



News about...

Winter 2016

Urban **US** Suburban

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Webster joins Urban-Suburban Program

The Urban-Suburban Program proudly welcomes its 13th participating district: Webster Central School District (WCSD). During 2015-2016, the Program grew exponentially from seven to twelve participating districts. At the November 19 Webster Board of Education meeting, the board voted unanimously on a resolution to approve participation in the Urban-Suburban Program beginning in fall 2016. The district's goal is to welcome 25-30 students from the Rochester City School District into grades 2, 3, and 4 across the district's seven elementary schools.

WCSD approached the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program while spending the past 15 months researching opportunities to provide more diversity in its school community. The district's Core Beliefs include the words "Students First: Each student is invaluable," a guiding principle present in every district program. Webster CSD provides an educational environment driven by a vision that maximizes achievement for all students, enhances students' well-being, and builds dynamic partnerships with all members of the Webster School community. In the district's continued commitment to that vision and to its Core Beliefs, Webster looks forward to collaborating with the Urban-Suburban Program on this worthwhile opportunity for students.

Participating Districts:

- Brighton
- Brockport
- East Irondequoit
- East Rochester
- Fairport
- Hilton
- Kendall
- Penfield
- Pittsford
- Rochester
- Spencerport
- Webster
- West Irondequoit
- Wheatland-Chili

Coordinated by



Webster Board of Education
 Top Row (left to right): Carmen Gumina, Superintendent; Mike Suffoletto, President; Sue Casey, Vice-President; Ann Carmody
 Bottom Row (left to right): Mike Dedee, Linda Dioguardi, Mike Gustin, Tom Nespeca

A letter to program parents

from **Jeffrey B. Crane**, *Chair, Urban-Suburban Governance Board and Superintendent of the West Irondequoit Central School District*

What an outstanding year we have had in our Urban-Suburban Program! We celebrated our 50th Anniversary, our graduating class continued our tradition of excellence and we have added six districts to the program. The number of opportunities for Rochester City School District students has increased to nearly 700, and we have re-established the process for suburban to urban transfers.

This kind of growth is not only exciting but challenging, as well. We have met the challenge to review our process and increase our efficiencies so that we can ensure success for each and every student in our program.



It is the firm belief of each superintendent that we can ensure that success only when there is a strong school/home partnership. Studies prove that collaborative parent/guardian involvement with schools dedicated to each child's success provides the best foundation for educational achievement. For this reason, the superintendents involved in our program ask you to be aware of the upcoming changes in our required parent/guardian meetings being developed by Theresa Woodson and her staff. This revised schedule will offer more options for days, times and student grade levels.

We hope these options meet your scheduling needs as we work to meet the needs of our kids. Wheatland-Chili's Bruce McDaniel says it best with his comments posted in the 2015-2016 Urban-Suburban Parent Advisory Council booklet:

"I have always believed that children grow and flourish when they see their parents engage in the learning process with them. I believe that serving as role models and advocates for our children is essential to their growth."

Let's have another great year in 2016!

Respectfully,

Jeffrey B. Crane
Superintendent of Schools, West Irondequoit CSD
Chair, Urban-Suburban Governance Board

Urban-Suburban Governance Board 2015-2016

The Governance Board of the Urban-Suburban Inter-district Transfer Program represents the participating suburban districts. The Board consists of fifteen (15) members with at least one representative, preferably the superintendent, from each participating suburban district. In addition, superintendents from Monroe #1 BOCES, Rochester City School District and the Program Director, compose the Board's membership. The Governance Board has the power and duty to set forth all program policies and procedures.



