class president. Desiree was also the president of the Zonta Club which focuses on providing aid to women and girls. She was the head delegate of Model United Nations and participated in ten conferences. She was also a member of the Principal's Advisory Committee for three years. Desiree served as the student editor for the Literary and Visual Arts Journal for three years and was Art Club president for two years. She was the president of Mending Minds and the World with Water Club. She sang in Select Chorus and Bel Canto for four years. Desiree won the Multicultural High School Scholars Award that recognizes excellent grades and leadership qualities by SUNY Albany. She received the National African American Recognition Program award for high-performing, underrepresented students. She also gratefully received a full-ride scholarship from Ohio University and plans to major in political science. In the future, Desiree hopes to become a lawyer.

Iraya Prosser has attended the Early Childhood Education and Human Services program at BOCES, inspiring her to become a social worker after high school. She participated in Homeless Huskies and Exceptional Track and Field Day, allowing her to interact with people she cares about. Iraya was a member of the National Honor Society her senior year, and participated in Book Club, Gay Straight Alliance, and Crochet Club. Iraya was a part of school musicals for the past three years including "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," "Elf the Musical," and "The Wizard of Oz." She also participated in band, orchestra, chorus, and Select Chorus throughout her time in high school. Iraya's all-time favorite thing at OHS was spending time and creating memories with her classmates. Iraya will attend Jamestown Community College to pursue her dream of becoming a social worker.

Luca Quinn is the son of Mark Quinn and Corinne Quinn. Luca was a member of the National Honor Society and the World with Water Club. He was a member of the varsity basketball team for five years, the varsity baseball team for three years, and the varsity soccer team for one year. He also participated in Unified Basketball for two years. Luca was on high honor roll throughout his high school career. He plans to attend St. Bonaventure University in the fall where he will major in marketing and minor in business.

Sofia Rucinski is the daughter of Scott and Sarah Rucinski. She was a member of the National Honor Society, served as the Event Creation and Coordination Specialist for the Student Activities Council, and was a member of the OCSD Foundation Board her senior year. Sofia was a part of the varsity cross country and track and field team for four years. She earned the scholar athlete award throughout her high school career. Besides her athletic achievements, she has also received the Susan B. Anthony Award from the University of Rochester for her dedication to advocacy and service. She was also involved with clubs and organizations throughout her time at OHS including the Souper Bowl of Caring, the World with Water Club, Yearbook, Principal's Advisory Committee, and Prom Committee. She also participated in many school activities including Homeless Huskies, class competitions, and assisted in the Unified Sports programs. Sofia will attend Cleveland State University in the fall where she will be majoring in physical therapy to become a Doctor of Physical Therapy.





Class of 2025 Honor Graduates

Aaron Samuel is the son of Amy and Richard Samuel. He was a member of the National Honor Society, achieved high honor roll, and was the Secretary of Treasury of the Student Activities Council. Aaron was also the treasurer for his class all four years. He was a member of varsity track and field for one year. He also participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring and the Prom Committee. In addition, Aaron participated in many school events including Homeless Huskies, Unified Basketball, and class competitions. Aaron furthered his knowledge of healthcare by taking classes provided by Southern Tier Health Care System. He plans to attend Jamestown Community College and the University of Buffalo with the goal of becoming a pharmacist.

Reece Schreiber is the daughter of Rachael Schreiber and George Schreiber. She served as a class officer for three years, was a member of the Principal's Advisory Committee, and earned high honor roll. Reece has played many seasons of sports including modified soccer and basketball, junior varsity soccer, junior varsity basketball, and varsity swimming. She was also involved in public services, including Homeless Huskies. Reece was a part of the New Visions Health Professions program through BOCES which allowed her to complete college courses and shadow various health professions. She received the Bonnie Scholarship Award from St. Bonaventure University for her academic excellence, community, integrity, wisdom, leadership, social responsibility, compassion, and an appreciation for diversity. Reece will attend St. Bonaventure University majoring in Health Science. Her goal is to become an anesthesiologist.

Ammar Shaikh is the son of Aijaz Shaikh. Ammar was a scholar athlete and made high honor roll. He participated in many sports including track, soccer, and football. He was also a member of Ski Club and DECA. Ammar volunteered for Unified Basketball as well. He plans to attend Collin Community College in Texas for the fall semester enrolling in an entrepreneurship program to pursue a career in business.

