



# Superintendent's Message



**Michael V. Ginestre**  
Superintendent of Schools

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! This year marks another exciting chapter for our schools as we move into Year 3 of our Strategic Plan and continue our efforts to ensure every student is truly "Ready for the Future." The work done over the past two years, led by our DEI Teaching and Learning Committee, has laid a strong foundation to continue to enhance our 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. As we approach year three of implementation, we have been closely tracking progress on each goal to support informed adjustments to 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.

As many of you know, 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. We will continue to carefully manage enrollment growth and align our programming to ensure all students receive the very best academic, social and emotional support.

Speaking of managing our enrollment growth, this year our community will vote on our next capital

project that will include a proposition for additions at Maplemere, Glendale, and Heritage Heights. The work will also include much needed maintenance on all buildings in the District. This major capital project proposal, the largest in Sweet Home's history, 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 including 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. You can see the full details of the plan on our website, [sweethomeschools.org](http://sweethomeschools.org).

The momentum we carry into this year is a direct result of the passion and dedication of our staff, students, and community. We are so excited to start this school year knowing that together, we can achieve our mission of "Every Student, Once 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!

Dr. Michael V. Ginestre - Superintendent of Schools

## Distraction Free School Zone

To learn more about Sweet Home's Distraction Free School Zone expectations and answers to frequently asked questions, scan the QR code or visit our website at [sweethomeschools.org/distraction-free-learning-plan](http://sweethomeschools.org/distraction-free-learning-plan).



## About This Document

Welcome to another great school year, Panther Families! We once again bring you our calendar as a helpful resource to be used throughout the year. Each month highlights some bigger events particular to individual school buildings. All New York State testing periods are highlighted in bold in the calendar. Also, on the inside back cover you will see many of the religious holidays celebrated by the diverse student body of Sweet Home Central School District.

In addition to communicating via our calendar, we take pride in reaching our families through many other methods. For frequent updates on all the great things happening at Sweet Home, follow us on social media (Facebook, X, Instagram, & YouTube) @ SweetHomeCSD, visit our website, and read more in-depth stories in our magazine, *Sweet Home Source*.

We invite you to stay connected with us as we live our mission of Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future.

Christine Lyle, Coordinator of Public Relations

Thank you to high school student Gracie Fuqua for providing the design of this year's calendar cover as part of a class project in her Mass Media class.

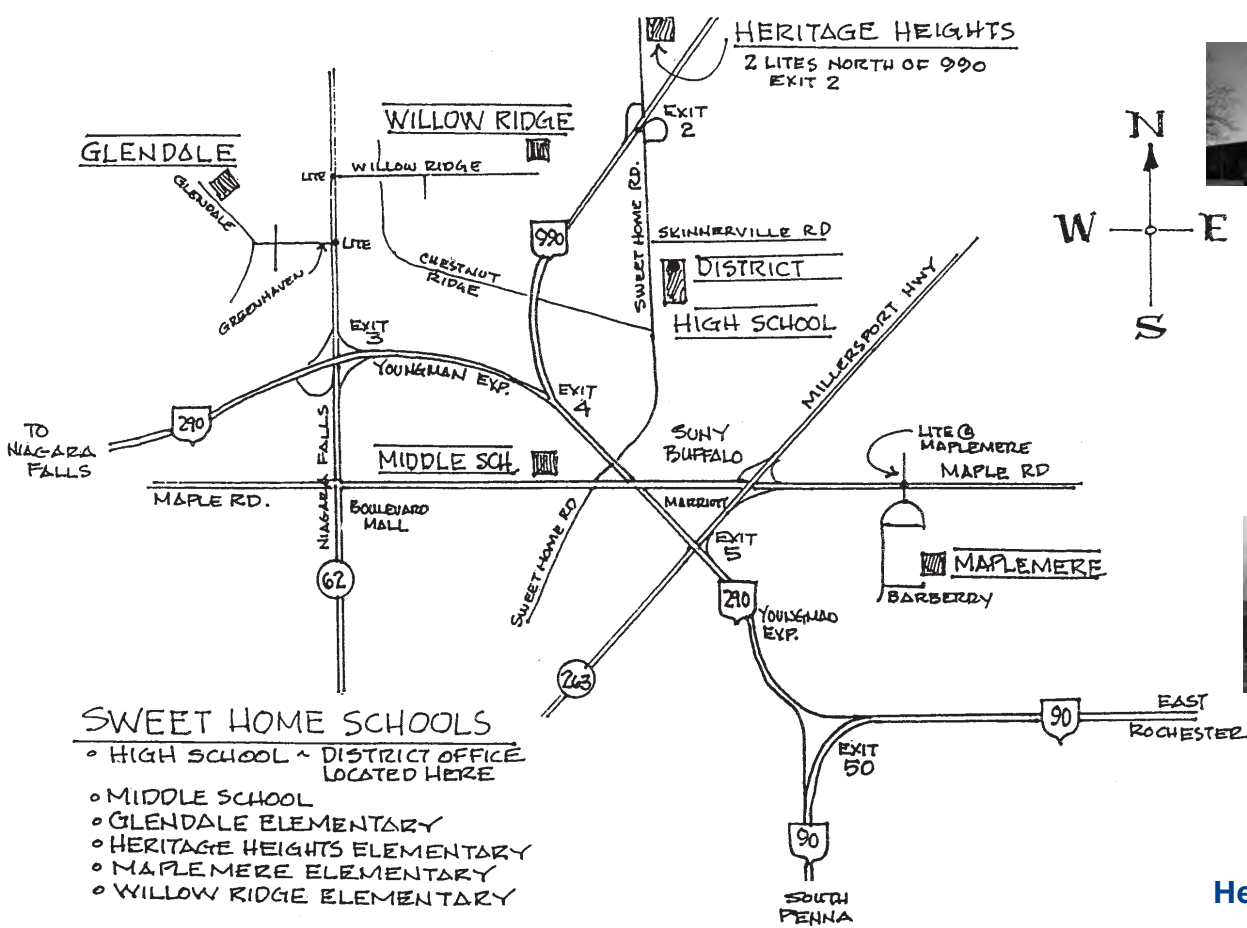
## 2025-26 Year At A Glance

- |              |  |                 |   |
|--------------|--|-----------------|---|
| 9/2          | First Student Day  | 12/22-1/2/26    | Mid-Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES        |
| 10/3         | Emergency/Evacuation Drills - Early Dismissal  | 3/6             | Elem Half Day Attendance/Report Card Day        |
| 10/13        | Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES   | 3/13            | Staff Development Day - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES    |
| 11/4         | Staff Development Day/Election Day - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES  | 4/6             | Start of Computer-Based Testing Window          |
| 11/11        | Veterans Day - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES  | 4/3-10          | Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES            |
| 11/26-28     | Thanksgiving Recess - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES   | 5/15            | End of Computer-Based Testing                   |
| 12/4         | Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4:00-7:55pm<br>High School Parent-Teacher Conferences, 3:00-6:00pm | 5/25            | Memorial Day Observance - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES  |
| 12/5         | Elem Half Day Attendance/Report Card Day   | 6/9-10, 6/17-25 | Regents Examinations                            |
| 12/12        | Full Day Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL UPK-5   | 6/19            | Juneteenth Observance - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES    |
| 12/22-1/2/26 | Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES   | 6/24            | Elementary Half Day                             |
| 1/19         | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES  | 6/25            | Elementary Half Day/Elementary Last Student Day |
| 1/20-23      | Regents Examinations   | 6/25            | Commencement Ceremonies                         |
|              |  | 6/29            | Last Teacher Day                                |

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# District Map - Sweet Home Schools



**Glendale Elementary**



**Maplemere Elementary**



**Sweet Home Middle School**



**Sweet Home High School**



**Heritage Heights Elementary**



## School Facilities

The use of school facilities by community organizations is encouraged. Contacts should be made to the building principal. Where less than 50 percent of the participants are district residents, facilities may be used, though a fee may be charged. For further information regarding facility rentals or use by non-residents, contact Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Plant Services, at 250-1406.



**Willow Ridge Elementary**

## Board of Education



**Peter Bellanti**  
President



**Brian Laible**  
Vice President



**Danyelle Anthon**



**Amy Battaglia**



**Marianne Jasen**



**Scott M. Johnson**



**Dirk Rabenold**

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Sweet Home Board of Education was created under the Education Law of New York and has full authority to interpret and carry out the will of the people in matters of education within the limitations of federal/state laws, regulations of the State Board of Regents and judicial decisions. Board of Education members are not compensated for their service.

### CANDIDACY/TERM

The Board consists of seven members who serve terms of five years. Members must meet the following qualifications:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least eighteen years of age
- A legal resident of the District one year prior to the election
- Cannot be an employee of Sweet Home Central School District

### BOARD MEMBERS AND THE EXPIRATION OF THEIR TERMS

Danyelle Anthon	2029
Amy Battaglia	2027
Peter Bellanti	2026 (President)
Marianne Jasen	2027
Scott M. Johnson	2028
Brian Laible	2030 (Vice President)
Dirk Rabenold	2030

### STAFF

Board Secretary - Falon Derion  
School District Clerk - Falon Derion  
School District Treasurer - Nicole Kuss

### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Sweet Home Central School District is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. Further, the Sweet Home Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of religion or creed, sexual orientation, military status, genetic status, marital status, domestic violence victim status, criminal arrest or conviction record, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal non-discrimination laws. Inquiries regarding Sweet Home Central School District's non-discrimination policies and grievance procedures should be directed to:

Dr. Finune Shaibi  
Director of Human Resources  
fshaibi@sweethomeschools.org  
(716) 250-1408

### MEETING DATES

The Sweet Home Board of Education meets the second and third Tuesday of every month in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center in the High School. Study sessions are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month, while regular voting meetings are held the third. Meetings begin promptly at 6:30 pm and the public is encouraged to attend. Special meetings for 2024-25 include:

- May 5, 2026 - Annual Public Hearing on the Budget and "Meet the Candidates" Night
- May 19, 2026 - Annual District Budget Vote

As required by law, the district will be notified if any other special meetings are scheduled.

All Board of Education voting meetings are also available in the Video on Demand section of the District website at [sweethomeschools.org](http://sweethomeschools.org).

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Per BOE Policy 1510, The Board encourages courteous and respectful public comment at Board meetings. All participants are required to comply with the District Code of Conduct.

The Board of Education will provide two opportunities during each meeting for public participation:

1. An opportunity after the review or approval of the agenda for participants to comment upon the agenda.
2. An opportunity at the end of the meeting for participants to address the Board on topics appropriate for open session.

All participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if appropriate. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes to offer comments.

The public may also communicate with the Board of Education via email. Board members' email addresses can be found on our district website, [www.sweethomeschools.org](http://www.sweethomeschools.org).