Back row, from left to right: **Ms. Susan Allen**, East Irondequoit; **Mr. Michael Crumb**, Spencerport; **Mr. Jeffrey Crane**, West Irondequoit; **Mr. Dan White**, Monroe #1 BOCES; **Mr. Brett Provenzano**, Fairport; **Dr. Mark Linton**, East Rochester; **Ms. Julie Christensen**, Kendall; **Ms. Jessica Lewis**, Urban-Suburban Program, Monroe #1 BOCES; **Ms. Theresa Woodson**, Urban-Suburban Program, Monroe #1 BOCES; **Ms. Felicia Smith**, Urban-Suburban Program, Monroe #1 BOCES;

Seated, from left to right: **Dr. Michael Doughty**, Monroe #1 BOCES; **Dr. Lesli Myers**, Brockport; **Ms. Adele Bovard**, Rochester City; **Dr. Kevin McGowan**, Brighton; **Mr. Michael Pero**, Pittsford; **Dr. Deborah Leh**, Wheatland-Chili;

Not shown: **Dr. Tom Putnam**, Penfield; **Mr. David Dimbleby**, Hilton.

Urban-Suburban welcomes new Community Liaison

Please welcome our new Community Liaison, **TaShonda Jefferson**. She will be responsible for the public relations components of the program, including managing publications, the website, and social media pages. She will serve as staff liaison for the Alumni Association and work in partnership with current staff and stakeholders to ensure the program's continued success.

Mrs. Jefferson is an alumnus of School Without Walls high school. Following graduation, Mrs. Jefferson attended St. John Fisher College and the College at Brockport, receiving a bachelors of arts in political science and sociology and master of science in public administration respectively.

Prior to joining the Urban-Suburban Program, Mrs. Jefferson served as a Coordinator of a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) at Pre-Trial Services Corporation. She oversaw the operation and provision of services in the Center for Diversion and Community Supervision, working collaboratively with community-based organizations and members of the legal system. Her background encompasses experience in educational, government, and not-for-profit settings. She prides herself on her strong ties to the local community.

Mrs. Jefferson is excited about joining the Urban-Suburban Program and looks forward to working with participating families and school districts.



Back-to-School Breakfasts



Brockport High School



Penfield High School

Back-to-School Breakfasts



Brighton's Twelve Corners Middle School



Brighton High School

Back-to-School Breakfasts



Fairport's Minerva Deland Ninth Grade Academy



Fairport High School

Back-to-School Breakfasts



Pittsford Mendon High School



Pittsford Sutherland High School

Back-to-School Breakfasts



Irondequoit High School



Wheatland-Chili Middle School/High School

Senior Night

Urban-Suburban hosted the 2nd Annual Senior Night at Wilson Foundation Academy for 49 seniors who will cross the stage in June 2016 at graduation ceremonies for their respective high schools.

Senior Night provides important information for students and parents on college admissions and the Urban-Suburban scholarship application process. The evening featured a panel of Urban-Suburban Alumni who shared their experiences and spoke on topics including HEOP/Financial Aid, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) and the pro's and con's of attending SUNY colleges vs. private colleges.



Class of 2016



Alumni Panel

National Honor Society at Brockport High School Inducts New Students

The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place on Monday, January 11 at 7:00pm in the high school auditorium. Dr. Heidi Macpherson, President of the College at Brockport, was the guest speaker.

Congratulations to the following Urban-Suburban students who are members of the Brockport High School chapter of the National Honor Society:

New members:

- Latoya McNish
- Destiny Williams
- Gabriella Zayas

Current members:

- Ayanah Alexander
- Laritza Fernandez



Ranita Williams receives college scholarship from Conkey Cruisers

Ranita will earn a regents diploma with advanced designation at Penfield High School (PHS) in June. Her school counselor, Leslie Rowe, stated, “Ranita is one of the most dependable and effective PHS Student Ambassadors; in fact, she was selected to address an auditorium filled with students and parents at New Student Orientation. Ranita was chosen because she is consistently warm, welcoming and encouraging to new students, and she can be relied upon to demonstrate poise, maturity and expertise when interacting with parents.”

“Ranita’s character is outstanding, and her personal integrity shines through in her daily interactions with both peers and adults. Ranita is very comfortable with who she is and what she believes, and her actions reflect those core values of doing the right thing, being herself, and consistently making good choices.”