Bianca Simons is the daughter of Stephen and Cara Simons. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the Design Specialist of the Student Activities Council. Bianca was a member of the varsity swimming and diving team for three years and won the Most Improved Award in her junior year and the Coaches' Award in her senior year. She was also a scholar athlete all three years. Bianca participated in a musical and was a member of Bel Canto and Select Chorus. She also attended Solo Festivals and All-Counties for chorus. Bianca served as soil expert and president of Envirothon. During her time on the team, they earned both 2nd and 3rd place victories. She also participated in various events including Homeless Huskies, Winter Carnival, and the Souper Bowl of Caring. Bianca was also a member of the literary journal. She will attend Binghamton University in the fall, majoring in pharmacy.

Max Windus is the son of Tom and Amy Windus. He was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in numerous junior varsity and varsity level athletics including track, soccer, golf, basketball, and cross country. During his time as an athlete, he earned the distinction of scholar athlete. Throughout his junior and senior years, he participated in Homeless Huskies, Unified Basketball, and Exceptional Track and Field Day. Max plans to attend St. Bonaventure University majoring in sports management and journalism.



Senior Post Grad Plans

Isobella A. Ard ..... *JCC*
Alexander M. Ash-West ..... *JCC*
Izabella R.R Ayala ..... *Employment*
Michael A.C. Bader ..... *Geneseo*
Jasmine R. Baglione ..... *JCC*
Brenden T. Bailey ..... *Rochester Institute of Technology*
Courtney J. Bargy ..... *SUNY Niagara*
Noah C. Blair ..... *JCC*
Ava C. Borer ..... *Daemen University*
Cavan T. Boutillette ..... *John Carroll University*
Aaron D. Boutwell ..... *JCC*
Brooke L. Boysha ..... *Employment*
Nathan H. Brenneman ..... *Employment*
James D. Burrows ..... *SUNY Niagara*
Annika D. Cashimere ..... *JCC*
Autumn N. Cassford ..... *JCC*
Ericka M. Chaplain ..... *Employment*
Willow J. Chase ..... *JCC Jamestown*
Hannah M. Cheney ..... *Cleveland State University*
Aiden A. Clark ..... *Penn West University*
Jaeda L. Clark ..... *University of Pittsburgh at Bradford*
Ryan M. Clayton ..... *Employment*
Rosko M. Clute ..... *Employment*
Arianna R. Cole ..... *Gulf Coast State College*
Asher D. Cummings ..... *Employment*
Molly S. DeRose ..... *Syracuse University*
Brayden R. Dorson ..... *JCC*
Annalisse J. Easton ..... *St. Bonaventure University*
Emma J. Edwards ..... *Tarleton State University*
Haidyn A. Field ..... *Employment*
Blake A. Foster ..... *SUNY Niagara*
Brody F. Frame ..... *Alfred State College*
Darren H.L.Fuller ..... *JCC*
Avrianna N.J. Gadley ..... *Employment*
Noah T. Gallo ..... *Alfred State College*
Alyssa M. Gaylor ..... *University at Buffalo*
Jackson D. Gonzalez ..... *Binghamton University*
Leah K. Gould ..... *Alfred State College*
Spencer A. Greenstein ..... *SUNY Niagara*
Chloe R. Hall ..... *Northeast College of Health Science*
DyAndrah A. Hanson ..... *D'Youville University*
Jayden M. Harrington ..... *SUNY Niagara*
Carmen J. Hasper ..... *JCC*
Dylan I. Hendryx ..... *Employment*
Brandon M. Herbert ..... *SUNY Fredonia*
Sullivan P. Hoffman ..... *Duquesne University*
Damon R. Hollowell ..... *Employment*
Michael R. Jandrew II ..... *SUNY Cobleskill*
Cayden J. Jimerson ..... *Employment*
Brekin R. Johnson ..... *JCC*
Jacksen A. Kahm ..... *Alfred State College*
Mia R. Keller ..... *JCC*
Brennan M. Kielar ..... *SUNY Brockport*
Thomas J. Kielar ..... *SUNY Plattsburgh*
Angelus A. Kimbrough ..... *Employment*
Blake P. Kinnaird ..... *Ithaca College*
Phoenix M. Langdon ..... *SUNY Fredonia*
Rhyannon V. Luper- Orcutt .. *University of Pittsburgh at Bradford*
Kadyn M. Malloy ..... *St. Bonaventure University*
Jayden C. Marvin ..... *Army*
Abriana M. Maull ..... *Employment*
Lakya L. Maull ..... *Cleveland State University*
Hannah E. McAdam ..... *JCC*
Liam C. McLaughlin ..... *Northeastern University*
Mia R. McVinney ..... *Ohio Technical College*
Aiden N. Meyer ..... *Employment*
Manoah J.M. Miketish ..... *JCC*
Ava R. Moran ..... *Alfred State College*
Isabella C. Morelli ..... *Employment*
Desiree A. Muir ..... *Ohio University*
Alexander M. Myers ..... *Employment*
Eli T. Orcutt ..... *SUNY Brockport*
Janis M. Osswald ..... *University of Florida*
Levi L. Otero ..... *Niagara University*
Ethan J. Potter ..... *Employment*
Nicolie A. Portlow ..... *JCC*
Iraya R. Prosser ..... *JCC*
Luca P. Quinn ..... *St. Bonaventure University*
Lorenzo Racana ..... *Politecnico di Milano*
Josalynn N. Roche ..... *JCC*
Alana M. Rowand ..... *SUNY Brockport*
Sofia E. Rucinski ..... *Cleveland State University*
Aaron R. Samuel ..... *JCC*
Reece A. Schreiber ..... *St. Bonaventure University*
Vailon R. Scott ..... *SUNY Niagara*
Ammar A. Shaikh ..... *Collin College*
Andrew J. Shaul Jr. ..... *Alfred State College*
Garrett W.P. Shaw ..... *Employment*
Bianca M. Simons ..... *Binghamton University*
Terry Singh ..... *JCC*
Joscelyn R.N. Smith ..... *Alfred State College*
Evan D. Snyder ..... *St. Bonaventure University*
Brooke N. Stuckey ..... *JCC Jamestown*
Gideon D. Tarr ..... *Army*
Zaiden H. Thach ..... *Buffalo State University*
Caedyn N. Tingley ..... *University of Pittsburgh at Bradford*
Julia R. Vandenberg ..... *Cleveland State University*
Chase R. Vogtli ..... *Finger Lakes Community College*
Tatiana K. Warmley ..... *University at Buffalo*
Damien R. Warren ..... *Employment*
Zachary P. Warters ..... *University of Texas*
Troy N. White ..... *Army*
Jillian R. Williams ..... *Employment*
Maxim T. Windus ..... *St. Bonaventure University*
Randy J.A. Wright ..... *Employment*
Montana L. Yehl ..... *JCC*