# October



## OCTOBER Highlights:

<b>Glendale</b> 1 Picture Day 2 McTeacher Night 8 PTA Meeting 17 Pumpkin Run 17 Trunk or Treat	<b>Heritage Heights</b> 13 PTA Meeting 15 Trunk or Treat 28 Picture Retake Day	<b>Maplemere</b> 1 PTA Meeting 24 Trunk or Treat	<b>Willow Ridge</b> 2 PTO Meeting 8 Picture Day 10 Fun Run 24 Harvest Dance and Trunk or Treat	<b>Middle School</b> 6 PTSA Meeting 10 Picture Retake Day 24 Fall Activity Night	<b>High School</b> 9 PTSA Meeting 17 Concert Chorale + Buffalo Choral Arts
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																										
<b>CALENDAR ABBREVIATIONS</b> DO District Office FSC Family Support Center GL Glendale HH Heritage Heights Elementary MM Maplemere Elementary MS Middle School TBA To Be Announced UB University at Buffalo WR Willow Ridge Elementary BOE Board of Education NVCC Norman Vergils Comm. Ctr. <a href="http://www.sweethomeschools.org">www.sweethomeschools.org</a>	<b>SEPTEMBER 2025</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 <b>NOVEMBER 2025</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>1</b> GL: Picture Day MM: PTA Mtg, 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	<b>2</b> GL: McTeacher Night, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM WR: PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> DO: Alumni Association Meeting @ NVCC, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM DO: Education Foundation Meeting @ NVCC, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MS: PTSA Mtg - Library, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> WR: Picture Day GL: PTA Mtg, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>9</b> HS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>10</b> WR: Fun Run MS: Picture Retake Day	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> COLUMBUS/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES HH: PTA Meeting, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>14</b> Board of Education Study Session, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>15</b> HH: Trunk or Treat DO: Dollars for Scholars Committee Meeting, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> WR: Fun Run Rain Date GL: Pumpkin Run, 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM GL: Trunk or Treat, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Mus: Concert Chorale + Buffalo Choral Arts @ HS, 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>18</b> DO: Dollars for Scholars Fall Craft Show & Basket Raffle @ HS, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Board of Education Voting Meeting, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> WR: Harvest Dance and Trunk or Treat, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM MM: Trunk or Treat, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM MS: Fall Activity Night, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> HH: Picture Retake Day	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# November



## NOVEMBER Highlights:

<b>Glendale</b> 10 Glendale Night at Texas Roadhouse 12 PTA Meeting 13 Picture Retake Day 17-21 Super Change Battle 19 STEM Night	<b>Heritage Heights</b> 10 PTA Meeting 21 Turkey Trot	<b>Maplemere</b> 5 PTA Meeting 6 Picture Retakes 7 Turkey Trot 25 Drop Everything and Lead	<b>Willow Ridge</b> 6 PTO Meeting 13 McTeacher Night 19 Picture Retake	<b>Middle School</b> 3 PTSA Meeting	<b>High School</b> 13 PTSA Meeting 13 Symphony Orchestra, Concert Chorale, Wind Ensemble Concert 19 Concert Orchestra, Mixed Choir, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble Concert
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>CALENDAR ABBREVIATIONS</b> DO District Office FSC Family Support Center GL Glendale HH Heritage Heights Elementary MM Maplemere Elementary MS Middle School TBA To Be Announced UB University at Buffalo WR Willow Ridge Elementary BOE Board of Education NVCC Norman Vergils Comm. Ctr. <a href="http://www.sweethomeschools.org">www.sweethomeschools.org</a>			<b>OCTOBER 2025</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 <b>DECEMBER 2025</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> DO: Alumni Association Meeting @ NVCC, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM DO: Education Foundation Meeting @ NVCC, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MS: PTSA Mtg - Library, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>4</b> STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY/ NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES	<b>5</b> MM: PTA Mtg, 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	<b>6</b> MM: Picture Retakes WR: PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>7</b> MM: Turkey Trot JUNIOR HIGH AREA ALL-STATE - AKRON	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> GL: Glendale Night at Texas Roadhouse (Young Street), 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM HH: PTA Meeting, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>11</b> VETERAN'S DAY NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES	<b>12</b> GL: PTA Mtg, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>13</b> GL: Picture Retake Day WR: McTeacher Night, 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM HS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Mus: Symphony Orchestra, Concert Chorale, Wind Ensemble Concert @ HS, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> ATH: Winter Sports Begin	<b>18</b> Board of Education Voting Meeting, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>19</b> WR: Picture Retake Mus: Concert Orchestra, Mixed Choir, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble Concert @ HS, 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM GL: STEM Night, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> HH: Turkey Trot SR. HIGH AREA ALL STATE - FREDONIA	<b>22</b>	
<b>GL: SUPER CHANGE BATTLE</b>							
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> MM: Drop Everything and Lead	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>30</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING RECESS NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES</b>						

# December



## DECEMBER Highlights:

<b>Glendale</b> 4 Roller Skating Party 8 PTA Meeting 9-12 Merry Moose Shop 18 Winter Wonderland Event	<b>Heritage Heights</b> 8-11 Merry Moose Shop 8 PTA Meeting 17 Concert	<b>Maplemere</b> 10 Chorus Concert 17-18 Holiday Gift Shop	<b>Willow Ridge</b> 10 Chorus Concert 12 Winter Wonderland Holiday Shopping	<b>Middle School</b> 1 PTSA Meeting 2 Gold Orchestra, 6th Grade Orchestra, 8th Grade Orchestra Concert 3 Gold Band, 8th Grade Band Concert 4 Parent/Teacher Conferences 9 7th Grade Choirs Concert 11 GL Choir, 7th Grade Orchestra Concert 16 6th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band 18 8th Grade Choirs Concert	<b>High School</b> 4 Parent/Teacher Conferences 15 HS Holiday Concert
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																		
	<b>1</b> <b>DO:</b> Education Foundation Meeting @ NVCC, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM <b>MS:</b> PTSA Mtg - Library, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>2</b> <b>Mus:</b> Gold Orchestra, 6th Grade Orchestra, 8th Grade Orchestra Concert @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>3</b> <b>Mus:</b> Gold Band, 8th Grade Band Concert @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>4</b> <b>HS:</b> Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM <b>MS:</b> Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00 PM - 7:55 PM <b>GL:</b> Roller Skating Party, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	<b>5</b> <b>ELEMENTARY HALF DAY ATTENDANCE/REPORT CARD DAY</b> <b>DO:</b> Dollars for Scholars Meat Raffle @ St. Leo's, 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	<b>6</b>																																																																																																		
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>HH:</b> PTA Meeting, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM <b>GL:</b> PTA Mtg, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>9</b> <b>Board of Education Study Session, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM</b> <b>Mus:</b> 7th Grade Choirs Concert @MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>10</b> <b>Mus:</b> MM Chorus, WR Chorus Concert @ HS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>11</b> <b>Mus:</b> GL Choir, 7th Grade Orchestra Concert @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>12</b> <b>FULL DAY ELEMENTARY PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES - NO SCHOOL UPK-5</b> <b>WR:</b> Winter Wonderland Holiday Shopping, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	<b>13</b>																																																																																																		
	<b>GL: MERRY MOOSE SHOP</b>			<b>HH: MERRY MOOSE SHOP</b>																																																																																																				
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Mus:</b> HS Holiday Concert, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>16</b> <b>Board of Education Voting Meeting, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM</b> <b>Mus:</b> 6th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band @MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>17</b> <b>DO:</b> Dollars for Scholars Committee Meeting, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM <b>Mus:</b> HH Concert, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>18</b> <b>GL:</b> Winter Wonderland Event, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM <b>Mus:</b> 8th Grade Choirs Concert @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>																																																																																																		
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# January



## JANUARY Highlights:

<b>Glendale</b> 14 PTA Meeting 16 Glow Party	<b>Heritage Heights</b> 12 PTA Meeting 23 Dance	<b>Maplemere</b> 14 PTA Meeting 22 McTeacher Night	<b>Willow Ridge</b> 8 PTO Meeting 14 Skating Party 30 Sweetheart Dance	<b>Middle School</b> 5 PTSA Meeting 7 6th Grade Choirs 23 Winter Activity Night	<b>High School</b> 8 PTSA Meeting
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>CALENDAR ABBREVIATIONS</b> DO District Office FSC Family Support Center GL Glendale HH Heritage Heights Elementary MM Maplemere Elementary MS Middle School TBA To Be Announced UB University at Buffalo WR Willow Ridge Elementary BOE Board of Education NVCC Norman Vergils Comm. Ctr. <a href="http://www.sweethomeschools.org">www.sweethomeschools.org</a>				<b>DECEMBER 2025</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1
				<b>FEBRUARY 2026</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28		2
				<b>WINTER RECESS - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES 12/22 - 1/2</b>		3
4	5 DO: Education Foundation Meeting @ NVCC, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MS: PTSA Mtg - Library, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	6	7 Mus: 6th Grade Choirs @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	8 HS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM WR: PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	9	10 ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL, JR HIGH VOCAL, JAZZ SOLO FESTIVAL - DEPEW
11	12 HH: PTA Meeting, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	13 Board of Education Study Session, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	14 WR: Skating Party, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM MM: PTA Mtg, 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM GL: PTA Mtg, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	15	16 GL: Glow Party, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	17 JR HIGH INSTRUMENTAL SOLO FESTIVAL - ORCHARD PARK
18	19 MLK Jr. DAY OBSERVANCE NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES	20 Board of Education Voting Meeting, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	21	22 MM: McTeacher Night, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	23 HH: Dance, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MS: Winter Activity Night, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	24 SR. HIGH SOLO FESTIVAL - CLEVE-HILL
				<b>REGENTS EXAMS 1/20 - 1/23</b>		
25	26	27	28	29	30 WR: Sweetheart Dance, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	31

# February



## FEBRUARY Highlights:

<b>Glendale</b> 11 PTA Meeting 27 BINGO Night	<b>Heritage Heights</b> 9 PTA Meeting 12 Skating Party	<b>Maplemere</b> 4 PTA Meeting	<b>Willow Ridge</b> 27 Science Night	<b>Middle School</b> 2 PTSA Meeting 6 Musical 7 Musical	<b>High School</b> 10 HS Pops Concert 12 PTSA Meeting
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**SUNDAY      MONDAY      TUESDAY      WEDNESDAY      THURSDAY      FRIDAY      SATURDAY**

<b>1</b> DO: District Music Festival	<b>2</b> DO: Education Foundation Meeting @ NVCC, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MS: PTSA Mtg - Library, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>3</b> Board of Education Study Session, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>4</b> MM: PTA Mtg, 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM NHS Induction Ceremony, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> MS: Musical @ MS, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>7</b> MS: Musical @ MS, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> HH: PTA Meeting, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>10</b> Board of Education Voting Meeting, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Mus: HS Pops Concert @ HS, 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>11</b> DO: Dollars for Scholars Committee Meeting, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM GL: PTA Mtg, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>12</b> HH: Skating Party, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM HS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>13</b> DO: ENL Parent Teacher Conferences in Vergils, 8am - 3pm	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>MID-WINTER RECESS - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES</b>						
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> WR: Science Night, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM GL: BINGO Night, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	<b>28</b>

### CALENDAR ABBREVIATIONS

- DO District Office
- FSC Family Support Center
- GL Glendale
- HH Heritage Heights Elementary
- MM Maplemere Elementary
- MS Middle School
- TBA To Be Announced
- UB University at Buffalo
- WR Willow Ridge Elementary
- BOE Board of Education
- NVCC Norman Vergils Comm. Ctr.

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

### JANUARY 2026

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### MARCH 2026

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# March



## MARCH Highlights:

<b>Glendale</b> 11 PTA Meeting 19 McTeacher Night 24-27 Scholastic Book Fair 24 Literacy Night	<b>Heritage Heights</b> 9 PTA Meeting 24 Spring & Cap/Gown pictures 25-1 BOGO Book Fair 26 Multicultural Night/Book Fair and Art Show	<b>Maplemere</b> 4 PTA Meeting 6 Winter Dance 25 Spring Pictures	<b>Willow Ridge</b> 5 PTO Meeting 27 Multicultural Night	<b>Middle School</b> 2 PTSA Meeting 24-26 Night at the Library	<b>High School</b> 12 PTSA Meeting 13 Musical 14 Musical 15 Musical
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> DO: Alumni Association Meeting @ NVCC, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM DO: Education Foundation Meeting @ NVCC, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MS: PTSA Mtg - Library, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> MM: PTA Mtg, 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	<b>5</b> WR: PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>6</b> ELEMENTARY HALF DAY ATTENDANCE / REPORT CARD DAY MM: Winter Dance 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>7</b>
DO: DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PHONE-A-THON			JR. HIGH ALL COUNTY			
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> HH: PTA Meeting, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM ATH: Spring Sports Begin	<b>10</b> Board of Education Study Session, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>11</b> GL: PTA Mtg, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>12</b> HS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>13</b> STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - NO SCHOOL K-12 HS: Musical @ HS, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	<b>14</b> ELEM ALL COUNTY HS: Musical @ HS, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
<b>15</b> HS: Musical @ HS, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Board of Education Voting Meeting, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> GL: McTeacher Night, 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> DO: Dollars for Scholars Spring Craft Show & Basket Raffle @ HS, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
					SR. HIGH ALL COUNTY - U.B.	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> HH: Spring & Cap/Gown pictures GL: Literacy Night, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>25</b> MM: Spring Pictures ELEM ALL COUNTY	<b>26</b> HH: Multicultural Night/ Book Fair and Art Show	<b>27</b> WR: Multicultural Night, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>28</b>
		HH: BOGO BOOK FAIR 3/25 - 4/1		ELEM ALL COUNTY - KLEINHANS		
MS: NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY 6-8PM			GL: SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR 3/24 - 3/27			
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>CALENDAR ABBREVIATIONS</b> DO District Office FSC Family Support Center GL Glendale HH Heritage Heights Elementary MM Maplemere Elementary MS Middle School TBA To Be Announced UB University at Buffalo WR Willow Ridge Elementary BOE Board of Education NVCC Norman Vergils Comm. Ctr. <a href="http://www.sweethomeschools.org">www.sweethomeschools.org</a>			
HH: BOGO BOOK FAIR 3/25 - 4/1		<b>FEBRUARY 2026</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 <b>APRIL 2026</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				

