SWEET HOME SOURCE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2025
ISSUE 06

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2025

We celebrate and honor the graduates of the Sweet Home Class of 2025 as well as our scholarship winners and award winners.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ALL AGES

Congratulations to our Elementary and Middle School award winners!

FOND FAREWELL

We thank the 22 teachers and staff retiring this school year for a combined 585 years of service.

EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Sweet Home Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education and all of us at the Sweet Home Central School District, welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! The summer season provides a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made and to set our sights on the impactful work to come. In this issue we reflect on the tremendous achievements and growth we have witnessed across the Sweet Home Central School District during the 2024-2025 school year. Watching the Class of 2025 walk across the stage was a culmination of the academic, artistic, and athletic efforts of every student. We once again congratulate our students and families on this major milestone. In addition to our graduates, we also must celebrate the incredible careers of our retirees and their combined 585 years of service to the district. They have left a lasting legacy at Sweet Home, one that will be emulated by those that continue to serve. Finally, congratulations to our 25 tenure recipients. Our Panther Family is strong because of the work of all of these individuals.

This year marks another exciting chapter for our schools as we move into Year 3 of our Strategic Plan as we continue our efforts to ensure every student is truly "Ready for the Future." The work done over the past two years has laid a strong foundation for our future, and we are proud to move forward with a continued commitment to academic excellence, equity, and student well-being.

Much of the first phase of our Strategic Plan focused on assessing and auditing programs and systems, helping us develop a baseline of data to shape meaningful metrics. Leading up to Year 3, we have been closely tracking progress on each goal to support informed adjustments as we enter the second phase of the plan. This year will serve as a "reboot" to guide us in the coming years, allowing us to refine our strategies and focus on key performance indicators that will move the District forward.

We continue to see an increase in student enrollment across the District - an encouraging sign that families are choosing Sweet Home for the quality of our programs, staff, and community. This growth aligns with our long-term planning and reinforces the need for learning environments that meet the evolving needs of our students.

This December, our community will have the opportunity to vote on a new capital project that is the result of extensive planning, analysis, and feedback. With a continued partnership with Young & Wright Architectural and Campus Construction Management Group, we've worked to address many of the facility-related priorities identified by our stakeholders that include increasing classroom space to accommodate enrollment; improving playgrounds and libraries; upgrading technology and security; and reimagining learning spaces to support STEM and student collaboration. These investments will help ensure our facilities reflect the excellence we strive for in all aspects of education.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain fully committed to fostering a healthy learning environment. Beginning at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, Sweet Home will implement a new Distraction Free School Zone in alignment with New York State Education Law 2803(2), which prohibits student use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day. This initiative was shaped with feedback from students, staff, and families. See the full details of the plan on our website, sweethomeschools.org.

Finally, it is our community that makes us strong. The work by our parents, students, faculty, and staff helps us reach our mission each and every day at Sweet Home. We thank each person in our school community for your unconditional support. Together we can accomplish anything and reach our mission of "Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future."

On behalf of all of us at Sweet Home, we wish you a successful and joyful 2025-2026 school year!

Sincerely,

Michael V. Ginestre

Dr. Michael V. Ginestre

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025!



VALEDICTORIAN

MATTHEW M. SPENCE



SALUTATORIAN

JOY C. BADO

Hamza A. Abu Hassan
Robert L. Adams II
Laurel M. Adams
Tyler N. Adams
Wasim Aldin A. Ahmad
Mouath T. Al Mussa Al Alian
Hashid M. Alajji
Tasfiyah Alam
Ghayeth Alashkar Alhamawi
Abdurrahman K. Alganfud
Omar Alhaji Majid Alyasin
Mohammed A. Aljebori
Nour A. Alkhatib
Dareen Alsaidi
Rahaf M. Altorjman
Antonio Andretta
Liam H. Andrews
Kayla A. Arcadi
Antonette J. Arrington
Joseph C. Asciutto
Maya Atallah
Timothy J. Aust
David A. Babak
Joy C. Bado
Damarion Bailey
Brenton C. Baker
Truth I. Bakhshiyeve-Jones
Varundeep Banger
Rhezjene Barker
Anthony T. Barnes
Rayshawn Barrett
Carly M. Battaglia
DeJuan M. Bell
Francis B. Bellanti
Aidan Bezinque
Christina H. Bishop
Reagan M. Blarr
Brianna N. Blue
Adina L. Bluestein
Matthew E. Boitschenko
Arianna N. Boyd
Jacob M. Brand
Micah Brookshire
Dominic Bufalino
Niasha S. Cain
Cole M. Cammarata
Lily A. Carriero
Thomas J. Caruana
Caden Christy
Emanuel D. Cogdell
Zoe Y. Collins
Sebastian A. Conhiser-Uy
Aubrey Coogen
James S. Cook-McClain
Elena N. Cordova
Rebecca R. Countermine
Andrew K. Cox
Benjamin J. Critelli IV
Dominic Croce
Destiny R. Cunningham-Shell
Nathan M. Darling
Moses R. Davila
Skyla Dennis
Vidal Dinkins
Amir Dixon
Alexis M. Domagala
Caden M. Donahue
Alexander M. Donner
Jaron L. Douglas
Devin Duffy
Nathan D. Dugos
Chase L. Edwards
Julia A. Elmedawar
Brendan T. Estes
Muhammad M. Farooqui
Cristina Farotto
Omar Fathallah
Nathan Ferolo
Jake D. Ferrari
Lily E. Fisher
Hailey E. Fisk
McKenna M. Flatau
Ryan M. Forbes
Jayden A. Fountain
Dean M. Frangos
Ciara C. Funderburg
Gracie L. Fuqua
Gia Galluzzo
Jayden M. Gayle
David P. Gebler
Carlo R. Gonzalez Pereyra
Angel Gonzalez
Tiba Graiti
Lukas W. Grupp
Cameron C. Guppenberger
Emilio A. Guzman
Avery V. Haley

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025!