News From OHS





OHS: Creating Connections Between Curriculum and Community.

This spring, Olean High School teachers: Mr. Ahl, Mrs. Ventura, Mrs. Warren, Ms. O'Brien, and Mrs. Filjones, all collaborated with The Olean Theatre Workshop to connect their curriculum with live theatre. The weekend of May 1st, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, The Olean Theatre Workshop was presenting their production of *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. This was a play about teens who went through the Holocaust. This moving story sparked opportunity at OHS for collaboration with the hopes of getting students engaged in their curriculum about World War II and hopefully encouraging them to support a local production. First the collaboration started with education. Since so many teachers were interested in connecting their curriculum to this community production, Mr. Ahl organized a guest speaker to come from the Holocaust Education Resource Organization in Buffalo to come speak to the cast and OHS students in the participating classes. Once students had a better understanding of the events that occurred by speaking with a daughter of a Holocaust survivor, OHS students started to create materials to in turn educate the community while also sharpening their skills in their given discipline. Being that the play is based off a book of poems, Mrs. Ventura and Mrs. Warren encouraged their students who would soon be reading *Night*, a book that is also about the Holocaust, to write poetry that reflected their thoughts on the historical event. Ms. O'Brien had her art students create artwork that used the poetry from the play as the context for their creations. Both the poems and the artwork were then displayed in the lobby and around the seats at The Olean Theatre Workshop during their performance. Then, Mrs. Filjones had her 8th grade students, who were just starting their unit on World War II, create digital posters explaining the lives of real children who went through the Holocaust in order to create a personal connection between her students and the content. These digital posters were then used by The Olean Theatre Workshop on their Facebook page to educate theatre goers on the real-life stories that were the inspiration for the play. We are so happy that these students not only made deeper connections with the content they are studying but also created a connection with a community organization.



WAY TO GO HUSKIES!