# April



## APRIL Highlights:

<b>Glendale</b> 15 PTA Meeting 22 Multicultural Night 30 STEM Night (UPK-2)	<b>Heritage Heights</b> 1 Concert 13 PTA Meeting 23 STEM Night	<b>Maplemere</b> 1 PTA Meeting 23-24 Scholastic Book Fair 23 Art Show 29 PTA Meeting	<b>Willow Ridge</b> 22 Skating Party	<b>Middle School</b> 13 PTSA Meeting 24 Spring Activity Night	<b>High School</b> 16 PTSA Meeting
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																											
<b>CALENDAR ABBREVIATIONS</b> DO District Office FSC Family Support Center GL Glendale HH Heritage Heights Elementary MM Maplemere Elementary MS Middle School TBA To Be Announced UB University at Buffalo WR Willow Ridge Elementary BOE Board of Education NVCC Norman Vergils Comm. Ctr. <a href="http://www.sweethomeschools.org">www.sweethomeschools.org</a>	<b>MARCH 2026</b> <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<b>MAY 2026</b> <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<b>1</b> MM: PTA Mtg, 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM  Mus: HH Concert, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>
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<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Grades 3-8 ELA, Math, Grades 5 & 8 Science Window Opens NYSESLAT Speaking Assessment Window Opens	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> DO: Dollars for Scholars Meat Raffle @ St. Leo's, 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	<b>11</b>																																																																																											
<b>SPRING RECESS - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES</b>																																																																																																	
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> DO: Alumni Association Meeting @ NVCC, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM HH: PTA Meeting, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM DO: Education Foundation Meeting @ NVCC, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MS: PTSA Mtg - Library, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>14</b> Board of Education Study Session, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>15</b> GL: PTA Mtg, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>16</b> HS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>																																																																																											
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Board of Education Voting Meeting, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>22</b> WR: Skating Party, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM  GL: Multicultural Night, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>23</b> HH: STEM Night  MM: Art Show, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>24</b> MS: Spring Activity Night, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>25</b> 																																																																																											
<b>MM: SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR</b>																																																																																																	
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> MM: PTA Mtg, 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	<b>30</b> GL: STEM Night (UPK-2), 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM																																																																																													

# May



## MAY Highlights:

<b>Glendale</b> 7-8 Flower Sale 11-21 Fun Run Fundraiser 11 PTA Meeting 15 Leadership Day 2026 21 Fun Run	<b>Heritage Heights</b> 4 PTA Meeting 15 My VIP Day 29 Leadership Day	<b>Maplemere</b> 6 Chorus Concert 7 Special Persons Flower Delivery 7 5th Gr Panoramic Picture 15 Fun Run 22 Leadership Day	<b>Willow Ridge</b> 6 Chorus Concert 7 PTO Meeting 21 Leadership Day	<b>Middle School</b> 4 PTSA Meeting 7 7th Grade Choirs Concert 11 7th Grade Band, MS Jazz, HS Jazz 13 GL Choir, 6th Grade Orchestra 18 6th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band 19-21 Book Fair 20 6th Grade Choirs, 6th Grade Orch 27 7th Grade Orchestra, 8th Grade Orchestra, Honors Ensemble Concert 28 8th Grade Choirs Concert	<b>High School</b> 5 Choirs Concert 14 PTSA Meeting 14 Gold Orchestra & Blue Orchestra 19 Orchestras Concert 21 Band Concert
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>CALENDAR ABBREVIATIONS</b> DO District Office FSC Family Support Center GL Glendale HH Heritage Heights Elementary MM Maplemere Elementary MS Middle School TBA To Be Announced UB University at Buffalo WR Willow Ridge Elementary BOE Board of Education NVCC Norman Vergils Comm. Ctr. <a href="http://www.sweethomeschools.org">www.sweethomeschools.org</a>		<b>APRIL 2026</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			1	2
3	4 NYSESLAT Listening, Reading, Writing Window Opens DO: Alumni Association Meeting @ NVCC, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM DO: Education Foundation Meeting @ NVCC, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM HH: PTA Meeting, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM MS: PTSA Mtg - Library, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	5 Board of Education Study Session, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  Mus: HS Choirs Concert @HS, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	6 Mus: MM Chorus, WR Chorus Concert @ HS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	7 MM: Special Persons Flower Delivery MM: 5th Gr Panoramic Picture, 2:00 PM - 2:15 PM WR: PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Mus: 7th Grade Choirs Concert @MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>GL: FLOWER SALE</b>	
<b>TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK</b>						
10	11 GL: PTA Mtg (New Officer Vote), 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  Mus: 7th Grade Band, MS Jazz, HS Jazz @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	12 Mus: Blue Band + Gold Band, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM  Board of Education Voting Meeting, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	13 DO: Dollars for Scholars Committee Meeting, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  Mus: GL Choir, 6th Grade Orchestra @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	14 HS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM  Mus: Gold Orchestra & Blue Orchestra @ HS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	15 Grades 3-8 ELA, Math, Grades 5 & 8 Science Window Closes  GL: Leadership Day 2026  HH: My VIP Day  MM: Fun Run	16
<b>GL: FUN RUN FUNDRAISER 5/11 - 5/21</b>						
17	18 Mus: 6th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	19 District Budget Vote, 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM Mus: HS Orchestras Concert @ HS, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Elementary Track & Field Day 9:45 AM - 12:00 PM	20 Mus: 6th Grade Choirs, 6th Grade Orch @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	21 WR: Leadership Day  GL: Fun Run  Mus: HS Bands Concert @HS, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	22 NYSESLAT Speaking Assessment Window Closes  NYSESLAT Listening, Reading, Writing Window Closes  MM: Leadership Day	23
<b>MS BOOK FAIR</b>						
<b>GL: FUN RUN FUNDRAISER 5/11 - 5/21</b>						
24	25 <b>MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES</b>	26	27 Mus: 7th Grade Orchestra, 8th Grade Orchestra, Honors Ensemble Concert @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	28 Challenge 2 Change 2026  Mus: 8th Grade Choirs Concert @ MS, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	29 HH: Leadership Day	30
31						

# June



## APRIL Highlights:

<b>Glendale</b> 10 PTA Mtg (Budget Vote) 12 Field Day/Flag Day 23 5th Grade Moving UP Ceremony 24 Kindergarten Moving UP Ceremony 25 UPK EOY Celebration	<b>Heritage Heights</b> 5 Family Gathering 8 PTA Meeting 17 EOY Kindergarten Celebration 18 UPK End of Year Celebration 23 Friendship Day	<b>Maplemere</b> 3 Volunteer Appreciation 3 PTA Meeting 5 5th Gr Committee Field Trip 12 Field/Flag Day 18 5th Grade Moving Up Day 23 K Graduation 25 PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheon	<b>Willow Ridge</b> 4 PTO Meeting 12 Field Day/Flag Day 18 5th Grade Moving Up Day 24 Kindergarten Moving UP Ceremony 25 UPK EOY Celebration	<b>Middle School</b> 1 PTSA Meeting	<b>High School</b> 15 Senior Awards Night
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																														
	<b>1</b> <b>DO:</b> Alumni Association Meeting @ NVCC, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  <b>DO:</b> Education Foundation Meeting @ NVCC, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  <b>MS:</b> PTSA Mtg - Library, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>MM:</b> Volunteer Appreciation, 5:45 PM - 6:15 PM  <b>MM:</b> PTA Mtg, 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	<b>4</b> <b>WR:</b> PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>5</b> <b>HH:</b> Family Gathering  <b>MM:</b> 5th Gr Committee Field Trip	<b>6</b>																																																																																														
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>HH:</b> PTA Meeting, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>9</b> <b>Board of Education Study Session, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM</b>  <b>REGENTS EXAMS</b>	<b>10</b> <b>GL:</b> PTA Mtg (Budget Vote), 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>GL:</b> Field Day/Flag Day  <b>MM:</b> Field Day/Flag Day  <b>WR:</b> Field Day/Flag Day	<b>13</b>																																																																																														
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>HS:</b> Senior Awards Night, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>16</b> <b>Board of Education Voting Meeting, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM</b>	<b>17</b> <b>HH:</b> EOY Kindergarten Celebration	<b>18</b> <b>HH:</b> UPK End of Year Celebration  <b>MM:</b> 5th Grade Moving Up Day  <b>WR:</b> 5th Grade Moving Up Day, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>19</b> <b>JUNETEENTH OBSERVANCE - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES</b>	<b>20</b>																																																																																														
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>HH:</b> Friendship Day  <b>MM:</b> K Graduation  <b>GL:</b> 5th Grade Moving UP Ceremony, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<b>24</b> <b>ELEM HALF DAY</b> <b>WR:</b> Kindergarten Moving UP Ceremony, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM <b>GL:</b> Kindergarten Moving UP Ceremony, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>25</b> <b>ELEM HALF DAY</b> <b>MM:</b> PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheon <b>WR:</b> UPK EOY Celebration, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM <b>GL:</b> UPK EOY Celebration, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM <b>Graduation (UB Center for the Arts), 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>																																																																																														
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>REGENTS EXAMS</b>																																																																																																	
			<b>CALENDAR ABBREVIATIONS</b> <b>DO</b> District Office <b>FSC</b> Family Support Center <b>GL</b> Glendale <b>HH</b> Heritage Heights Elementary <b>MM</b> Maplemere Elementary <b>MS</b> Middle School <b>TBA</b> To Be Announced <b>UB</b> University at Buffalo <b>WR</b> Willow Ridge Elementary <b>BOE</b> Board of Education <b>NVCC</b> Norman Vergils Comm. Ctr. <a href="http://www.sweethomeschools.org">www.sweethomeschools.org</a>			<b>MAY 2026</b> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <b>JULY 2026</b> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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# Getting to Know Your District

## OUR BUILDING PRINCIPALS



Glendale Elementary  
Karen DeLaPlante  
250-1500



Heritage Heights Elementary  
Antonio Perry  
250-1525



Maplemere Elementary  
James Ryan  
250-1550



Willow Ridge Elementary  
Robert Polino  
250-1575



Middle School  
Marissa Dauria  
250-1450



High School  
Derek Baker  
250-1200

The Sweet Home Central School District has four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school - each with its own unique identity. They have in common the same high standards and enthusiasm for students.

At Sweet Home, we teach students human values like respect, responsibility, honesty, and concern for others. All of this is encompassed in the District's Values Education Program. Our staff, from the teachers to the bus drivers, strive to ensure that Sweet Home is helping each child to realize their unique potential.

## STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

At Sweet Home, we teach students to be productive citizens while preparing them for success in their chosen endeavors. Whether they plan to continue their education or enter the workforce, students will leave Sweet Home knowing how reading, writing, math, science, language, social studies, music, and art all relate to their future.

We strive to nurture the talents of every student, and to help them overcome their challenges. We want them to be excited about learning, and we hope that they will learn to work cooperatively as well as individually to ensure a smooth transition into post high school life.

Sweet Home is fortunate to have an outstanding faculty. The enthusiasm, knowledge, and genuine concern for students gives children a distinct advantage, both academically and socially. The qualifications of Sweet Home teachers far exceed those of most other schools in the nation. The district provides constant support and continued encouragement of staff development through seminars and in-service programs.

## DISTRICT STATISTICS

School Budget.....\$105,576,012  
 Number of School Buildings..... Four (4) Elementary Schools  
 ..... One (1) Middle School  
 ..... One (1) High School  
 Dimensions..... 6.5 miles long, 3.5 miles wide  
 Public School Enrollment (as of June 2025)..... 3,973  
 Elementary, Grades K-5..... 1,972  
 Middle School, Grades 6-8..... 874  
 High School, Grades 9-12..... 1,127  
 2024-25 Community Education Participation..... 500  
 No. of Teaching Positions (as of June 2025)..... 391  
 No. of Full and Part-Time Employees (as of June 2025)..... 735

## DISTRICT BUDGET

Residents will be asked to ratify the 2026-27 District Budget Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Voting will take place from 7 AM to 9 PM at the Norman C. Vergis Community Center in Sweet Home High School, 1901 Sweet Home Road, Amherst.

## PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED TO VOTE

All eligible voters need to provide proof of residency in order to cast their ballots at the annual budget vote Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

According to Chapter 775 of the Laws of New York, voters must present one form of proof that testifies to their legal address. This form of proof must be one of the following:

- Board of Elections Card
- Post-Marked Mail
- Non-Driver Identification Card
- Sheriff's Card
- Driver's License
- Rental/lease receipt

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The Sweet Home Central School District allows for the use of absentee ballots at all district votes and elections.

Request an application by calling 250-1402, writing the District Clerk's office at 1901 Sweet Home Road, Amherst, NY 14228, or emailing District Clerk Falon Derron at fderon@sweethomeschools.org.

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# Getting to Know Your District

## ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

The elementary program is designed to give students the skills needed to become self-directed learners. Through an interdisciplinary approach, aligned with the New York State Standards, the student is able to relate what is learned to life experiences. Teaching and learning are directed toward acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to compete after graduation from high school.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sweet Home Middle School provides a quality educational experience for its students. Middle School faculty and staff strive to meet the scholastic and social needs of students through a flexible and constantly updated curriculum, complemented by an outstanding faculty and an exciting extracurricular program. Your child's personal needs are a major concern of every teacher, administrator, and staff member.

Basic learning skills and study habits are introduced and reinforced through the interchange of ideas and viewpoints. In the three important and influential years in which your child will be attending Sweet Home Middle School, we hope their explorations and experiences help them develop self-respect and respect for others as well. Our hope is that the students' sense of responsibility and integrity reach far beyond the classroom.

## HIGH SCHOOL

Sweet Home High School students consistently score at or above New York State and national averages on standardized testing programs. The school also has an excellent record in the annual number of winners of National Merit scholarships.

Traditionally, approximately 80 percent of our graduating seniors have indicated that they plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution. The high school honors program has been recognized throughout the state for its emphasis on enrichment. From drama to Indian culture, the program offers a fresh perspective about the world for students and teachers alike.

Sweet Home sports teams have consistently captured divisional and Section VI championships. We are home to a nationally recognized girls volleyball team. The athletic program is extremely diverse, offering field hockey, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, gymnastics, cheerleading, track, baseball, tennis, and many other outstanding programs.

Sweet Home's vocal and instrumental music students have routinely achieved the highest possible rating in state competitions while competing at the most difficult levels.

## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS

Many Sweet Home students attend CTE courses at the Harkness Center on Aero Drive in Cheektowaga or the Kenton Center on Two Mile Creek Road in Tonawanda. Courses are offered in topics such as advertising design & production, automotive trades, building trades, certified nursing assistant, computer aided drafting, cosmetology, early childhood education, culinary arts and welding.

Programs are conducted under the auspices of the Erie County Board of Cooperative Services, also known as BOCES. Sweet Home buses transport students, who spend part of each school day in the CTE centers and part of each school day in regular Sweet Home classrooms. Please know that in the event of an emergency, we will do what is necessary to first protect children and then inform you as accurately and fully as possible. Together with emergency response officials, the District will make every effort to provide a reliable flow of information to parents and the public as quickly as possible.

Programs are designed for those students who wish to have a vocational skill upon graduation. A certificate indicating successful completion of the program is awarded to each student who meets the requirements. Most programs are two years in length and are full-year subjects. All courses are middle level and are available to any student.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS

The academic achievement centers at the High School and Middle School have been developed to assist students needing help in a number of academic areas. The academic achievement centers are open throughout the day; students are encouraged to check each

center's individual schedule of hours.

## OUR MISSION

Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future.

Inspiring students to be:

- Innovative
- Self-directed
- Curious
- Compassionate
- Resilient
- Persistent
- Lifelong learners

## SAFETY IN OUR SCHOOLS

Safety in our schools is our first priority. The Sweet Home Central School District is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and staff.

## CRISIS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

The SAVE Legislation (Schools Against Violence in Education) and the NYS Commissioner of Education regulations require all school districts to take proactive steps to ensure school safety, including but not limited to:

- Developing district-wide and building-level safety plans regarding crisis
- intervention and emergency response and management;
- Establishing district-wide and building-level safety teams;
- Coordinating with local law enforcement; and
- Developing and implementing policies and procedures for annual school safety training and drills for students and staff.

The Sweet Home Central School District has developed a comprehensive District Safety Plan, adopted by the Board of Education, which outlines specific actions and responses to emergency situations, violence prevention, and mental health matters. Our emergency responses are governed by the FEMA Incident Command System (ICS). In addition, each of our buildings have Building Level Emergency Response Plans. The District and Building Level Plans are reviewed annually by safety teams comprised of Board of Education members, administrators, teachers, service employees, law enforcement and emergency or safety personnel, parents, and community members. The District provides ongoing training to school administrators and other staff members to ensure that we are well prepared and that our children are protected. Emergency drills based on the FEMA recognized emergency responses (Lockout, Shelter in Place, Evacuation, and Lockdown) are conducted routinely in collaboration with the Town of Amherst Police Department and the Town of Tonawanda Police Department at all of our schools to further enhance our practices.

Please know that in the event of an emergency, we will do what is necessary to first protect children and then inform you as accurately and fully as possible. Together with emergency response officials, the District will make every effort to provide a reliable flow of information to parents and the public as quickly as possible.

## DISTRICT SAFETY COMMITTEE

The District Safety Committee is comprised of various stakeholders including Board of Education members, administrators, teachers, service employees, law enforcement and emergency or safety personnel, parents, and community members. The committee annually reviews the District Safety Plan, Code of Conduct, and various safety initiatives.

For further information about District Safety, contact our Chief Safety Officer, Donald Feldmann, at 250-1400 or dfeldmann@sweethomeschools.org

# School Registration

The Sweet Home Central School District has a centralized registration process for all grades Pre-K-12. We are located in District Office at 1901 Sweet Home Road, Door #6. The office number is 250-1600, fax 716-250-1378. Our email address is registration@sweethomeschools.org. Registration packets for new students can be obtained by visiting our office, the school district website or you may request one be sent via mail.

## REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to enroll at Sweet Home, the student and their legal guardian or custodial parent must reside in the school district.

The following documentation must be submitted at the time of registration in order for registration to be processed: is required to register a new student:

- Two proofs of residency in the school district which include:
  1. A current lease agreement or proof of home ownership (mortgage statement, school/county/ town tax bill, homeowners insurance) AND
  2. A current utility bill (shut off or disconnect notices are not accepted) for that location. (electric, gas, water, cable/satellite, internet)
- Photo ID of the parent/guardian registering the child.
- Proof of Custody if the child is not residing with both biological parents.
- Child's original birth certificate( Passport or current VISA if child is not a US citizen)
- Current immunization records from clinic or health care provider
- Documentation of a New York State physical examination within 12 months of the start of school
- For new High School students, if possible, the student's transcript from the school last attended.

## UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN (UPK)

The Pre-Kindergarten program is a 5 day, full-day program. Classrooms are located in elementary buildings throughout the district. We currently do not hold a lottery for space but enrollment is dependent on space availability. Children must be four years of age on or by December 1, 2025 in order to enroll. Transportation is provided to all students who are 4 years old.

## KINDERGARTEN

Children that will be five (5) years old on or by December 1, 2025 are eligible for Kindergarten. Sweet Home offers a full day Kindergarten program in all four elementary schools.

## FAQ's

**WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE A LEASE?** If you do not have a current lease, you must provide the following: 1.) A notarized statement from the landlord acknowledging you and your child(ren) are residing at that address, 2.) Proof of homeownership for the property from the landlord AND 3.) A utility bill in your name for that address. Landlord statements can be found on our website. \*\*If you are unable to provide this please contact Central Registration to discuss your situation.

**WHAT DO I DO IF WE MOVE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR?** You must formally change your address with the Central Registration Office. Parents cannot notify the student's building personnel verbally or in writing about a change of address. This should be done as soon as your move takes effect to avoid interruption in transportation, your child's school attendance or receiving important school related information

- **IF YOU MOVE WITHIN THE DISTRICT\*\*:** Parents must complete a change of address form AND provide the two required proofs of residency. This form can be completed in person, mailed, emailed or faxed (but then the form must be notarized) and provide us with copies of your proof of residency.

\*\*Please note that elementary school attendance is assigned by street address. If you move outside of your child's school attendance zone (but still live within Sweet Home District boundaries) during the school year, your child can attend the same school until the end of the year by parent transportation only. If attendance to or pick up from school becomes problematic, this special permission may be revoked. The student will then be transferred to the building assigned to the address for the following school year. A district street listing with assigned elementary schools can be found on our website.

- **CAN I USE A POST OFFICE BOX AS MY MAILING ADDRESS?** YES. However, if you choose to change your mailing address to P.O. Box, the school district will not honor this request unless you recertify your continued residency in the school district by providing a current rental agreement, mortgage statement or tax bill AND a current utility bill. You must complete this change at Central Registration.
- **WHAT IF I MOVED OUT OF THE DISTRICT?\*** New York State Education Law and Sweet Home School Board Policy state that students must attend the school district in which his/her custodial parent or legal guardian resides. The school district does not have an open enrollment policy. Therefore if you move out of the Sweet Home School District, you must enroll in the school district in which you are now living. Non-Residents who continue to send their children to Sweet Home while living outside the school district are at risk for paying tuition for the time that their child is enrolled. A district street listing with assigned elementary schools can be found on our website.

## Other considerations:

\*If you have moved because of a life emergency or were displaced from your home due to an unplanned crisis, please call Anne Nowak at 716-250-1229 to discuss your situation to determine whether you may qualify for special circumstances.

**\*SENIOR STATUS:** This may also be granted for students who move after July 1 in the year in which they are in Grade 12. Students in good academic standing with no discipline issues, can submit a request in writing to the High School Principal. If Senior Status is granted, the parent/guardian is responsible for transportation to and from school. In addition, the district has the right to revoke this status if the student does not remain in good standing.

## Immunization Regulations for 2025-2026 School Year

New York State Department of Health - Bureau of Immunizations [Public Health Law [Section 2164] mandates updated proof of immunizations for school entry. Proof of immunization, history of disease, or serology must be presented at registration. Without proper documentation, students are not officially registered and will not be admitted to school.

The following vaccines are required for your child to attend school:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTP, DTap, Td)
- Polio
- Varicella, MMR, Pneumococcal, Hib, Hepatitis B, Meningitis
- Three to five doses are required of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis and polio, depending upon the grade and the age of the students
- 1 dose of MMR to start UPK 2, doses by Kindergarten
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B to start UPK
- 1 dose of Varicella to start UPK, 2 doses by Kindergarten
- 1 -4 doses of Hib to start UPK
- 1-4 doses of PCV to start UPK

## Tetanus Diphtheria and Pertussis Booster (Tdap)

One Tdap is required for those born on or after January 1, 1994 and entering grades 6-12 or a comparable age-level special education school or program. Documentation of Tdap vaccine must be submitted before September school entry or by the child's 11th birthday.

## Hepatitis B

Three doses are required of Hepatitis B. A fourth dose may be required depending on the age of the child when the series was started.

## Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

Two doses are required for students in grades K through 12. The first dose of MMR should be given no more than four days prior to the first birthday. The second dose should be given after the age of 15 months. One dose is required for Pre-K.

## Varicella (Chickenpox)

Two doses are required for entry into Kindergarten through Grade 12. One dose is required for entry into Pre-K.

## Haemophilus Influenza Type B (Hib)- Pre-K only

One to four doses are required for Pre-K students depending upon the age at which the series was started.

## Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)- Pre-K only

One to four doses are required for Pre-K students depending upon the age at which the series was started.

## Meningitis (MenAC WY, MCV4)

One dose is required for students entering Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. Two doses are required for students entering 12th grade (the second dose must be given on or after 16th birthday; if the first dose was given at age 16 or older, only one dose is required; if the second dose was given before age 16, a third dose is required).