Outside of school, Ranita participated in the Conkey Cruisers for the past four years. Located in Northeast Rochester, the mission of the Conkey Cruisers is to utilize bicycling to get neighbors moving towards a more active healthy lifestyle, and qualify to earn the President Obama Active Lifestyle Award.

Ranita is a leader within the group and will use the scholarship to study Pre-Medicine at St. John Fisher College in the fall.



**Ja'Daya Matthews, 5th grade,
Iroquois Middle School (West Irondequoit)
receives *Do The Right Thing* Award**

Ja'Daya was outside at play in May when one of her friends, Niya Jones, fell off her bike into a storm drain and was seriously injured. Ja'Daya helped Niya get to a safe place and got her the medical help she needed. Niya suffered a broken arm and received five stitches to her leg. Ja'Daya is described by school administrators as “kind and respectful to adults and someone who has the potential to be a leader and a woman of power.”

Ja'Daya Matthews with Chief Michael L. Ciminelli,
Rochester Police Department



**Congratulations, Pittsford Pride Citizenship Recognition
Award Winner, Keturah Lockett!**

Keturah Lockett is a fifth grade student at Jefferson Road Elementary. She was nominated for the Pittsford Pride Student Citizenship Award Program by two teachers because she is a kind, thoughtful and a helpful student. She was chosen by her peers to be a representative for Student Council and has shined in the role. She continually goes out of her way to help younger students and is very patient and accepting of classmates that may be having a difficult day. For all these reasons, Keturah is a great role model for her peers.



**Fabian A. Rivera, 8th grade,
Dake Junior High School (West Irondequoit)
receives Jack Foote All-Tournament Team Award**

Fabian is an honor student and prides himself in keeping up with his school work. He accomplishes this while also being a starter on the Irondequoit Varsity Bowling Team. On December 28, his team participated in the Greece Invitational High School Tournament. The team took 1st place and Fabian was awarded the Jack Foote All-Tournament Team Award. This was an award for the top five bowlers. His parents are extremely proud of Fabian for being an all-around athlete and student.

Did You Know?

East Irondequoit



East Irondequoit Superintendent Susan Allen Named New York State School Superintendent of the Year

The New York State Council of School Superintendents announced that East Irondequoit Central School District Superintendent Susan Allen has been named the 2016 New York State School Superintendent of the Year.

Mrs. Allen is certified as a school district administrator, a school business administrator, a reading teacher, a music teacher and an elementary, kindergarten and preschool teacher. She earned a certificate of advanced study in school business and certification in school administration from the College at Brockport, a master's degree in reading from Nazareth College, and a bachelor's degree in music with a minor in education from the College at Brockport where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. She has taught graduate-level educational leadership courses at the College at Brockport, and has been a presenter at numerous regional, state and national conferences.

Under her leadership, East Irondequoit Central School District has received a number of awards and recognitions including designation as a School of Opportunity by the National Education Policy Council; as one of the top communities in the United States for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants; and as a Challenge List High School by the Washington Post.

As the New York State Superintendent of the Year, Mrs. Allen now becomes New York's candidate for national superintendent of the year, to be awarded at AASA's National Conference on Education in Phoenix, AZ, in February 2016.

The Superintendent of the Year Award was established in 1988 by the American Association of School Administrators and is co-sponsored by the ARAMARK Education, the Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company and AASA.

Fairport



Fairport welcomes new Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Labor Relations

Fairport Central School District welcomes Kate Hill as the new Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Labor Relations. This position was most recently held by Barbara Gregory, who is now Assistant Superintendent for Personnel in the Penfield Central School District.

Before joining Fairport, Kate was a practicing attorney, and for the past seven years she was an attorney for Harris Beach PLLC, specializing in human resources and educational law. Hill received her bachelor's degree from the University at Buffalo and her juris doctor from the University at Buffalo School of Law.

(continued on next page)

Did You Know?

“I am excited and honored to become part of the Fairport Family,” she said. “As a practicing attorney, I have dedicated my practice to two main disciplines: human resources and educational law. I have a passion for working with school districts.”