OHS Art Club Restores "Hermie" the Squirrel

Last year, the OHS Art Club took on the challenge of restoring "Hermie," the beloved squirrel statue at Seneca Heights, giving him a bold new look! The creative journey began in Fall 2023, when the Sherburne family reached out to the art club to help redesign Hermie to include unique landmarks from the area. From that moment on, OHS artists worked in partnership with the Olean Historical & Preservation Society. Students brainstormed ideas, gathered reference photos, and curated a list of local landmarks to feature. Some of the iconic spots that made the final cut include School #9, Cloud 9, Mount View Cemetery, Swarts Food Store, and Kamery's Farm.

Transforming Hermie was the number one priority for the art club and student artists took their commitment to restore Hermie very seriously. This creative endeavor demanded skill, vision, and teamwork to be a success. Art club members sketched detailed designs, mapped out where each landmark would appear on the squirrel, and painted it layer by layer finishing it with incredible detail.

Now, Hermie is colorfully adorned with vibrant imagery that tell the tale of Seneca Heights where he will return after receiving his weather resistant coat.

The talented team of artists behind this creative makeover include Cara Barry, Sanaa Booker, Robyn Duplechain, Valeriia Lozynska, Viktoriia Lozynska, Rhyannon Luper-Orcutt, Hailey Manning, Raine Maynard, Hannah McAdam, Iraya Prosser, Avianna Rauber, and Zaiden Thach.

Also, big thanks go out to the Sherburne family for providing this opportunity as well as Miss Brisky, Ms. Cawley, Mr. Milne, Miss Schuman, and Ms. O'Brien who helped guide the team and bring everything together into one cohesive artwork.





Students Travels to Washington, DC!

Our eighth graders recently traveled to Washington, DC, for an enriching educational experience that combined history, culture, civic engagement, and a whole lot of fun.

During the trip, students visited iconic landmarks such as the U.S. Capitol, White House, Smithsonian Museums, Spy Museum, Kennedy Center, and Arlington National Cemetery. They had the unique opportunity to witness the workings of the federal government firsthand and explore the rich history preserved in the nation's capital.

The field trip was made possible through the generous support of the Olean Schools Foundation, whose contributions ensured that all students could participate in this valuable educational experience.



Growing Futures: Olean Students to Launch Internship with Canticle Farm

This spring, Mrs. Niece and Mrs. Graves launched a unique educational partnership with Canticle Farm, a local organic farm dedicated to sustainable agriculture and community wellness. Together, they are bringing real-world learning to life for students by providing an enriching opportunity to explore crop production and food distribution through hands-on experiences as a program requirement.

Through this collaboration, students gain valuable insights into what it takes to grow and harvest crops, starting from seed selection and soil preparation to planting, maintenance, and harvest. They'll also explore how fresh produce makes its way from the farm to community tables. Beyond the science of agriculture, students develop critical employability skills such as teamwork, time management, problem-solving, and responsibility.

The internship with Canticle Farm is more than just a program obligation—it's a powerful career-readiness initiative designed to prepare students for the future by immersing them in authentic, skill-building tasks. This experience helps students discover new passions, develop a strong work ethic, and build confidence as they contribute meaningfully to their local community.

Mrs. Niece and Mrs. Graves believe that learning outside the classroom is just as important as what happens inside. "We want our students to see that their work matters," Mrs. Niece shared. "They're not just growing vegetables—they're growing a sense of purpose, accountability, and pride."

We are incredibly proud of our students and look forward to this partnership continuing for years to come. Stay tuned for updates as we dig into this exciting adventure!









Olean Students at Houghton's Spring String Festival

Olean High School and OIMS students participated in this year's Spring String Festival at Houghton University. Lead by their guest conductors, students were arranged into three groups: Elementary (5-6), Middle School (7-9) and High School (10-12) working on 3-4 pieces of music to perform at the end of the festival.

Students from across Western New York and the Southern Tier came to the university Friday morning and began rehearsing with their ensembles right away. When students were not practicing, they ate in the universities cafeteria and relaxed with some good old fashion camp fun like crafts, swimming, movies and more.

After a good night's rest, students went right back into rehearsals to prepare for the performance later that day. Although they made great progress the day before, they continued to make their music more refined. In the late afternoon, parents, families, and friends began to file into the auditorium while students did their last minutes preparations. Each group played in front of one audience, so they were able to witness the progress students made throughout these years.