Alexa L. Hall
Kimaya L. Hall
Kyle V. Hall
Mohammed A. Hamim
Elias N. Hansen
Daniel J. Hayter
Brooke Hickey
Caleb D. Higgs
Nathan Z. Hill
Aalayah L. Hood
Aaliyah L. Hood
Demark Hood
Ella G. Hubert
Katherine I. Hughes
Nabaa Iskandarhusin
Nevaeh C. Jackson
Tanaya B. Jackson
Arieonna Johnson
Jaden I. Johnson
Jayana L. Jones
Hannah L. Kaczorowski
Pradeeban Kamalanathan
Sajithan Kamalendran
Kendra H. Kapuszcak
Asad N. Karzoun
Abdulsalam Keshinro
Ahaan F. Khan
Azhar A. Khan
Angelo I. Khanthavout
Emma A. Kielbasa
Peyton C. Klumpp
Pembe M. Koloko
Connor J. Kopasz
Stephanie I. Koons
Logan R. Kopp
Evan Korte
Abigail L. Kozlowski
Raymond Kuai
Abbadh Kuthubdeen
Joseph R.X. LaBrake
Ashley N. Lamoreaux
Darihyon Lee
Ryan P. Lee
Hayden Luce
Nathaniel A. Mackiewicz
Lilia Makayed
Marielaina Marasco
Logan J. Marshall
Alexander C. Martin
Zachary R. Mauger
Kieara Y. Mayes
Brady R. Mayo
Jeneson F. McDaniel
Tamaya M. McDuffie-Walker
Zaire A. McKinnon
Robert N. McLoughlin
Adam D. Mellerski
Kahlik N. Mellerson
Jordan A. Mercado
Ryan D. Miller
Samira Minhas
Chloe E. Montgomery
Makayla N. Moore
Aiden Mroz
Zehra Muhsini
Milisa I. Mukhtasova
Reagan A. Mullen
Gregory T. Murray
Angel J. Mylon
James R. Nelder
Azaria Nettles
Owen P. Neupert
Helen Nguyen
Ilya M. Nizhegorodtsev
Taylor E. Nugent
Rebeca S. Nupur
Kamrie O'Geen
Jayden Oden
Ethan Olewnik
Jayla Pabon
Margaret E. Paluch
Rocco P. Panepinto
Priyanka Pathmaraja
Niear Patterson
Andre S. Payne Jr.
Isaiah J.M. Peay
Gavriella S. Pellegrino
Mateo A. Pezzino
Emily E. Phillips
Jaylenne R. Pinilla
Mohammad Rahman
Graciela J. Ramos
Rydell A. Reif
Nyzere J. Richardson
Anamaria D. Rivera
Mariah V. Robbins
Demari L. Robinson Jr.
Jhene Rosario
Kharrie K. Sanford
Sherojan C. Sathish
Eleanor R. Sauter
Skye P. Savage
April A. Say
Alex J. Schiefer
Nicholas S. Schmitt
Emery M. Scott
Ryan P. Seitz
Kazi Shahriar
Maryam A. Sherazi
JaCoby G. Shimmel
Lyla E. Shoemaker
Tarunpreet Singh
Timothy Slaughter
Camryn J. Smith
Jahniya N. Smith
Zoe M. Smith
Madeleine K. Smolinski
Janae M. Snell
Tobanimi S. Sosanya
Anson D. Spates
Matthew M. Spence
Haley G. Starr
Brooke E. Stenzel
Daquan M. Stone
Ciara Stoudemire
Mayesha M. Subaita
Yongyi Tan
Anders F. Tyson
Jay'la Vanoy
Jared C. Veal
Ava Z. Veneziano
Abigail M. Waite
Zyaire J. Wallace
Gavin W. Walters
Nicholas A. Welch
Elijah J. Wilks
Faisal A. Woryakhail
Anila Y. Wright
Cameron M. Wright
Shu Yao Yang
Aline Kalambay Yowa
Ava G. Zachara
Leo Zheng

2025







SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SHINE

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS AWARDS SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING OVER $108,000

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

David R. Ebert Scholarship Award - Angel Gonzalez
David R. Ebert Scholarship Award - Robert McLoughlin
Nancy Ebert Memorial Scholarship - Taylor Nugent
Nancy Ebert Memorial Scholarship - Robert McLoughlin
The Steve Hylkema Memorial Scholarship - Emma Kielbasa
The Jack Honan Memorial Scholarship - Haley Starr
Kurt R. Langlotz Memorial Grant - Kendra Kapuszcak
Karen Morrow Memorial Scholarship $750 - Gracie Fuqua
Karen Morrow Memorial Scholarship $750 - Lily Fisher
Karen Morrow Memorial Scholarship $250 - Taylor Nugent
Karen Morrow Memorial Scholarship $250 - Alexander Martin
Dr. Elizabeth Summers Social Studies Achievement - Matthew Spence
Linda Caufield Memorial Scholarship - Taylor Nugent
Joy Huston Memorial Award - Francis Bellanti
Lyman Hardy Memorial Scholarship - Taylor Nugent
Linda L. Edwards Memorial Scholarship $2500 - Kendra Kapuszcak
Christopher J. Hammer Memorial Scholarship - Emily Phillips
Nancy Altieri Memorial Scholarship - Demark Hood
Joshua Wright Memorial Scholarship - Sophie Nyansinzira
Rosanne Fatta Polyachyk Memorial Scholarship - Mayesha Subaita
Karl J. Nicklaus Lifelong Learner Award - Robert McLoughlin
Jim Sparrow Memorial Scholarship - Tyler Adams

DEPARTMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Art Award - Brooke Stenzel
Business Achievement Award - Rhezjene Barker
English Department Award - Arieonna Johnson
ENL Leadership & Citizenship Award - Omar Alhaji Majid Alyasin
Excellence in French - Maya Atallah
Excellence in Spanish - Alexis Domagala
Excellence in Spanish - Tasfiyah Alam
Mathematics Achievement Award - Matthew Spence
Music Department Achievement Award - Alex Schiefer
Physical Education Achievement Award - Leo Zheng
Physical Education Achievement Award - Kendra Kapuszcak
Science Achievement Award - Eleanor Sauter
Technology Student of the Year - Daniel Hayter
Tim Simard Award - Camryn Smith
Tim Simard Award - Jaboc Brand
Bob Barczak - ACE Award - McKenna Flatau
William Schwartzman Outstanding Athlete Award - Ella Hubert
William Schwartzman Outstanding Athlete Award - Brenton Baker
William Schwartzman Outstanding Athlete Award - Rocco Panepinto

BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

Herrmann Studio Scholarship Award - Zaire McKinnon
Herrmann Studio Scholarship Award - Angel Gonzalez
Campus Construction Management Scholarship - Demark Hood
Toshiba Business Solutions Scholarship - Hailey Fisk
Tarian/Vista Security Group Scholarship - Nathaniel Mackiewicz
Waste Technology Services Inc. Scholarship - Hailey Fisk
L&M Financial Services Scholarship - Matthew Spence
UFCW Local One Benefit Funds Scholarship - Anders Tyson

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SHINE

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS AWARDS SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING OVER $108,000

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

Alumni Anita Young-Johnson Girls Soccer Scholarship - McKenna Flatau
Alumni Women in STEM Scholarship - Kendra Kapuszcak
Alumni Pat Mergenhagen Son/Daughter Scholarship - Matthew Spence
Alumni Mark Borer Scholarship - Sebastian Conhiser-Uy
Alumni Association Scholarship - Mayesha Subaita
Alumni Association Scholarship - Camryn Smith
Alumni Association Scholarship - Hailey Fisk
Alumni Judith B. Cross Memorial Foreign Language - Maya Atallah
Alumni Rocco Casullo Automotive Services Scholarship - Brooke Hickey
Alumni Matthew R. Young, DDS Scholar Athletes Scholarship - Francis Bellanti
Alumni Military Wall of Honor Scholarship - Zaire McKinnon
Alumni Mark Frederick Smith Science Scholarship - Jaylenne Pinilla
Alumni Lyman Hardy Panther Volunteer Scholarship - Gracie Fuqua
Alumni Patrick Young Boys Hockey Scholarship - Adam Mellerski
Alumni DePasquale Family Scholarship - Abigail Waite
Alumni Business Scholarship / Lenkiewicz Family - Matthew Spence
Alumni David Croop Memorial Scholarship - Nathan Darling
Day Family Women in STEM Scholarship - Jaylenne Pinilla
Alumni Class of 1978 Award - Kendra Kapuszcak
Alumni Robert J. Grandits Scholarship - Timothy Aust
Alumni Peter Wachtel STEAM Scholarship - Joy Bado
Alumni Marion Niblock Nursing Award - Rydell Reif
Alumni Wendy Tolsma Wexler Nursing Scholarship - Ella Hubert
Alumni Class of 2024 Scholarship (3 Winners) - Maya Atallah
Alumni Class of 2024 Scholarship (3 Winners) - Brooke Stenzel
Alumni Class of 2024 Scholarship (3 Winners) - Emily Phillips
Alumni First Generation College Student Scholarship - Abdurrhman Alganfud
Alumni Women in STEM & Business - Joy Bado
Alumni Class of 1973 Vocational Scholarship - Joseph LaBrake
Alumni Jack MacRitchie Golf Scholarship - Nathan Darling
Alumni Ruth Smith Memorial Scholarship for Educators - Lily Fisher
Alumni Ruth Smith Memorial Scholarship for Educators - McKenna Flatau

PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Principal's Academic Award
- Valedictorian - Matthew Spence
- Salutatorian - Joy Bado

Principal's Panther Award - Camryn Smith
Principal's Panther Award - Ella Hubert
Principal's Panther Award - Rocco Panepinto
Principal's Panther Award - Jared Veal
Principal's Panther Award - Brenton Baker
Principal's Panther Award - Stephanie Koons

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

Music Department Scholarship Award Grant - Julia Elmedawar
Music Department Scholarship Award Grant - Lukas Grupp
Music Department Scholarship Award Grant - Sebastian Conhiser-Uy
Sweet Home Band Parents Organization Awards:
- John Philip Sousa Band Award - Micah Brookshire
- Band Directors Award - Lukas Grupp
- Louis Armstrong Jazz Award - Alex Schiefer

Choral Directors Award - Gracie Fuqua
National Honor Society Scholarship Grant - Matthew Spence
Sweet Home Board of Education Scholarship - Joseph LaBrake
Sweet Home Education Association Scholarship - Robert McLoughlin
Sweet Home Service Employee Association Scholarship - Nathan Darling
Sweet Home Service Employee Assoc. Scholarship - Kendra Kapuszcak
Sweet Home Service Employee Association Scholarship - Emily Phillips
Sweet Home Athletics Hall of Fame Scholarship - Cole Cammarata
Sweet Home Athletics Hall of Fame Scholarship - Ella Hubert

SERVICE/COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

Amherst Lions Club Award - Kendra Kapuszcak
Willow Ridge Community Scholarship - Ethan Olewnik
Willow Ridge Community Scholarship - Sebastian Conhiser-Uy
Willow Ridge Community Scholarship - Eleanor Sauter
All Class Leadership Council Scholarship - McKenna Flatau
Ron Young Bookworm Scholarship - Eleanor Sauter
Deborah J. Sarkees Accounting Scholarship - Rayshawn Barrett
Liska Family Scholarship - Nathaniel Mackiewicz
Paul Strefeler Throwers Scholarship - Cole Cammarata
Military Order of the Purple Heart Recipient - Katherine Hughes