On behalf of a number of school districts, Hill said she has negotiated collective bargaining agreements, reviewed and addressed employee discipline matters, conducted personnel and DASA investigations, served as the hearing officer for student discipline matters, and defended claims before the New York State Division of Human Rights, EEOC, State Review Officer, and Commissioner of Education. In 2013, she was selected as an “Up & Coming Attorney” by The Daily Record.

“Kate is an incredible fit for our district,” said Superintendent Brett Provenzano. “She brings instant credibility and a yearning to ensure that we have the best Human Resources department for our school community.”

Hill and her husband, Justin, have four children: Lauren (7), Kristen (5), Abigail (3) and Evan (1).

Hilton



Hilton School Board names Casey Kosiorek Superintendent

The Hilton Board of Education has selected Casey Kosiorek as the next Superintendent of the Hilton Central School District. He stepped into this role when David Dimbleby retired at the end of this calendar year.

“The Hilton School District Board of Education would like to sincerely thank the staff and community members who participated in the search process,” said Board President Daniel Wellington. “We have reviewed all the information given to us from the finalist interviews as well as their day in the District. Together with our own observations and your valuable input, we have taken great care to select our next leader and are confident that Casey will carry on the tradition of keeping our schools at the heart of the community.”

Kosiorek was the superintendent of the Byron-Bergen Central School District and served in that position since 2012. Kosiorek earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Master of Science degree in Education from Canisius College. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in educational leadership at the University of Rochester.

“It is an honor and a privilege to be selected as the next Superintendent of Schools for the Hilton Central School District,” said Kosiorek. “I look forward to learning and understanding the great pride, traditions, and work that has taken place and I’m excited about working with all stakeholders in the Hilton Learning Community to continue on the trajectory that has been set on doing what is best for our students. My family and I look forward to becoming a part of the community in the near future. I am humbled by this opportunity.”

The Board worked with Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES District Superintendent and Search Consultant Jo Anne L. Antonacci throughout the search process. Mr. Wellington stated, “The Board was very pleased with the process that Mrs. Antonacci led us through and the resulting selection of our new Superintendent.”

Did You Know?



Benjamin Rudd appointed as Village Elementary Principal

Dr. Benjamin Rudd returns to the Hilton Central School District after having served as Principal of Park Road Elementary School in Pittsford. Previously, he worked as the assistant principal and a sixth grade teacher at Village Elementary School in Hilton. In addition, he held administrative positions in the Medina Central School District and taught fourth grade in Fairfax, Virginia.

Rudd earned his doctorate in education from the University of Rochester in 2010 and studied educational leadership at The College at Brockport where he received a Master of Science degree and administrative certification. A native of Potsdam, NY, he attended SUNY Potsdam, completing undergraduate degrees in English and music.

Dr. Rudd resides in Hilton with his wife, Kim, who teaches music at Northwood Elementary School where their two children, Lucas and Isaac, are students. “I am excited to return to a school and district where I have had many memorable experiences,” said Rudd. “I look forward to once again being part of the dedicated and talented group of professionals at Village Elementary School.”

Rudd began his new position in September 2015.

Penfield



Cobbles Principal Named Marion Superintendent

Cobbles Elementary School Principal Donald Bavis has been named Superintendent of the Marion Central School District. The Marion Board approved his appointment at its November 16th meeting. Mr. Bavis has served as principal at Cobbles since 2006. He began his new role in Marion January 4, 2016.

“Mr. Bavis has done an incredible job leading the Cobbles community for the past nine years. He is a team player, a caring educator, and a compassionate school leader,” said Superintendent Thomas Putnam. “We wish nothing but the best for Mr. Bavis in his new role as Superintendent.”

The District plans to name an interim principal at Cobbles and has launched a search for a permanent replacement. All stakeholders, including parents, teachers, staff and administrators, will be involved in the interview process.

Congratulations on 21 years of service!



Theresa Woodson was recognized at the October Parent Advisory Council meeting. Ms. Woodson began her career as Director of the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program in January 1995.