## Exemptions:

Serology: Immunizations can be waived if there is laboratory/serological evidence of immunity for measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, or hepatitis B. A note stating that the student has had varicella disease from the student's health care provider is acceptable.

**Religious Exemption** - There is no religious exemption in New York as of June 13, 2019.

**Medical Exemption** – A physician licensed to practice in New York State must certify in writing that there is a health reason or condition for not immunizing a student with one or more of the vaccines. These medical exemptions must be reviewed and renewed every year. Forms for medical exemptions are available from your school nurse.

## Immunization Information and Appointments

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's Health Care Provider for scheduling needed immunizations. Erie County Department of Health Immunization Program at 858-7687 can provide limited immunizations for those without a medical home.

Contact your school nurse, the New York State Department of Health Immunization Program at 847-4501, or Erie County Department of Health at 858-2373 for further immunization information. Visit ECDOH website for updated immunization information and appointments at <http://www.erie.gov/health/services/immunization.asp>.

# School Health

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES PERSONNEL

Glendale Elementary ..... 250-1503  
Mrs. Morgan LePage, RN School Nurse

Heritage Heights Elementary.....250-1528  
Mrs. Ashley Neuman, RN School Nurse

Maplemere Elementary .....250-1553  
Mrs. Yelena Suffoletto, RN School Nurse

Willow Ridge Elementary .....250-1578  
Mrs. Kristin Puff, RN School Nurse

Sweet Home Middle.....250-1460  
Mrs. Shannon Hutchinson, RN School Nurse; Mrs. Connie Aarum, RN Health Assistant

Sweet Home High .....250-1205  
Mrs. Erica Duerr, RN School Nurse; Miss Sydney Borowski, LPN Health Assistant

Float Nurse: (vacant)

## SCHOOL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The following are required for school enrollment:

**1.** All students must be properly immunized to register and attend school (See separate section "Immunization Regulations"). Any exception to this mandate will be addressed on an individual basis.

**2.** A Health Appraisal Report is required for students in grades Pre-K, K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11, for new entrants, and for students entering a Committee of Special Education Program. The student's primary Health Care Provider or School Physician may complete the physical examination.

**3.** A Dental Health Certificate also is requested for students in Pre-K, Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, and for new entrants.

**4.** Proof of lead testing for preschool entry will be requested at registration. If your child does not have proof of lead testing, you will be provided with information on resources to obtain a lead test. Further information on lead poisoning is available at: <http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

## STUDENT HEALTH INFORMATION

Each student has an individual health file in the School Health Office. This file includes immunization dates, screening data for height, weight, body mass index, vision, hearing, scoliosis, and blood pressure, along with physical exam summaries and other health history information. New York State requires body mass index information to be reported on a bi-annual basis.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Student health and medical information, which is maintained by the district as part of a student's education record will remain confidential in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), other applicable federal and state laws and regulations, and/or district policy. Such information will not be disclosed without prior written consent of the parent (or the student if 18 years of age or older) to any individual or organization within or outside the district, unless otherwise permitted by law and/or district policy. Parents are encouraged to review the district's Annual Notice about rights concerning student records, for additional information about access to, and disclosure of, information in student education records, including health and medical information contained in those records.

## STUDENT EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Parents/guardians must complete and return a Student Emergency Information Form during the first weeks of each school year. This form includes emergency contact and health history information.

Although your child's medical history and health conditions are confidential, emergency information will be shared on a need to know basis with school and transportation personnel to protect your child's health and safety while at school. In addition, parents are responsible for discussing with the Transportation Supervisor and their child's bus driver(s) any medical condition that may require any emergency treatment during transport.

Under the law, schools may give nothing more than first aid treatment. Immediate notification of parents or an alternative person designated by the parents may be necessary when hospitalization or emergency medical care is required.

In the event of an accident or serious illness requiring medical intervention, every effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian. If the school is unable to contact the parent/guardian or a designated person on the emergency information form, the student will be transported by community emergency response team personnel according to medical direction provided by Emergency Medical System [EMS]. A hospital of choice might not be honored.

## SCHOOL PHYSICAL EXAMS

Buffalo Pediatric Associates, LLP provides physician coverage for Sweet Home Central School District. Dr. Robert Kaplan, MD is the SHCSD Medical Director and is responsible for school physical examinations.

## SCHOOL SCREENINGS:

Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted for all students in grades Pre-K, K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 11 and on an as-needed basis. Scoliosis screenings will be conducted for boys in grade 9 and for girls in grades 5 and 7.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Parents should not send students to school who are ill, or who present with an undiagnosed rash. Parents should contact their child's Health Care Provider and School Nurse for any questions or concerns regarding communicable diseases, and/or criteria for staying home and returning to school.

Students who are immunocompromised or who are not vaccinated against a communicable disease will be exempt from school during an outbreak until local health department personnel and/or Sweet Home Central School District Medical Director authorizes re-entry.

## MEDICATION

According to the New York State Education Department and New York State Department of Health Administration of Medication in the School Setting Guidelines, any medication to be administered in school must be brought to school by an adult to the School Nurse, and must be stored in the original bottle or container in which the medication was purchased or prescribed. Parents also are responsible for picking up any medication no longer being given or any medication left at the end of the school year.

A medical note from the student's Health Care Provider and written permission from the parent or guardian must be received before any medication is to be administered. The note(s) should include permission for school health personnel to administer the medication, along with a statement of the reason, the name of the drug and the amount and time to be given. This policy includes prescription medication as well as over-the-counter medication such as cough drops, aspirin, ibuprofen, acetaminophen, nasal sprays and inhalers, eye and ear medications, sprays and ointments for the skin.

Medication is secured in each Health Office. School Nurses are staffed in each school building and administer medication to students. Students will not be permitted to carry or have medication in their possession, unless designated as a 'Self-Directed-Self Carry' student by their health care provider. Parents should contact their child's School Nurse for further information.

Students may carry and use FDA approved sunscreen products as long as the student's parent or guardian provides written permission for the student to carry and use sunscreen. A student who is unable to physically apply sunscreen may be assisted by unlicensed personnel when directed to do so by the student, if permitted by a parent or guardian and authorized by the school.

## CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT & AWARENESS

Sweet Home Central School District follows the New York State Education Department Guidelines for Concussion Management in the School Setting. This provides school district personnel, parents/guardians, students, and private health providers with guidelines on head injury management in school settings. This protocol assists in identifying a student with a potential concussion, and ensures that a student who has been diagnosed with a head injury receives the appropriate care and attention at school to aid in his/her recovery.

## DISTRICT HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Representatives of various disciplines from all school buildings, service center, food service, and administrators, along with school board, parents and students meet regularly throughout the school year to discuss health initiatives and promote better health with improvements in curricula, food service and safety. Wellness related initiatives and activities are reviewed and discussed, and students empowered to make informed choices about their health and well-being.

Section 204 of the Child Nutrition and Women, Infants and Children Reauthorization Act of 2004 includes a provision which requires schoolsthat participate in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program or Special Milk Program to establish a local Wellness Policy by September 2006.

The intent of this legislation is for local school communities to model, foster and teach children to eat well and be physically active in order to achieve a lifetime of good health. The policy should include goals for nutrition and physical activity that reflect the unique needs of the student body and community. Included in the intent is transforming the way children eat at school. The legislation recognizes the vital role of schools in promoting healthier lifestyles and preventing overweight, and provides them with flexibility for autonomous local action.

Questions, comments or further input about health and safety issues throughout the district are welcomed by the committee. They can be directed to chairperson Donald Feldmann at 250-1406 or via email at [dfeldmann@sweethomeschools.org](mailto:dfeldmann@sweethomeschools.org).

# Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy

## Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy

All children in New York State ages 6 to 16 are required to attend school. Regular school attendance is a critical factor in student success. School attendance is both a right and a responsibility of all students.

The Sweet Home Central School District is an active partner with parents and students in ensuring that all students meet or exceed the New York State Learning Standards. To help reach that goal, the Sweet Home Central School District has adopted a Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy. Complete copies of the District Comprehensive Attendance Policy are available in the main offices of all district school buildings.

The New York State Education Department only considers the list below to be legal reasons for absence or tardiness:

- sickness or death in the family
- medical appointments
- religious holiday
- court appearance
- counseling appointment
- road test or college exploration
- school sponsored activities
- CSE meetings

## Absence Excuses

A written excuse is required of all students when they return to school from an absence or when tardy. Excuses should be written and signed by the parent/guardian, and include the reason for the absence/ tardy/ early and specify the date(s) and time of the absence or tardiness. Early dismissal also requires a note from parents designating time, reason and means of transportation. Students should be picked up in the main office of the school.

## Absences/Tardiness

A student who reaches 5 days of absences in the first ten weeks of school, or 8 days of absences in the first twenty weeks of school, or 12 days of absences in the first thirty weeks of school will be flagged as a possible attendance problem and the first intervention will be implemented. The second intervention will be implemented when a student reaches 8 days of absences in the first ten weeks of school, or 12 days of absences in the first twenty weeks of school, or 15 days of absences in the first thirty weeks of school. Excessive early dismissals may be addressed as well.

When it is determined that intervention is necessary, the following steps will be taken. Where appropriate, the student will be present / involved in levels of intervention. The District also reserves the right to conduct a home visit as a method of intervention at any level.

## District Wide Daily School Attendance Interventions

Where appropriate, the student will be present / involved in levels of intervention. The District also reserves the right to conduct a home visit as a method of intervention at any time.

**A.** Prior to the Start of School – A letter will be sent home to all students, including those that had attendance issues the school year prior, promoting regular school attendance as well as an excuse form that parents/guardians can fill out and sign in the instance of absence and/or tardiness. This form will be also available on the District website and the District will provide ways to make the form available for translation purposes.  
**B.** First Intervention - The first intervention is a letter sent to the parent/ person in parental relation requesting more information about the student absences and/or tardiness. The letter will encourage the parent/person in parental relation to promote regular school attendance and to monitor future absences. The school attendance policy and a copy of the student's attendance record will be included in the mailing. Acknowledgement of receipt of the letter is expected and will be accompanied by a phone call from the school to the parent / guardian.

**C.** Second Intervention – The second intervention is a meeting between parent/guardian of student and school officials. The purpose of the conference is to determine a course of action that will improve the student's attendance. A copy of the student's attendance record will be included during the meeting. In the conference, the committee will create a plan to improve attendance which includes offering the parent assistance to address any issues that may be impacting the child's ability to attend school. This may include actions such as referral to the Family Support Center, referral community support services, or a re-evaluation of appropriate school placement (if the student receives special education services). The parent will also be informed of possible building actions should the attendance issue continue including home visits or a referral to Child Protective Services for educational neglect.

**D.** Additional interventions - If attempts to reach the parent/guardian through phone calls, letter and request for a conference have been unsuccessful, or if the student continues to be absent from school (10 days absent in first ten weeks; 20 days absent in first twenty weeks; 30 days absent in first thirty weeks), the district will conduct a home visit as a further attempt to reach the parent/ address the issue. When a family has received two interventions, and exceeds the total number of days allowable absences by the District plan, school officials will pursue formal sanctions such as referral to CSE for a re-evaluation of appropriate placement, or referral to Child Protective Services for educational neglect, if appropriate.

## Middle/High School Period-to-Period Attendance Interventions

**A.** First Intervention - The first intervention is a phone call or email from the student's teacher sent to the parent/person in parental relation notifying about the student absences and/or tardiness. The communication will encourage the parent/person in parental relation to promote regular school attendance and to monitor future absences. .  
**B.** Second Intervention - If there is no response to the communication sent to the parent or when the attendance patterns do not show improvement and the teacher decides that further intervention is necessary, a letter requesting a conference with the parents/persons in parental relation will be sent by the school counselor. The purpose of the conference is to determine a course of action that will improve the student's attendance.  
**C.** Third Intervention - If attempts to reach the parent/guardian through phone calls, letter and request for a conference have been unsuccessful, or if the student continues to be absent from class periods, a building level administrator will contact the home in a further attempt to reach the parent/ address the issue.

## SICKNESS

A student who is absent due to a communicable disease will be readmitted only when all symptoms have subsided. A medical evaluation/ note from a Health Care Provider is required before returning to school. Please contact your child's school nurse for further direction.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXCUSES

All students are required to take physical education. Requests to be excused from elementary levels (Grades K-5) physical education classes for one week or less may be made with a note from the parent or a Health Care Provider. Exemptions beyond one week must be made in writing by a Health Care Provider. All requests to be excused from secondary level (Grades 6-12) physical education classes must be made in writing by a Health Care Provider.