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Heritage Heights Scholarship Award - Pembe Koloko
Heritage Heights Scholarship Award - James Nelder
Maplemere Scholarship Award Grant - Gracie Fuqua
Willow Ridge Scholarship Award Grant - Ethan Olewnik
Richard McBride Glendale Sterling Scholarship Award - Alex Schiefer
Middle School Scholarship Award Grant - Taylor Nugent
Middle School Scholarship Award Grant - Lily Fisher
SHHS PTSA Educational Grant Award - Matthew Spence
SHHS PTSA Educational Grant Award - Alex Schiefer
SHHS PTSA Educational Grant Award - Haley Starr
SHHS PTSA Educational Grant Award - Ethan Olewnik
Anthony J. Day Leadership Award - Gracie Fuqua

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS AWARDS

Dollars for Scholars 1 Year Award - Kieara Mayes, Robert McLoughlin, Kamrie O'Geen, Shu Yao Yang, Tyler Adams, Helen Nguyen, Haley Starr, Gracie Fuqua, Jacob Brand, Margaret Paluch, Camryn Smith, Ethan Olewnik, Reagan Blarr, Rydell Reif, Hailey Fisk, Sebastian Conhiser-Uy, Evan Korte, Mayesha Subaita, Carly Battaglia, Joseph LaBrake, Alexander Donner, Jaden Johnson, Brooke Hickey, Brooke Stenzel, Skye Savage

Dollars for Scholars 2 Year Awards - Thomas Caruana
Dollars for Scholars 4 Year Awards - Emily Phillips, Kendra Kapuszcak, Cole Cammarata
Dollars for Scholars Ready for the Future Award - Kendra Kapuszcak
Sweet Home/Scholarship American Legacy Award - Eleanor Sauter
Sweet Home/Scholarship American Legacy Award - Mayah Atallah

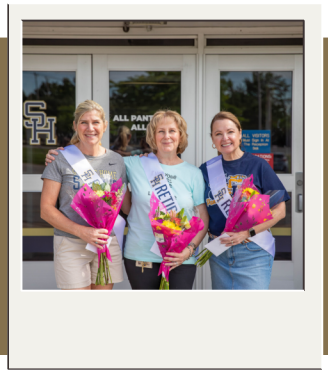
CONGRATULATIONS 2025 RETIREES AND TENURE RECIPIENTS

THIS YEAR WE SAY A FOND FAREWELL TO 22 TEACHERS AND STAFF MEMBERS AND CELEBRATE 25 TENURE RECIPIENTS



Hashem Baraie
Jennifer Bennett
Lizabeth Cohan
Lyn Custodi
Michelle Dorobiala
Maureen Gorenflo
Cynthia Hiwiller
Marjorie Kuss
Michael Laible
David MacDonell
Jacqueline Mahoney
Margaret McDonald
Monica McDowell
Sherry McNamara
Eric Mergenhagen
Diane Metz
Heidi Muck
Patricia Prinzbach
Elizabeth Sigurdson
Gregory Smorol
Dane Truesdell
Raymond Wawrzyniak









Matt Capriotto
Alexis Ciehomski
Kendra Ciezki
Dominique Dibble
Maggie Dirrigl
Dan Hammonds
Kim Harrison
Kailee Humbert
Jessica Jenkins
Carol Kamph
Megan Land
Kassie Magin
Lindsay Marcinelli
Josh Montalbo
Ben Morton
Emma Mulcahy
Kristen Noltee
Jamie Riddoch
Julia Ryan
Ashley Shutt
Jessica Spiesz
Dan Tracz
Christy Wach
Jessica Whitcomb
Dr. Toyia Wilson

2025 TENURE RECIPIENTS





ENL TEACHER LINDSEY CRIMMINS IS LEADER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Lindsey Crimmins, ENL (English as a New Language) teacher at the Middle School! The Erie 1 BOCES Regional Bilingual Education-Resource Network (RBERN) West recognized Lindsay on Friday, June 13th as the 2025 Teacher Leader of the Year. This award is given to a teacher who has exhibited exceptional leadership in support of ELL (English Language Learner) education.

This award represents someone who steps outside of their normal classroom responsibilities to support their colleagues, provide professional learning opportunities, and bring awareness to others about best practices to support ELL students. We are so proud to have Lindsey and teachers like her supporting our students at Sweet Home!

HERITAGE HEIGHTS STUDENT HONORED FOR BEING A ROLE MODEL

A special Heritage Heights 5th grader got to school a little differently one morning - in a patrol car! Congratulations to Meryem Tuncer, recipient of this year's School & Community Citation of Excellence Award, in partnership with the Amherst Police Department. Our own Officer G surprised Meryem at home, and drove her to school to find the entire fifth grade class waiting to cheer her on!

The recipient of this award shows outstanding behavior in the school & community, demonstrates honesty, integrity, and kindness for self and others, and is a role model while being well-liked and respected. Congratulations, Meryam!



BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION AWARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT



Congratulations to Sweet Home 8th grader Thomas Hayter who received the Holocaust Education Resource Organization (HERO) 2025 Abek Student Upstander Award from the Buffalo Jewish Federation!

This prestigious award is presented to a young adult in our community who is brave and courageous and chooses to defend what is just when others choose to be bystanders. Thomas was selected as this year's recipient of the Student Upstander Award because of his bravery for taking a stand against injustice, bullying or discrimination, even when it's not popular to do so.

Congratulations, Thomas, for being an example of kindness and belonging in our school community and beyond.



ANNUAL CHALLENGE 2 CHANGE EVENT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO EMBRACE THEIR OWN SUPERPOWERS

Sweet Home's Annual Challenge 2 Change summit brought together hundreds of students for a day focused on kindness and belonging, planned by the Student ACT Team (Alliance for Cultural Transformation). This year's theme encouraged students to discover their personal "superpower" and use it to uplift others. The event featured a keynote by Heritage Heights Principal Antonio Perry and activities led by Hy-Deia Elwadi of Powerhaus PR, and alum Dakarai Singletary and his Candles In The SUN team. Students joined healing circles, team challenges, and enjoyed food, fellowship, and inspiration.