After the last piece concluded, students were able to see it all come to an end. They said goodbye to their conductors, stand partners, and new friends before going back home. They did not just gain friendships, they gained valuable knowledge to share with their conductors, stand partners and friends at home. Once again, the impact of music continues!

Empowering Special Education Through AI: A Curriculum Collaboration at Olean High School

By Kelsey Eberhard, Coordinator for Exceptional Education Professional Development and Support

At Olean High School, a quiet transformation is taking place in the 12:1:1 special education classrooms- one that blends cutting-edge technology with deep instructional expertise. Over the past several months, I've had the privilege of working alongside Andrea Niece, a dedicated special education teacher, to rethink and reimagine curriculum planning for her students using artificial intelligence — specifically, ChatGPT.

Using ChatGPT as a dynamic co-planner, we've been able to modify, map, and adapt curriculum materials in ways that meet the needs of students in self-contained special education settings while still aligning to the general education standards. Thanks to Andrea's efforts, students in her classroom- and across the district- now have meaningful access to credit-bearing coursework that is more inclusive, engaging, and tailored to diverse learning needs.

Andrea and I started by identifying essential standards that matter most for student success. Then, using AI and district resources, we adjusted pacing guides to align with the unique rhythm of a 12:1:1 classroom. We've used ChatGPT to rewrite complex texts, scaffold materials, generate formative assessments, and create lesson sequences that build both skills and confidence in students. The result is a more personalized, accessible curriculum—one that provides equity without sacrificing rigor.

"This work has been transformative," Andrea shared. "It's not just about saving time- which it absolutely does- it's about giving students access. Access to curriculum, access to learning, and access to achievement."

Indeed, the use of AI has drastically reduced the manual workload required to tailor materials for diverse learners. While every AI-generated resource is carefully reviewed and adjusted before it reaches students, the tool has empowered us to spend less time formatting and more time focusing on pedagogy and student engagement.

Andrea's passion for her students is evident in every planning session. What's exciting is how AI is amplifying her expertise—not replacing it. It's a partner in the process, one that makes it possible to dream bigger for students who deserve just as much from their education as anyone else.

This project also opens the door for similar innovations across our region. As we continue to support teachers through curriculum development, AI can be an asset in every classroom, from AP courses to Life Skills, helping all students reach their potential.

Our collaboration is still unfolding, and we're excited to share resources and strategies with other educators interested in bringing AI into their curriculum planning. Together, we're showing what's possible when human care and technological tools work hand in hand. If you're interested in exploring how AI can support your students or would like help adapting curriculum for specialized settings, I'd be happy to collaborate! Let's work together to reimagine curriculum for all learners. In the meantime, take a few minutes to explore ChatGPT on your own – see what you can create and discover!



Photo generated using DeepAI and Canva

News From OIMS



Mobile Concession Stand

To celebrate our all star staff and to give our team of unique learners/communicators the opportunity to practice their social skills outside of the life skills classroom, we have started the OIMS Mobile Concession Stand!

The "stand" stocked with treats will rolls the floors of OIMS each week for the months of May and June. Each staff member is welcome to enjoy a treat from the mobile cart. The funds to purchase the treats were generously provided by the Olean Schools Foundation.







Three Sister Crops

Mr. Sheldon Kenyon was invited into Mrs. McNabb's, Mrs. Powell's, and Miss Cavalier's classes to teach the children about the "Three Sister Crops." The children planted their own bean plants to watch them grow.



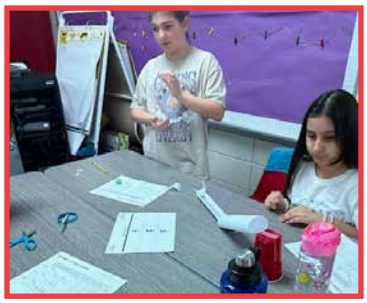






¿Y a ti? ¿Qué te gusta hacer?

And you? What do you like to do? For their final project of the year, Mrs. Wilton's 7th grade Spanish students created posters telling, in Spanish, six things they either like or love to do. This required writing out their sentences, depicting the activity by drawing, using selfies, or finding pictures in a magazine or online, and including a 3D object on their posters. They then presented them in class, en español, of course!









Mrs. Burrows' Science Class

works on a mystery science activity to better understand energy!














Exceptional Track and Field Day

On May 16th, 2025, our students were invited to participate in the Exceptional Track and Field Day at OIMS. The children had a blast, and they loved the sunny day with all of the activities! Thank you for a great day!!