## HOME INSTRUCTION

Any student who will be absent from school for a lengthy period of time (typically one week at the elementary level and two weeks at the secondary level) because of illness or injury may be eligible for home instruction.

Elementary students receive up to one hour of instruction each day and secondary students up to two hours. Parents should notify the school nurse at the elementary level and the school counselor at the secondary level immediately upon learning that a child faces prolonged absence. For further information about the Home Instruction program, please contact the Office of Special Programs at 250-1236.

## Working Papers

Applications for working papers for all 14-17 year-old students who plan to work part or full-time may be obtained in the Student Services office of the high school. Applicants who live in the district, whether or not they attend Sweet Home Schools, must apply in person at the Sweet Home High School Student Services office.

Applicants who attend the High School do not need proof of age; all others do. Proof of physical examination conducted within one year by a health care provider is needed, unless the student has had a physical examination for sports at school which would be recorded in the nurse's office. A parent signature is necessary. The employment certificate must be signed by the student while in the Student Services office. The Student Services office is open from 7:15am to 3:15pm Monday through Friday. Employment certificates for news carriers, ages 11 to 17, may be obtained by Sweet Home Middle School students in their school health office. All others should go to the high school Student Services office. A medical examination is not necessary for newspaper permits if the student participates in regular physical education classes at school. However, a form from the nurse at their school is needed to indicate a physical examination, or participation in physical education.

# Code of Conduct

This document is a plain language summary of the Sweet Home Central School District (SHCSD) Code of Conduct; it does not replace the complete Code of Conduct. A copy of the complete Sweet Home Code of Conduct is available on the Sweet Home website at: [www.sweethomeschools.org](http://www.sweethomeschools.org).

The SHCSD has established a Code of Conduct that identifies:

1. Introduction
2. Definitions
3. Students Rights & Responsibilities
4. The Role of Essential Partners
5. Student Civility & Dress Code
6. Prohibited Student Conduct
7. Reporting Violations
8. Disciplinary Consequences, Procedures & Referrals
9. Alternative Instruction
10. Discipline of Students with Disabilities
11. Prohibition of Corporal Punishment
12. Student Searches & Interrogations
13. Visitors to the Schools
14. Public Conduct on School Property
15. Dissemination of the Code of Conduct

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The SHCSD and the Sweet Home Board of Education are committed to providing a safe and orderly environment where our students will receive, and district personnel will deliver, quality educational services without disruption or interference. Appropriate and responsible behavior by students, teachers, district personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to providing such a safe school setting.

Sweet Home School District continually sets high expectations for conduct on school property and at school-related functions. These expectations are based on the qualities of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty, and integrity.

The Sweet Home Board of Education supports the importance of clearly defined expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, identifying the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct and ensuring that discipline is administered promptly and fairly.

All SHCSD employees must abide by and enforce school rules in a fair and consistent manner, and are expected to maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, sex or other legally protected category. Employees must report incidents of discrimination and harassment that are witnessed or otherwise brought to their attention to the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Dignity Act Coordinators (DAC's) or Civil Rights Compliance Officer (CRCO) in a timely manner. Similarly, students and parents are expected to report incidents of discrimination, harassment, and/or bullying for resolution.

SHCSD DAC's are as follows:

Sweet Home High School	Ben Morton Grade 9 John Pilato Grade 10 Ray Bailey Grade 11/12	(716) 250-1373 (716) 250-1214 (716) 250-1364
Sweet Home Middle School	Megan Hamm	(716) 250-1476
Glendale Elementary	Lynn Kawa	(716) 250-1512
Heritage Heights Elementary	Sal Glorioso	(716) 250-1533
Maplemere Elementary	Julie Eberle	(716) 250-1558
Willow Ridge Elementary	Wendy Januchowski	(716) 250-1597
Ready Academy	Matthew Capriotto	(716) 250-1640

SHCSD Civil Rights Compliance Officers (CRCO's) are as follows:

Sweet Home District Office	Dr. Finune Shaibi	(716) 250-1408
Sweet Home District Office	Donald Feldmann	(716) 250-1406

## 2. DEFINITIONS

Please refer to the full length version of SHCSD Code of Conduct for definitions of select terms utilized throughout this document.

## 3. STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

SHCSD is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal laws. Conversely, we expect our students to carry out their responsibilities in order for all students to receive the best education possible. Please refer to the full length version of SHCSD Code of Conduct for rights and responsibilities of students.

## 4. ROLE OF ESSENTIAL PARTNERS

Students, parents/guardians, instructional staff, administrators, the District Superintendent and the Board of Education all have an essential role in maintaining safe, orderly and effective schools. The roles and expectations for each of these individuals are specified in the full length version of SHCSD Code of Conduct.

## 5. STUDENT CIVILITY AND DRESS CODE

All student interaction and communication between one another, and with adults will be appropriate and civil. Students are expected to behave with dignity and treat others with courtesy and respect. Students should respect peers, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel. Individual behavior should not interfere with the rights of others. Students are expected to utilize language that is appropriate and respectful. Vulgar language including, but not limited to, negative comments based on race, ethnicity, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, sex, or other legally protected categories, and obscene comments or gestures toward others will not be tolerated.

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. All district personnel, including student teachers, should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress.

A student's dress, grooming and appearance shall be safe, appropriate and should not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.

School authorities may prohibit dress, which is so distracting as to interfere with the learning process.

Students are not permitted to wear items that are vulgar, obscene or libelous or that denigrate others. Clothing/accessories may not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities, and extremely brief garments, see-through garments and the exposure of undergarments are not appropriate in an educational setting. Students may not wear head covers, hoods, coats, jackets, earbuds/headphones, blankets or sunglasses during the course of the instructional day, except for those whose spiritual belief or medical condition dictates otherwise. Students must wear proper footwear.

## 6. PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

All students must promptly report any prohibited conduct to an administrator or teacher. No one who, in good faith, reports a violation will be retaliated against. However, a student who knowingly makes a false accusation will face disciplinary action.

Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Conduct that is disorderly or disruptive, including engaging in behavior that interferes with the health and safety of others, the learning environment, the school community, or SHCSD activities; engaging in any act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community; or trespassing;
- Conduct that is insubordinate, including failure to comply with the reasonable directive of teachers, administrators, and other SHCSD staff;
- Conduct that is violent, including threats of violence, acts of violence, possession of weapons and/or firearm, or the intentional destruction of property;
- Conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others, including lying to school personnel; stealing; defamation; discrimination; harassment or sexual harassment; intimidating, bullying or hazing; cyber violations, including inappropriate or unauthorized use of technology and/or the internet to engage in behaviors including, but not limited to bullying, intimidating, threatening, harassing, maligning and/or defaming others, accessing websites for non-academic purposes (e.g.social networking; media downloads, etc.), as well as use of unauthorized proxies or "tunneling"; possessing, using or selling alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and other prohibited substances and/or paraphernalia; using vulgar or abusive language; smoking of any form; gambling; inappropriate touching or indecent exposure; or initiating a false report of an emergency; failure to comply with Federal or State mandates related to a pandemic or other emergency or natural disaster.
- Misuse of technology, including displaying, using or having powered on, any personal technology equipment (i.e. mobile/cellular telephone, Smartwatch, camera, iPod, video camera, laptop, iPad, tablet, e-reader, laser pointer, etc.) or any other type of telecommunication, multimedia or imaging device during class or instructional time, except as expressly permitted in connection with authorized use in classrooms. This includes audio and video recording.

The Code of Conduct will be updated in September 2025 to reflect more information about our new Distraction Free Learning Plan. Check our website for the most updated Code of Conduct.

While students are permitted to possess such devices and their associated accessories (i.e. headphones, earbuds) during the school day, they are prohibited from using them in any manner that interferes with, or is disruptive of the educational process or invades the privacy of, or compromises the safety of students, employees, volunteers, or visitors. This includes in the restrooms and/or locker rooms and/or the videotaping of a physical or verbal altercation. Students are not permitted to use any form of information technology, including their own personal devices to intimidate, harass, or threaten others. This type of harassment is generally referred to as cyberbullying. If a student violates this prohibition, then he/she is subject to discipline under this provision and/or any other provision in this Code of Conduct that may be applicable to the circumstances involved.

Any electronic device that is permitted on school property is encouraged to be kept on the person and in a concealed manner. The Sweet Home Central School District is not responsible for loss or damage to any electronic device;

- Misconduct while at the bus stop or while on a school bus, including eating; smoking, fighting, using foul language, bringing unauthorized items on the bus, throwing items from the bus; extending any body part from the window of the bus; opening the main door of the bus; using the emergency door except in the case of a real emergency; or any other violation of the SHCSD Code of Conduct; and

# Code of Conduct (continued)

- Academic misconduct, including plagiarism (use of e.g. ChatGPT and/or artificial intelligence (AI) (Board of Education Policy 5840), cheating, collusion, forging, altering records, other forms of cheating or assisting others in any form of the aforementioned actions; The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate district/school rules will be required to accept the consequences for their conduct.

## 7. REPORTING VIOLATIONS

All students are expected to promptly report any violation of the Code of Conduct to a teacher or administrator. This includes incidents of other students or staff being harassed or discriminated against by students, school staff or other individuals on school property.

## 8. DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES, PROCEDURES AND REFERRALS

All district staff members who are authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions are expected to do so in a prompt, fair and lawful manner. Students who are found to violate the district's Code of Conduct may be subject to consequences, either alone or in combination, that includes:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Written notification to parents/guardians
- Detention
- Suspension from transportation
- Suspension from athletic participation
- Suspension from extracurricular activities
- Suspension of privileges
- In-school suspension
- Community service
- Removal from classroom
- Short-term suspension from school (five days or less)
- Long-term suspension from school (more than five days)
- Permanent suspension from school

Offenses by students in the following areas would usually result in building-level suspension of five days along with a referral to a Superintendent hearing: 1) use of alcohol/drugs; 2) fighting/physical altercation; 3) deliberate destruction of school property/vandalism; 4) theft of any kind; 5) sexual misconduct.

## 9. ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION

When a student of any age is removed from class by a teacher or a student of compulsory attendance age is suspended from school pursuant to Education Law § 3214, the district will take immediate steps to provide alternative means of instruction for the student.

## 10. DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Education recognizes that the need to address disruptive or problem behavior within its schools may result in the suspension, removal or other discipline of students with disabilities eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Article 89 of the Education Law (Article 89) and their implementing regulations. It also recognizes that these students with disabilities enjoy certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them.

## 11. PROHIBITION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

No teacher, administrator, officer, employee or agent of the District shall use corporal punishment against a pupil. Corporal punishment means any act of physical force upon a pupil for the purpose of punishing that pupil.

However, reasonable physical force may be used: to protect oneself, another pupil, teacher or any other person from physical injury; to protect the property of the school or others; or to restrain or remove a pupil whose behavior is interfering with the orderly exercise and performance of District functions, powers and duties, if that pupil has refused to comply with a request to refrain from further disruptive acts.

## 12. STUDENT SEARCHES OR INTERROGATIONS

School officials who are authorized to discipline students may question a student about any alleged violation of the law or the Code of Conduct. Officials are not required to contact parents/guardians before questioning a student. All students will be told why they are being questioned.

In addition, school property including lockers are subject to search by school officials at any time. Officials may also search students and/or their belongings if they have reasonable suspicion that the search will result in evidence that the student violated the law or Code of Conduct. More information about student searches and interrogations can be found in the complete Code of Conduct document.

It should be noted that district officials are committed to cooperating with police officials and child protective services to maintain a safe school environment. Specific procedures are detailed in the complete Code of Conduct.

## 13. VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents and other district citizens are encouraged to visit the district's schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers and other staff. Since schools are a place of work and learning, certain limits must be set for such visits. The building principal or his or her designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. The following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

- Anyone who is not a regular staff member, district employee, or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
- Prior to entering the building, all visitors should be prepared to provide government issued photo identification and state the purpose for their visit. They will be required to register through our Raptor Visitor Management System and will be issued a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must return the identification badge to the attendance office upon exiting the building.
- Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the classroom teacher(s).
- Teachers are not to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.
- Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave the building.
- All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property and at all school functions.