STUDENTS EXPRESS THEMSELVES AT 8TH GRADE POETRY SLAM

Our Annual 8th Grade Poetry Slam encouraged students to use their voices, explore issues both personal and global, and speak proudly either by themselves or with a group, in front of an auditorium of peers and judges.

Over 50 students took the stage to perform original poems they crafted with the help of international and local poets during six weeks of powerful workshops. Huge thanks to our English teachers, guest poets, and judges for inspiring this incredible event!



PRINCIPAL DAURIA RECOGNIZED AS MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Sweet Home Middle School Principal Marissa Dauria who was honored this year as the Middle School Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS)!

SAANYS describes candidates for this award as "succeeding in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students, as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession."

We are so incredibly proud of the work Principal Dauria does every day, alongside her incredible team of faculty & staff, to provide a meaningful Middle School experience for our Panthers!

CONGRATS MS/ES AWARD WINNERS

CELEBRATING THE HARD WORK OF ALL OF OUR PANTHERS FROM THIS SCHOOL YEAR

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Joseph Marien Social Studies Award - Thomas Hayter
Peggy Smock Math Award - Heli Patel
Joan Stoll Science Award - Parker Brand
Virginia Crahen ELA Award - Londyn Carrier
Vergils Outstanding Student of the Year - Eli Silsby



HERITAGE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

Amherst Police School & Community Citation of Excellence Award – Meryem Tuncer
Triple C Award – Grace Rende, Declan Sitch
Student Service & Leadership Award – Bryce Ginestre, Bella Iraci
Outstanding Effort Award – Wala Saleh, Roaa Mohammed, Adbraham Aseri, Yariel Melendez Rodriguez
Kindness to All Award – Gabe Pepin, Sajed Razawi
Dr. Francesca Lumia Science Award – Max Leigh
Scott Wolf Seven Habits Award – Callahan McGowan

Principal Award Winners – Ailani Veverette-Gilbert (Miss Bickelman), Maelys Nnochirionye (Mrs. Lubick), Owen Orlowski (Miss Spina), Mia Broomfield (Mrs. Battel), Shayna Lorenz (Mrs. Mulcahy), Brooklyn Decheine (Mrs. Stephens), Cooper Beitz (Mrs. Iraci), Sayed Ahmad Sajed Razawi (Mrs. Long), Nicholas Hartman (Mrs. McMahon)

The Golden Rule Award – Lauren Abu Al Haija (Mrs. Campbell), Raine Gonzalez (Mrs. McDonald), Ariana Hardy (Mrs. McDowell), Bryce Neff (Mrs. Glenn), Olivia Harrington (Mrs. Rao), Sienna Carmona (Miss Spiesz), Aksel Figueroa-Velez (Mrs. Cappuccilli), Roseleen Manni (Miss Humbert), Bradley Brown (Ms. Lux), Camilla Wilson (Ms. Lux), Omer Tuncer (Miss Streebel), Mary Decheine (Mrs. Biersbach), Gio Keller (Mrs. Grugnale), Raseil Farhan (Mrs. O'Brien), Skylar Roderick (Miss Bickelman), Isabella Santiago (Mrs. Lubick), Rishika Nirmalakanth (Miss Spina), Nolan Beardsley (Mrs. Battel), Charlotte Tawse (Mrs. Mulcahy), Aleah Weary (Mrs. Stephens), Harmony Fairclough (Mrs. Iraci), Afua Odiko (Mrs. Long), Westley Pentheros (Mrs. McMahon)

PAWS Award – Wyatt Acara, Maryam Alganfud, Mohamed Alganfud, Esteban Ortiz Algarin, Hajar Alhamdan, Olivia Amsdill, Austin Anthon, Eanswida Atuick, Adan Bajric, Gavin Bedore, Joseph Bedoya, Joshua Bedoya Farfan, Cameron Beitz, Michael Betances, Shalom Biswa, Autumn Broomfield, Londyn Brown, Nicolas Da Silva, Valentina Diaz, Makenna Dietrich, Dinesh Dinekka, Johnathan Eiland, Judy Farhan, Ahmad Taha Fetry, Kael Figueroa-Velez, Jakobe Fountain, Bella Iraci, Leah Jackson, Sargunjot Kaur, Maneet Kaur, Charlie Kelley, Aaron Khanal, Elysia King, Jaxon Kopp, Woobin Kwon, Treasure Land, Charley Lipscomb, Princeton Mills, Belal Mohammed, Ariella Murphy, Charlotte Olson, Angelina Owens, Aaravi Orin, Mi'Laya Queener, Labib Rahi, Ian Nieves Ramos, Raelle Reid, Raelle Reid, Abigail Ridgeway, Nasir Roderick, Wala Saleh, Arjun Settem, Sophia Shifflett, Declan Sitch, Resthika Sivalingam, Finnley Sparks, Daisy Sulecki, Addison Tighe, Kaitlyn Timm, Nur Touba, LaVenese Walker, Aaden Watkins, Mohammad Yaser Moradi, Reyna Zarate-Jimenez, Wendy Zarate-Jimenez

Physical Education Leadership Award – Bryce Ginestre, Adabelle Nnochirionye, Aliya Hitzges, Westley Pentheros, Bella Iraci, Sajed Razawi, Leah Jackson, Nasir Roderick, Mohammad Kadib Alban, Callahan McGowan, Meryem Tuncer, Ryder Zackey