A BIG thank you from all of us: Mrs. Mest's, Mr. Korzeniewski's, Mrs. Gaylor's, Miss Cavalier's, Mr. Stitt's, Mrs. Dwaileebe, Mrs. Smith's and Mrs. Mason-Varner's classes




SRO Dance Party

SRO McGraw stopped by OIMS to do a Dance Party "brain break" with some of Ms. Anastasia's fourth graders. Students were very impressed with Officer Dan's dance moves. They all had a ton of fun "rocking it out" together!

Washington West Elementary School



Peep, Peep:

NEW to the halls of Washington West are some adorable little chicks - hatched right here in our halls! Students in multiple classrooms watched as the life cycle of a chick unfolded, and out of their shells emerged some cuddly, cute baby chicks, which quickly became a part of the learning environment.



Garden Club:

Some of our third-grade husky pups took to the WW courtyard to weed our garden beds and plant some vegetables, that we will hopefully be able to enjoy! Peas and carrots are on the menu. Shoutout to this pack of pups for digging in the dirt and learning all it takes to cultivate a growing garden.



3 - 2 - 1 BLAST OFF:

Second graders visited the Challenger Center to explore SPACE! Whether learning about what it takes to be an astronaut, or digging on the surface of the moon, these husky pups were enthralled with their learning experience. Collaborative work, alongside some engaging activities made for a great adventure.



Spring Concerts:

Jim Hensen said it best: "Life is like a movie; write your own ending; keep believing; keep pretending." For our kindergarten and first grade husky pups, their imagination and creative spirits came to life in our Muppets-themed Spring Concerts, dedicated in fond remembrance of our former WW art teacher, Ms. Corrie Burdick. All the Muppets came out and put on a phenomenal showcase embracing the true spirit of what life is meant to be like - "fun, joyous and fulfilling." - Jim Henson

East View Elementary School





Bike Ride at East View

Family Bike ride: Jason Folland ran his annual East View Family Bike Ride where East View students and their families met after school to ride a bike or scooter or use roller-skates/blades as part of staying healthy and fit.



Mosaic Health – Educator Visit & Dental Clinic

Andrea Ramsdell from Mosaic Health presented information on the importance of dental hygiene to all of our students at East View. She provided great tips to help us keep our teeth and gums clean and healthy. Additionally, many families signed up for their students to receive dental care right at school during our first on-site dental clinic with Mosaic Health.







Spring Concerts

Mrs. Cornell, East View's Music Teacher, conducted the Kindergarten and 1st grade Spring Concerts in May. The Kindergarten students sang songs themed: Going Places and Growing Up. First Grade students' them was Around the World in Music. Both concerts were very well attended by students' families and friends with over 150 guests at each performance! Bravo!

Welcome to Olean School District!



Welcome Shannon Smith!

Mrs. Smith will be teaching Special Education at OIMS. She graduated from Salamanca High School and SUNY at Brockport. She likes vacations and the sunshine! In her spare time she likes to spend time with her husband, children and visiting her grandchildren. She is excited about the new challenges she will be facing!

Cleaners



John Petruccelli



Tre' LaRue

Food Service



Karen Loop



Krista Logue

Keyboard Specialist



Chelsea Quinn

Teacher Aides



Alana Chadwick



Amber White



Brooklynn Halsey



Marlena Tessena



Quina Stevens



Susan Faulkner

Tenure



Angela Cottone



Bethany McNabb



Summer STAR Announces Its Musical!

Does your child want to have a fun filled summer where they can perform in a musical while also continuing their education with their friends and teachers? Then make sure they participate in the 2025 STAR program! Taking place in the mornings, Monday – Friday, July 7th – August 1st The Olean City School District offers this free program for Olean students who were in pre-K through 5th grade during the 2024-2025 school year.

This year's musical will be: **Madagascar A Musical Adventure JR.** Based off the hit DreamWorks movie Madagascar, the show follows the adventures of Alex the lion, Marty the Zebra, and all of their furry and feathered friends as they make their way from the NYC zoo all the way to Madagascar. All students participating in the STAR program will be in this incredible production while also learning a curriculum that expands upon the show! If you liked last year's Finding Nemo Kids, you will LOVE this year's Madagascar JR! Keep an eye out on Parent Square for how to register.

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www.oleanschools.org

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