## 14. PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner, following all established school and district policies and regulations. All persons on school property or attending a school are expected to be properly attired for the purpose they are on school property.

Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Possess or use weapons in or on school property or at a school function, except in the case of law enforcement officers or specifically authorized by the school district.
- Intentionally injure any person or threaten to do so.
- Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, school programs or other school activities.
- Refuse to comply with any reasonable request of school district personnel, including but not limited to, leaving the property or moving a vehicle.
- Distribute or wear materials on school grounds or at school functions that are obscene, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others, or are disruptive to the school program.
- Intimidate, threaten, harass, bully, or discriminate against any person on the basis of the person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, creed, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
- Intentionally damage or destroy school district property or the personal property of a teacher, administrator, or other district employee, or any person lawfully on school property. This includes graffiti or arson.
- Enter any portion of the school premises without authorization or remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed.
- Obstructing the free movement of any person is any place to which this Code applies.
- Violate traffic directions, signs or traffic control devices, parking regulations or other restrictions on vehicles.
- Possess, consume, sell, distribute, share, or exchange alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or be under the influence of any such item on school property or at a school function.
- Smoke or use any tobacco or nicotine products, including e-cigarettes, on school property or grounds.
- Loiter on or about school property.
- Gamble on school property or at a school function.
- Violate the Acceptable Use of Technology procedures established by the District (this includes the Distraction Free School Policy).
- Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited by this Code.
- Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance or Board of Education policy while on school property or while at a school function.

Persons who violate this Code of Conduct shall be subject to the following penalties:

**1. Visitors/Spectators:** Their authorization, if any, to remain on school grounds or at school functions may be withdrawn/suspended and they may be directed to leave the premises. If they refuse to leave, they shall be subject to ejection by designated security or law enforcement officials.

Depending on the circumstances, they could be issued a no trespassing letter by the District, barring attendance on school property or at school functions. Violators will receive written notice of the District's determination.

**2. Students:** They may be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with due process requirements.

**3. School Personnel:** They may be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with due process requirements.

## 15. DISSEMINATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The complete Sweet Home Central School District Code of Conduct is available on the Sweet Home website at: [www.sweethomeschools.org](http://www.sweethomeschools.org).

Copies of the complete Code of Conduct are available by contacting Dr. Toyia Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, at (716) 250-1426.

The Code of Conduct is reviewed and updated as necessary each year. It is also approved by the Sweet Home Board of Education. This summary document is being distributed to all students and parents pursuant to New York State Education Law.

[Continues on next page...](#)

# Student Records

## Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents or eligible students (those over 18 years of age) certain rights concerning a student's education records that are maintained by the Sweet Home Central School District ("District").

"Education records" can include records directly related to a student and maintained by the District or an entity acting for or on behalf of the District. These records include but are not limited to, grades, transcripts, class lists, student course schedules, certain health records maintained by the District, and student discipline files.

You have the right to see and review your student's education records. If your student is still enrolled in the District, parents or eligible students should submit a written request to the building principal listing the record(s) they wish to see. If the student has transferred or graduated, the records are available in the Office of Curriculum & Instruction (716) 250-1422. Unless otherwise prohibited by law from being released, arrangements will be made for access to the education records within 45 days of the request. Both custodial and non-custodial parents have the right to see their child's education records unless the District has been provided with a certified copy of a court order or other legally binding document that specifically restricts such access.

You have the right to request that your student's education records be amended if you believe they include information that is inaccurate, misleading, or a violation of your student's privacy. Parents or eligible students should write to the building principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specify why they believe it is inaccurate, misleading, or an invasion of your student's privacy. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested, you will be notified of your right to a hearing regarding the request and provided with additional information regarding the hearing procedures.

Generally, the District may not disclose student education records to a third party unless the student's parent has provided prior written consent. However, there are a number of exceptions to FERPA's general consent requirement. One exception, which allows disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official has a legitimate educational interest in an education record of a student if he or she needs to review the information in the education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. For this purpose, "school official" includes: a person employed by or under contract to the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, counselor, therapist, support staff member (including transportation staff), or other service provider (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel, if applicable); a person serving on the District's Board of Education; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical or educational consultant, outside educational evaluator, expert witness, or the District's insurance carrier); or a parent or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks (for example, home room parent volunteers, field trip chaperones, student volunteers).

The District may disclose a student's educational records to officials of another school or school district. Upon request, the District discloses education records without prior consent to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or to another agency, such as a BOCES, where the student is enrolled or receives services.

Another exception for the requirement of prior written consent under FERPA is directory information. Student directory information is: the student's name; address; telephone listing; date of birth, grade level; participation in officially recognized activities or sports; weight and height (if members of athletic teams); dates of attendance; and honors, degrees and awards received.

From time to time, the District releases this type of directory information about students within the District or to outside organizations without prior consent. Examples include: to local news media (newspaper, television, radio) for articles or announcements about school activities; in public displays sponsored by the District or an individual school (including the honor roll, merit roll or other recognition lists); in the annual yearbook; in District or school-sponsored promotional information (graduation programs; school newsletters; programs or playbills for sports or cultural events; videotapes, etc.); or via the World Wide Web, in District or school-sponsored web-sites or other Internet-related activities.

If you do not want directory information released, you must notify the building principal in writing and specify what types of directory information you do not want released. The written notice to the principal about directory information must be received no later than September 15 of each year (or within 15 days of enrolling in the district).

Under federal law, the District is required to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of its secondary school students upon request. If you object to the release of that information, you must also notify the building principal in writing, and specify whether you object to release of the information to military recruiters, institutions of higher education, or both. The written notice to the principal about military recruiters and institutions of higher education must be received no later than September 15 of each year (or within 15 days of enrolling in the district).

Should you wish additional information about other circumstances in which FERPA allows for the disclosure of education records without consent, please contact the building principal.

Finally, you have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if you believe that the District has violated your rights regarding education records. You may send your written complaint to the Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520.

## Student Data Privacy and Protection

The District posts a Parents' Bill of Rights for data privacy and security on its website. The Bill of Rights informs parents of the legal requirements regarding privacy, security, and use of student data when the district contracts with third party vendors.

## Protection of Pupil Rights

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

## These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education or is issued by a "third party":

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents;
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

## Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

1. Any other survey seeking information about these 8 protected areas regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law;
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others unless mandated by Federal or State law and/or regulation.

## Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales or other distribution purposes;
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

For further information see Board of Education Policy 7250. These requirements do not apply to surveys administered in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, nor does this policy supercede the requirements of FERPA. These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law. Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-8520.

## FOR PARENTS

### STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Sweet Home Central School District does not have or provide student accident insurance.

### COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

At Sweet Home, we feel that it is vitally important for children to see a distinct spirit of cooperation between home and school. We encourage parents to become active in the educational development of their children, and to do what they can to help make learning a positive experience. Parents who wish to arrange for a personal visit and a constructive exchange of views should feel free to call their child's school. If requested, calls or meetings between parents and teachers or administrators can be kept confidential.

### OPEN HOUSES

Each of the six district schools holds an Open House in the fall for parents, grandparents and community members to see the schools. Here, they will meet teachers and principals, see classrooms and special projects and introduce themselves to other parents.

### Open Houses scheduled for 2025-26:

**Glendale: 6pm; Thursday, September 18**

**Heritage Heights: 6pm; Thursday, September 11**

**Maplemere: 5:30pm; Wednesday, September 17**

**Willow Ridge: 5:30pm, Friday, September 12**

**Middle School: 6pm; Tuesday, September 16**

**High School: 5:30pm; Wednesday, September 10**

### PARENT - TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS

Sweet Home Central School District is very proud of its relationship with its school community. The parent-teacher organizations in each school building are critical in supporting strong school to parent communication. Information on each organization can be found on school websites. We thank these individuals for serving as presidents for the 2022-23 school year.

#### PTA Presidents

GL - Jamie Mancine

HH - Co-Presidents: Kristen Keller, Meggan Broomfield

MM - Jessica Rashko

WR - Co-Presidents: Jesica Kenney & Linda Kho

MS - Michelle Thorpe

HS - Missy Liska

### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled during the school year to help parents get to know their child's teacher and classroom. Conferences also allow parents and teachers to work together to solve problems and establish goals for students.

#### Elementary Conferences for 2025-26

Full day of conferences.....Friday, December 12

#### Middle School Conferences for 2025-26

Evening conferences.....Thursday, December 4, 4:00-7:55pm

#### High School Conferences for 2025-26

Evening conferences.....Thursday, December 4, 3:00-6:00pm

### PARENT IDENTIFICATION

When an elementary school or middle school student is picked up or met by a parent or other family member or friend, the person calling for the student must meet the student in the school office. This arrangement ensures proper identification. Estranged parents may be required to prove custody or be cleared through permission of the other parent.

### DISTRACTION FREE SCHOOL ZONE

To learn more about Sweet Home's Distraction Free School Zone expectations and answers to frequently asked questions, scan the QR code or visit our website at [sweethomeschools.org/distraction-free-learning-plan](http://sweethomeschools.org/distraction-free-learning-plan).



# Sweet Home Family Support

The Family Support Center is another level of intervention in the district's student support services. If students and/or their families are struggling with issues such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem/self-image, substance use, communication issues, peer relationships, social skills, serious school academic or behavior concerns, family conflicts or instability with housing or basic needs, we can help. Our program will assist parents with getting their children and families the most appropriate, affordable support in a timely manner. We can also assist parents/caregivers with their own counseling needs or parenting support.

For the convenience of our families and students, we currently offer on-site mental health counseling from BestSelf Behavioral Health, Community Health Center of Buffalo, Gateway-Longview Behavioral Health Clinic, Horizon Health Services and Williamsville Wellness Center. Families can also be linked to counseling with other providers in the community.

If families are looking for health insurance, financial assistance, housing or recreation programs, we can help find those services in our community as well. We strive to be a "one stop shop" for Sweet Home families.

Throughout the year, the Family Support Center sponsors programs including workshops on a variety of topics (ex. parenting issues, mental health, suicide prevention and drug/alcohol

awareness/prevention) and our annual Back to School Pop Up Pantry.

In addition, we have a clothing closet and a school supply closet.

The regular office hours are 7:30am to 3:45pm Monday through Friday.

The Family Support Center is made possible through a collaboration of many organizations: Amherst Youth and Community Coalition, Town of Amherst Police Department, Town of Amherst Youth and Recreation Department, BestSelf Behavioral Health, Community Health center of Buffalo, Discovering Balance, DumasRise, LLC, Envision Wellness, Erie County Child Protective Services, Family Help Center, Gateway-Longview Behavioral Health Clinic, HighMark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Horizon Health Services, Just for Kids, Mental Health Advocates of WNY, Mindful Healing Connections, New Directions, The Prevention Council of Erie County, People Inc., Parent Network of WNY, St. Christopher's Outreach, Williamsville Wellness Center and Violanti Counseling.

For more information call Anne Nowak, Coordinator, at 250-1229 or Kim Panepinto, Administrative Assistant at 250-1228. We can be reached by email at [anowak@sweethomeschools.org](mailto:anowak@sweethomeschools.org) or visit our web page on the District's website.

# Student Services, Guidance & Counseling

All Sweet Home schools have qualified/certified counselors and staff in the Student Services, Guidance & Counseling Departments to assist students with scheduling and career and course planning. These individuals also assist students to solve problems in many areas.

## HIGH SCHOOL 250-1216

Students in grades 9-12 are assigned to a counselor according to the student's last name.

### COUNSELORS

Grade 9: Mr. Collin Reid  
 Grade 10: Mr. Scott Harriger  
 Grade 11: Mr. Ty Critelli  
 Grade 12: Ms. Andrea Siwec

### CRISIS COUNSELOR Dr. Keli Luchey

## READY ACADEMY 250-1640

Matthew Capriotto

## MIDDLE SCHOOL 250-1459

Students in grades 6-8 are assigned to a counselor according to the student's grade level.

### COUNSELORS

Grade 6: Cheryl Palmer  
 Grade 7: Brandon Woods  
 Grade 8: Morgan Wiacek

## ELEMENTARY

Sweet Home is pleased to provide one, full-time guidance counselor per elementary building. Counselors along with their phone numbers are listed below.