MAPLEMERE ELEMENTARY

Switzer High Academic Achievement Award - Nithin Mohanathas
Zoerb Outstanding Citizenship Award - Aurora Murrett
Crooks Outstanding Character & Integrity Award - Jenna Sherwood
O'Dien Outstanding Achievement in Science Award - Vy Ngyuen
Ann Laudisio Paw Pride Award - Peyton Cook, Evan Shay
Exceptional Education Award - Benjamin Perini
Friendship Award - Kori Rea, Ayan Khan
NYS Attorney General (Triple C) - Riley Wright, Amelia Manhardt
NYS Comptroller Award - Vy Ngyuen, Emilia Beach, Aurora Murrett
Physical Education Award - Ryan Russ, Hannah Carlson
Outstanding Achievement in Music - Brian Lin, Jenna Sherwood
Choral Directors in Music - Kori Rae, Cameron Mahon
Library Award - Avery Smolinski
Art Award - Amelia Manhart
Soaring to Success Award - Riley Wright, Logan Christian
ENL Award - Monawar Akbari



CONGRATS MS/ES AWARD WINNERS

WILLOW RIDGE ELEMENTARY

NYS Comptroller's Student Achievement Award - Lydia Manhart, Brianna McDuffie, Sally Stephens, Maris Strible

President's Award for Educational Excellence - Mustafa Al Sibiyhat, Michael Bacon, Henry Battaglia, Alena Belavus, Camden Beuchat, Riley Cole, Gordon Stewart IV, Julien Evans, Madelyn Gold, Kelsey Kenney, Annabelle Koffi, Sophia Kuss, Rachel Neudecker, Jaiden Orlando, Lydia Manhart, Brianna McDuffie, Kaitlin Puff, Patrick Roberts, Imogen Smyser, Sally Stephens, Emma Tiedeman, Rishan Zaman

President's Award for Educational Achievement - Ariana Ahmeti, Nabeel Al Khreesh, Legend Chapman, Zijin (Sophia) Chen, Abel Ephrem, Julien Evans, Madelyn Gold, Nyeri Harris, Angelina Kuss, Callie Labuz, Joziah Maroney, Josiah Marcial, Johnathan Palmer, Jacksyn Quinones, Jiantae Rose-Smith, Emani Sanders, Guinevere (Sam) Serbicki, Maris Strible, Kyle Svova, Penelope Weiser, Jonyelle Williams

Triple C Award - Gianna Conte, Imogen Smyser

Schroeder Honor - Alena Belavus, Sophia Kuss, Annabelle Koffi, Lydia Manhart, Karan Mickell, Brianna McDuffie, Mirwais Raoufi, Mustafa Al Sibiyhat, Sally Stephens, Jonyelle Williams

PTO Good Friend Award - Malek Al Sibiyhat, Dominic Bonfante

McLaughlin Award - Camden Beuchat, Angelina Kuss

GLENDALE ELEMENTARY

MVP (Most Valuable Panther) – Johnathan Givens, Ariana Golwitzer, Alanna Greenman, Sophia Lopez, Evan Wheeler
MIP (Most Improved Panther) – Sklyar Chanel Brown, Emma Goodrich, Selena Hornsby, Max Martelli, Logan Svensson, Olivia Zangel
Panther Pride – Ella Darden, Blythe Layton, Ruby Liberta, Hailee Maving, Elijah Nazario, Jeidenn Nieves, Jia Patel
Sunshine Award – Jacen Barton, Kaiden Corthion, Kane Doyle, Ivan Kidwell, Ellie Kittleman, Alexa Mang, Isak Sang
Private Victory Win – Madelyn Conwell, Mason Drabinski, Isaiah Gonzalez, Dash Manning, Cole Piwtorak, Norah Pulver, Parker Rivera
Public Victory Win – Cole Duksi, Natalia Fraunehofer, Dakota Hampton, Ivan Kidwell, Ruby Liberta, Jasmine Lickfield
Music – Jacen Barton, Sophia Lopez, Jackson Overturf, Bruce Robinson
Art – Tamia Cooper, Ella Darden, Adalina Habtegiorgis, Adaleigh Navarro
PE – Alanna Greenman, Jack Kornacki, Sophia Lopez, Lacey MacVittie, Max Martelli, Aaron Martin, Evan Wheeler, Ayden Williams
Library – Alexa Mang, Max Martelli, Hailee Maving, Jenna Sztuk
Kelly Bluman News Award – Alanna Greenman
Triple "C" Award from NYS Attorney General – Alanna Greenman, Sophia Lopez, Jenna Sztuk
Student Achievement Award from NYS Office of the State Comptroller – Tamia Cooper, Adalina Habtegiorgis, Lacey MacVittie























SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRATS TO ALL OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES AND COACHES FOR THEIR HARD WORK THIS SPRING SEASON

Girls Lacrosse

- Camryn Smith academic all-American
- McKenna Flatau, Jackie Pitts USA lacrosse award recipients
- McKenna Flatau: 450 career saves
- Emma Kielbasa and Camryn Smith tied for most points in program history at 174 each

Boys Lacrosse

- Ryan Bechtel broke single game goals record with 10 goals vs Depew
- Evan Korte named to Senior All-Star Game
- The program had 84 student-athletes between the Modified/JV/Varsity

Boys' Tennis

- Overall 7-7 record, 3rd Place in ECIC II
- Eli Fuqua - 1st Singles player, named Team MVP, won 7 times this season and made the Final 16 at the ECIC Individual Tournament
- Four players in total qualified for the post-season ECIC Tournament: Eli Fuqua, Logan Copenhaver, and the doubles teams of Jonathan Henel & Dylan Irvine
- Joey LaBrake won an ECIC Sportsmanship Award, also named honorable-mention All-WNY Scholar Athlete

Baseball

- Overall record: 8-9-1
- Rocco Panepinto, First Team All-League, 2nd Team All-WNY (Batting Avg: .422 I OPS: 1.058)
- Jacob Brand, First Team All-League (Batting Avg: .385 I OPS: 1.021)
- Tommy Caruana, Second Team All-League (Batting Avg: .310)
- Aiden Mroz, Second Team All-League, 3-1, 2.07 ERA
- Excellent season on the mound by Senior Eli Hansen and rising star Joe VanDusen

Unified Basketball

- Congratulations to our athletes: Vincent Biondi, Anthony Constantino, Roman Escalera, Taneja Favors, Malachi Hendricks, Matthew Krupp, Olivia Lockridge, Caesar Nance, Nicholas Vasey, Blake Wagner, Sam Yuwar Jr.
- Thank you to our partners: Annaliesse Bosso, Nathan Darling, Kendra Kapuszcak, Ava Lockridge, Genevieve Miceli, Brady Shocknesse, Abigail Waite, Emilie Zaklikowski, Georgia Zorich.