Alumni Spotlight



Alexandria Kelley
Brighton High School,
Class of 2009

It was an honor to be a 2009 graduate from Brighton High School and the Urban-Suburban Program. Education is undoubtedly one of the most important tools for success that can be provided to a child. It was through the Urban-Suburban Program that I had the privilege and opportunity to access a strong educational foundation and a diverse environment that directed me towards a promising future.

The Urban-Suburban Program changed my life because not only did it provide me with an opportunity to receive an exclusive education but I was immersed in a diverse setting religiously, racially, and socially. In addition to being involved in an array of clubs and sports such as lacrosse, track, Business club, and the Black Student Union, I was immersed in a district that hosted events I would otherwise not have been involved in or exposed to had I attended a city school.

Upon graduating from Brighton High School I attended Rochester Institute of Technology and pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences. My career path has allowed me to work as a Research and Development scientist and teach in the Rochester City School District. It was in these positions that I felt my education all come together and it now allows me to become a contributor to society. Currently, I work as a Business System Analyst in Xerox's downtown headquarters where my goal is to learn and advance. It is my sincere belief that the Urban-Suburban Program opened so many doors and provided me the platform to be a successful student and working adult in my current profession.

Urban League of Rochester Annual Salute to Black Scholars Early Recognition Program

The Urban League of Rochester's 30th Annual Early Recognition Program was held on Sunday, November 8 at Nazareth College. The Early Recognition Program is a component of the Black Scholars Program where honorees must continue to meet the necessary requirements in order to be eligible, as graduating seniors, for recognition as Urban League Black Scholars. As sophomores, students must achieve an unweighted 9th grade cumulative GPA of "C+" (2.75) or better; juniors must achieve an unweighted cumulative GPA of a "B-" (2.85) or better for four semesters (9th and 10th grade) and seniors must achieve an unweighted cumulative GPA of "B" (3.00) or better for seven semesters (9th, 10th, and 11th grade and first semester of 12th grade). Only grades earned in science, English, math, history and foreign languages are computed. Congratulations, and continue to strive for academic excellence!

Brighton High

Kaila Beaty
Clarence Henry
Lynia Jackson
Sabri Smith
Zhane Smith

Brockport High

Ayanah Alexander
Jherlyn Brady
Ahjane Butler
Asye Conover
Joseph Cooper
Cory Gross
Anajah Jackson
Brianna McCloud
Indigo McCloud-Addison
Latoya McNish
Thandi Moses
Cierra Thomas
Brianna Williams
Destiny Williams

Fairport High

Irvin Baulkman
Wanya' Bruce
Ethan Davenport
Alona Davis
Epongue Ekilie
Wynter Holland
Keshawn Howard
Destinne Johnson
Dominique Jones
Eseoghene Kessington
Musa Mberwa
Anaya Powell
Jatiana Reyes
Gwyndolyn Stringer
Shemar Walkins-McCown

Irondequoit High

Elaina Alson
Makaila Marshal
Ty'Reek Sizer
Ty'Sean Sizer
Amelia Smith
Jordyn Smith
Ray Smith
Jordan Stewart
Diamond Valion
DeRon Williams

Penfield

Deja Baxter
Jordan Gross
Eboni Jackson
Jayla Reed
Jordin Watson
Brenna Wilcox
Ranita Williams
Makaila Wilson

Pittsford Mendon

Gianni Brown-Grant
Harmony Williams
Asia Hoyte
Cierra Joiner
Devin Miller
Trevor Nesmith
Shamyah Straks
Sidney Taylor
Corbitt Tyler
Tyriec Williams

Pittsford Sutherland

Mardasia Ashford
Marquis Carter
Faith Cook
Micah Cook
Timothy Culbreath
Victoria Griffin
Lacy Holloway
Karim Houser, II
Hillary Mekoyo-Bakou
Chyna Stephens

Wheatland-Chili

Anatasia Campbell
Trinniti Gunn
Cierra McDaniel
Michael Worth



Visit the Urban-Suburban Program Web site at:
www.monroe.edu/US

A program of