Softball:

- Overall ECIC II record: 5-7
- Elise McDuffie, First Team All-League, Batting Avg: .438
- Kaitlyn Taylor, First Team All-League, Batting Avg: .415
- Madison Miller and Gabrielle Boitschenko, Second Team All-League
- Participated in the MS walk, raising $2,000 towards the cause
- Defeated Williamsville East on Teacher Appreciation Night

Flag Football

- Overall League Record: 5-8
- Kaila Frazier - D2 First Team All-Star, All-Bee First Team All Defense. Single season records for sacks and flag pulls for loss. Currently 250-yard away from becoming all-time leading rusher in program history.
- Lauren Webb, Alayla Ridgeway, Kaitlyn Mieczkowski, Cristina Farotto, Rafi Ventura, Cris Christian, D2 All-Star Honorable Mention
- Lauren Webb tied the all-time single game school record with 7tds in the playoff game vs Amherst

Boys' Outdoor Track & Field

- Brenton Baker, MVP. Class B- State Champion in Long Jump (23-5.5) and 4x100 relay. Fourth place in 200-M
- 4x100 Class B- State Champion relay team: Brenton Baker, Alex Jemison, Niear Patterson and Da'Mari Yancey
- Cole Cammarata placed 2nd in Shot Putt and Discus at Class Meet
- Second place at the ECIC Class Meet

Girls' Outdoor Track & Field

- NYSPHSAA State Championship Results: Kimaya Hall, 5th place in Triple Jump, 6th place in 100-M Hurdle; Ellana Hall, 4th place in Pole Vault; Michelle Baker, 13th place in 200-M dash.
- First place at the ECIC Class Meet: 4x100 placed third at Class Meet: Michelle Baker, Kimaya Hall, Sherdyn Atuick, Paisley Holloway



NEW PANTHER LOGO DESIGNED BY MAPLEMERE STUDENT

After a community vote, our new Panther logo winner was revealed! Congratulations to fourth grade Maplemere student Raifah Rana for her winning design! We could not be more proud of all the students who participated in this contest. We thank our amazing art teachers for guiding over 300 students to submit artwork and vote on their favorites, and to every student, parent, staff member, and community member who came out to vote.

Raifah will receive a $500 scholarship when she graduates, courtesy of Dollars for Scholars, and of course…the best bragging rights around! Special thanks to 26 Shirts for their work to bring our students' designs to life. We can't wait to use our new Panther everywhere!

ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS EVENT SHOWCASES ATHLETES

Congratulations to the following athletes who participated in this year's Special Olympics event:

Moses Muharareni, Benjamin Perini, Sailor McGovern, Noah Kim, Rielle Dulmus, Sabrina Perini, Aviana Ridgeway, Peyton Webster, Sydney Rudroff, Hailey Corona, Cody Abbott, Joseph Miceli, Laurel Adams, Arisha Siddique, Olivia Lockridge, Kerry Zuch, Anthony Costantino, Malachi Hendricks, Josie Vaillancourt, Sam Yuwar, Naseer Thomas, Joshua Flanagan,Nicholas Vasey, and Anthony Aguilar.



SIGNING DAY CELEBRATES ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AND FUTURE PLANS



Congratulations to the following athletes on their commitments to compete at the college level:

Joseph LaBrake (Daemen University), Rocco Panepinto (Canisius College), Rob McLoughlin (Mount St. Mary's University), Aiden Mroz (Anna Maria College), Tommy Caruana (Erie Community College), Jacob Brand (SUNY Fredonia), Brenton Baker (North Carolina A&T University), Kimaya Hall (Niagara University), Taylor Nugent (SUNY Brockport), Alexander Martin (SUNY Brockport), Dominic Croce (Mercyhurst University), Camryn Smith (St. John Fisher), Emma Kielbasa (University of Mount Union), Stephanie Koons (SUNY Fredonia), Margaret Paluch (SUNY Potsdam), Ella Hubert (Western Connecticut State University), Rydell Reif (University of Mount Union), Matthew Spence (University of Rochester), Nyzere Richardson (Edinboro University), Da'Mari Yancey (Anna Maria College), Vidal Dinkins (Anna Maria College), Amir Dixon (SUNY Morrisville), Daquan Stone (Westminster College), Niear Patterson (Edinboro University), Mateo Pezzino (Roberts Wesleyan University).

DISTRACTION FREE SCHOOL ZONE PLAN

CELL PHONES AND OTHER DEVICES PROHIBITED STARTING IN THE FALL

Beginning at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, Sweet Home will implement a new Distraction Free School Zone in alignment with New York State Education Law 2803(2), which prohibits student use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day. This includes smartphones, smartwatches, and similar technology on school grounds from arrival to dismissal.

From the time students enter the building at the start of the day until they exit the building at the end of the day:

- Our recommendation is that students leave devices at home as much as possible.
- For elementary students in grades UPK to 5 devices must be turned off and stored in cubby/using coat hooks in the hall.
- For secondary students in grades 6-12 devices must be turned off and stored in lockers.

Exceptions exist for medical, legal, or special education needs. Sweet Home has identified Thinktech as a two-way communication app to be used between parents and students on district-issued devices with an anticipated launch date sometime in the fall. Clear communication options and procedures will be in place at each building.

This important initiative was shaped with feedback from students, staff, and families. A link to the full plan, answers to frequently asked questions, and additional resources can be found on our website under the Parents menu, or by scanning the QR code below.



LEADERSHIP THRIVES

HERITAGE HEIGHTS BECOMES A CERTIFIED LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL; WILLOW RIDGE IS RECERTIFIED

Sweet Home Central School District is proud to celebrate two significant achievements within our elementary schools this year.

Heritage Heights Elementary School has officially been certified as a Lighthouse School by the Leader in Me program - a prestigious recognition awarded to schools that demonstrate excellence in leadership, culture, and academic success through the principles of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

This milestone marks the first time Heritage Heights has received this honor, showcasing the school's commitment to empowering students, fostering student voice, and building a strong, positive school environment. Staff and students alike have worked diligently to incorporate leadership principles into daily learning, creating a culture where every child is seen as a leader. It also means that every building our district is now a certified Lighthouse school.

In addition, Sweet Home celebrates the recertification of Willow Ridge Elementary School as a Lighthouse School, reinforcing the district's dedication to continued growth and excellence.



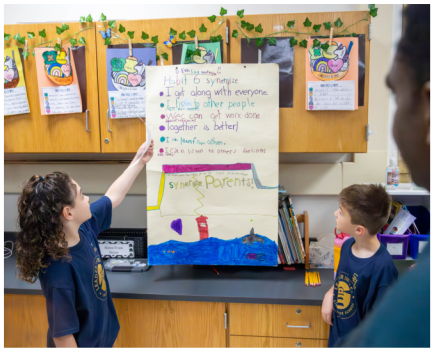
Willow Ridge continues to lead by example, demonstrating sustained impact through its commitment to the Leader in Me framework and its integration into the school's culture.

These recognitions reflect Sweet Home CSD's broader mission to develop confident, capable, and compassionate learners. Each time our parents and families visit the buildings for Leadership Days, it is easy to see how these Habits are incorporated into the daily lives of our students and staff alike.

We are committed to continuing the important work of empowering our students to find their voice, support their friends, and learn leadership skills every day.

We are immensely proud of both school communities for their hard work and leadership, and we look forward to continuing to grow the Leader in Me philosophy district-wide.





SEAL OF CIVIC READINESS

FIRST CLASS OF STUDENTS AT SWEET HOME EARN RECOGNITION OF CIVIC EDUCATION

The Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal recognition that a student has attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset, and civic experiences. The Seal of Civic Readiness distinction on a high school transcript and diploma:

- shows the student's understanding of a commitment to participatory government; civic responsibility and civic values;
- demonstrates to universities, colleges, and future employers that the student has completed an action project in civics or social justice; and
- recognizes the value of civic engagement and scholarship.

In order to obtain the Seal of Civic Readiness, a student must complete all requirements for a New York State local or Regents diploma and earn a total of six points with at least two points in Civic Knowledge and at least two points in Civic Participation. Students may also earn points by completing a middle school Capstone project or a high school Capstone project.

Congratulations to the following Seniors for achieving this distinction upon graduation!

Tasfiyah Alam
Kayla Arcadi
Antonette Arrington
Maya Atallah
Joy Bado
Brenton Baker
Carly Battaglia
Francis Bellanti
Reagan Blarr
Zoe Collins
James Cook-McClain
Jake Ferrari
Lily Fisher
Hailey Fisk
Mckenna Flatau
Brooke Hickey
Katherine Hughes
Arieonna Johnson
Ahaan Khan
Emma Kielbasa
Peyton Klumpp
Pembe Koloko
Stephanie Koons
Ashley Lamoreaux
Nathaniel Mackiewicz
Brady Mayo
Rob McLoughlin
Jordan Mercado
Makayla Moore
Taylor Nugent
Ethan Olewnik
Margaret Paluch
Emily Phillips
Mohammad Rahman
Mariah Robbins
Camryn Smith
Tim Slaughter
Madeleine Smolinski
Matthew Spence
Haley Starr
Brooke Stenzel
Mayesha Subaita
Ava Veneziano

ALUMNI WALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS CHOSEN



This May, we welcomed Dr. Sandra Flash Ph.D., Class of 1987, Dr. Michael Scharf, M.D., Class of 1989, and Lindsey Taylor, Class of 2006, to the Sweet Home Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame.

Dr. Flash is currently the Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at UB. Dr. Scharf is currently the Psychiatrist-in-Chief at Golisano Children's Hospital and Chief of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC), and Lindsey Taylor is currently serves as the Director of Development for the Police Athletic League of Buffalo and founder of Beau Fleuve Music & Arts.

NOMINATE AN ALUMNUS

If you are interested in nominating someone for the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame, please visit our website, sweethomeschools.org, for more information, or contact Nicole Kuss at nkuss@sweethomeschools.org.

FIND US ONLINE

Information about the Alumni Association, including our Alumni Wall of Honor nomination form, can be found on our district website sweethomeschools.org.

Official Sweet Home Alumni Association

@OSHAA8617

officialshhsalumni

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DISTRICT PHONE NUMBERS

District Office	(716) 250-1400
Central Registration	(716) 250-1600
Family Support Center	(716) 250-1228
Transportation	(716) 250-1434
Athletic Director	(716) 250-1207
High School	(716) 250-1203
Middle School	(716) 250-1452
Glendale Elementary	(716) 250-1500
Heritage Heights Elementary	(716) 250-1525
Maplemere Elementary	(716) 250-1550
Willow Ridge Elementary	(716) 250-1575



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Peter Bellanti, President
Brian Laible, Vice-President
Danyelle Anthon
Amy Battaglia
Marianne Jasen
Scott Johnson
Dirk Rabenold

Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools
Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Plant Services
Dr. Toyia Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Track your student's bus schedule and receive updates via the Stopfinder app. Contact our Transportation Department at businfo@sweethomeschools.org to activate a Stopfinder account for your family.