### GLENDALE

Lynn Kawa 250-1500

### HERITAGE HEIGHTS

Salvatore Glorioso 250-1525

### MAPLEMERE

Julie Eberle 250-1550

### WILLOW RIDGE

Wendy Januchowski 250-1575

# Sweet Home Community

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Sweet Home's alumni is one of the largest, most diverse groups of the district. The Sweet Home Alumni Association, formed in 1990, brings that group together to support education and to keep in contact with one another through get-togethers, reunions and monthly planning meetings.

All alumni are welcome to attend any Alumni Association meeting. Meetings normally are held at 5:00pm the first Monday of each month in Vergils Community Center. Specific meeting dates are indicated on this calendar.

The Alumni Association will publish its thirty-fifth newsletter in November 2024. The \$25 fee for membership dues supports the newsletter, as well as the scholarship fund. Each year at least four scholarships are awarded, one of which goes to the son/daughter of a Sweet Home graduate. Donations to this fund are welcome and tax deductible. Contact Nicole Kuss, Alumni Coordinator, at 250-1295 to update your address so that you will be contacted for reunions and other alumni activities.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

An unusually comprehensive program of community education is offered at Sweet Home. For adults, there are evening classes ranging from fitness to business skills to special interest and craft courses.

For children, several sports camps and leagues are available. Classes in SAT preparation and five-hour safe driving courses are among the offerings for high schoolers.

Those wishing to suggest new programs or obtain further information regarding Sweet Home Community Education should call 250-1424.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & SERVICE

Throughout its history, the Sweet Home Central School District has traditionally had strong ties with the community. Through school-community partnerships and the wide range of community service activities undertaken each year at all Sweet Home schools, civic-minded alliances and efforts are highly visible throughout the District.

As outlined in Sweet Home's strategic plan, "school community partnerships are essential to education." This statement is reflected by district institutions such as the Sweet Home Family Support Center, the Dollars for Scholars Program, Sweet Home Community Education and active Parent Teacher Associations at each school building. From the elementary schools to the high school, community service initiatives have raised several thousand dollars for local charities and community causes. Examples include: school service clubs, collecting change and selling flowers for Hospice, gathering food and personal care items for the Food Bank of WNY and volunteering time at local nursing homes and soup kitchens.

## LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

The Sweet Home Schools have formed a productive partnership with the Amherst libraries. A committee representing school librarians, teachers and administrators meets regularly with Amherst Library representatives to create joint programming that encourages parent/child enjoyment of public libraries and cooperation in sharing of resources.

The Sweet Home Schools encourage the use of public libraries. Following is a listing of hours for the libraries within the Sweet Home Central School District:

Main Library of Audubon  
 350 John James Audubon Parkway, West Amherst  
 HOURS: M-Th, 10am - 9pm / Fri. & Sat., 10am - 6pm

## SWEET HOME SOURCE MAGAZINE

At Sweet Home, we are proud to utilize multiple methods of communication to connect with our students, families, and the greater community. Sweet Home Source Magazine is one example of our ongoing efforts to enhance the district's communication practices and strategies.

Our aim is to not only keep you well-informed, but also to foster a sense of unity and pride within our community. Sweet Home Source Magazine serves as a comprehensive resource, featuring stories that highlight the achievements of our students, faculty, and staff, as well as providing insights into our district's educational initiatives, events, and community partnerships.

Sweet Home Source is mailed to district residents and featured digitally on our website and social media platforms.

For suggestions or questions regarding this publication, reach out to Christine Lyle, Coordinator of Public Relations, at [clyle@sweethomeschools.org](mailto:clyle@sweethomeschools.org).

## DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Sweet Home's Dollars for Scholars chapter was formed in 1989 to initiate focused scholarship fund-raising efforts. The chapter's affiliation with the Citizen's Scholarship Foundation of America permits Dollars for Scholars awards to be matched by participating schools, colleges and universities. Dollars for Scholars' purpose is to encourage all students to pursue post-high school education, including students not traditionally thought to be scholarship winners. Approximately \$108,000 in scholarships was awarded to graduates this year under the direction of Dollars for Scholars.

Sweet Home's Dollars for Scholars sponsors several fundraising activities each year, including a craft show, phone-athon, District Music Festival, golf outing, chicken barbeques and meat raffles.

Community members are welcome to become involved with Dollars for Scholars. The committee meets regularly to discuss projects and fund-raising ideas to generate scholarship money for Sweet Home students. For more information, call Don Feldmann, Chairperson, at 250-1406.

# Transportation

Our Sweet Home buses travel more than 730,000 miles annually reaching out to all areas of the District. The routes are worked out to minimize mileage and fuel consumption and to maximize student safety. All drivers complete a minimum of 30 hours of classroom training during the first year of service and a minimum of five additional hours each year thereafter. Every two years drivers are encouraged to take a 10 hour advanced driver safety course. Criminal history checks are conducted before a driver is hired. Each driver must pass a road test every other year. Drivers are subject to random drug and alcohol testing and must pass a physical performance test. All buses at Sweet Home are checked daily for safety prior to each shift and receive a thorough inspection each month. When roads are wet or icy, some delay in bus schedules can be expected. Most buses serve three schools on regular intervals. Sweet Home buses deliver students to our six schools and more than 60 other public, private and parochial schools in the Buffalo area. Emergency safety drills are conducted a minimum of three times each year on every bus. Additional bus safety training is conducted in the classroom for our youngest passengers.

If you move within the school district, you must officially change your address with the Central Registration office by completing the necessary paperwork and providing proof of your new address. Central Registration will then notify the Transportation Department and your child's bus arrangements will be made for your new address. Parents should not call transportation to request a change in bussing.

Questions regarding transportation may be directed to the Supervisor of Transportation. The transportation offices are south of the High School on Sweet Home Road and the telephone number is 250-1435.

## Stopfinder App

Sweet Home CSD utilizes the Stopfinder app, a way to track your student's bus schedule and receive updates. Contact our Transportation Department at businfo@sweethomeschools.org to activate a Stopfinder account for your family.

## BUS REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS STUDENTS SHOULD ALWAYS:

- Be waiting for the bus 5 minutes before the bus arrives. Drivers will not stop unless the student is visible to the driver.
- Board and leave the bus at the appropriate stop.
- Board in an orderly manner and be seated as quickly as possible.
- Remain seated until the bus stops or the driver signals.
- Cross the street at least 15 feet in front of the bus, wait for the driver's hand signal and make sure that all traffic has stopped.
- Respect the bus driver and obey instructions.

## STUDENTS SHOULD NOT:

- Wait on private lawns or in the street or approach the bus before it comes to a complete stop.
- Bring live animals, unwrapped glass containers, aerosol cans or packages having any dimension (length & height & width) exceeding three feet.
- Extend legs, arms or head out of the bus windows.
- Throw items out of the window or within the bus.
- Smoke, eat, fight or use foul language.
- Open the doors themselves.
- Use the emergency door except in emergencies.

# Special Education

Should you suspect that your child may have a disability, please contact the Sweet Home Special Education Office to make a referral:

- Mrs. Kathryn Barillari, Director of Special Programs: (716) 250-1234
- Mrs. Lindsay Marcinelli, Assistant Director of Special Programs (716) 250-1237
- Mrs. Amanda Hoffman, CSE/CPSE Chair (716) 250-1643

## COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Committee on Special Education reviews all student referrals for special education eligibility as required by law. This Committee is made up of professionals involved with the individual student and the student's parent.

The Committee determines the appropriate services for students with academic, emotional, social and /or physical disabilities. Recommendations may include special education teacher services, full or part-time special education classes, and/or related services such as speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy and counseling.

## COMMITTEE ON PRE-SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION

All children with disabilities ages 3-5 are eligible to receive Special Education services as determined by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education. The Committee is made up of individuals from the school district, the evaluating agency, Erie County, the child's parent and a parent representative. This Committee determines the appropriateness of services for pre-school children, which may include full and half-day center- based programs, integrated programs, speech therapy or occupational and physical therapy.

## CONSULTANT PROGRAM

For students in regular classes who require special education assistance, Sweet Home provides consultant teacher services. These services can be provided to an individual or groups of students and are delivered by a special education teacher in the general education class. The services can be provided directly to the student or indirectly through the child's regular education teacher. Services are offered for a minimum of 120 minutes a week.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSES

Sweet Home offers more intensive special education support for students with disabilities that interfere with their ability to benefit from regular class placement.

## RESOURCE ROOM PROGRAM

Sweet Home provides resource room assistance for some students needing special education assistance. Students are assigned to the resource room on a regularly scheduled basis, while continuing their other studies in regular classrooms during most of each school day.

# Progress Reports

## Elementary School

Elementary students receive periodic progress reports that are sent home for review. Parent/teacher conference days are scheduled in order to allow time for the home and school to review student progress. Whenever an elementary parent/teacher conference day is scheduled, students in grades K-5 will not be in attendance.

## Middle School

Report cards are mailed home for all four marking periods. Progress report cards are issued 5-weeks into each quarter for any student who is failing two or more subjects. Progress reports are also mailed home. All grades are available to view online through powerschool for parents and students. Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled in December by appointment only. These conferences are scheduled in order to allow time for the home and school to review student progress.

## High School

Report cards are mailed directly to the home following each of the four marking periods. As with Middle School students, interim report cards are issued at any time in instances where students are doing less than satisfactory work.

# Emergency School Closings

If the cancellation of the school day appears possible during poor weather conditions, parents should turn to the following radio and television stations:

WBEN AM 930  
WGRZ-TV Channel 2 - "Daybreak" beginning at 5 AM  
WIVB-TV Channel 4 - "Wake Up" beginning at 5 AM  
WKBW-TV Channel 7 - "Eyewitness News This Morning" beginning at 5 AM

District website/social media: When closing information becomes available it will be posted on the district website at: www.sweethomeschools.org as well as our social media feeds on Twitter, Instagram, & Facebook (@SweetHomeCSD).

School cancellation is decided only after a thorough check with the Weather Bureau, the district transportation office, local police, and highway authorities. If school has to be closed earlier than usual the school district will contact local radio and TV stations and local police officials. Where possible, school officers will attempt to make telephone contact with PTA officers to seek assistance in notifying parents. If parents are not home when elementary youngsters are scheduled for early dismissal, those named on the student's emergency card will be notified.

Community Education classes are automatically canceled if school is closed that day.

# Breakfast & Lunch Program

Sweet Home Central School District is pleased to inform our families that Sweet Home will be implementing a meal certification option for all six of our district buildings available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs for the 2025-26 school year.

What does this mean for children that attend a Sweet Home Central School District school? All students enrolled at Glendale Elementary, Heritage Heights Elementary, Maplemere Elementary, Willow Ridge Elementary, Sweet Home Middle and Sweet Home High are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and healthy lunch at school for "NO COST" every day for the entire 2025-26 school year.

To ensure your child continues to receive free meals - and to ensure the free meal program can continue - the district is requesting each and every household to complete a Household Income Form, only if you qualify, which can be found below or in any one of the district buildings.

Further questions on this program can be directed to our Food Service Director, Mrs. Kristi Sajdak, at 250-1446 or via email at ksajdak@sweethomeschools.org.

CEP Household Income Form INSTRUCTIONS	
<b>PART 1</b>	<b>ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE FORM FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.</b> (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one form. (2) List their grade and school. (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, and check the box for each child with no income.
<b>PART 2</b>	<b>HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.</b> (1) List a current SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. Do not use the 16-digit number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter. (2) An adult household member must sign the form in PART 4. <b>SKIP PART 3</b> - Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number.
<b>PARTS 3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE ALL OF PARTS 3 AND 4.</b> (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are completing the form for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people living in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space. (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. <b>Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.</b> The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should <b>not</b> be considered as income for this program.

## PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

**Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)  
Household Income Eligibility Form**

**Sweet Home CSD** is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). All children in these schools will receive meals at no charge regardless of household income or completion of this form. This form is to determine eligibility for additional State and federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for. Read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and return it to the school named above. Call [Kristi Sajdak @ 716-250-1446](mailto:Kristi.Sajdak@716-250-1446) if you need help.

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	No Income
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. Skip to Part 5, and sign the application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CASE # \_\_\_\_\_

3. Household Gross Income: List all people living in your household, how much and how often they are paid (weekly, every other week, twice per month, monthly). Do not leave income blank. If no income, check box. If you have listed a foster child above, you must report their personal income.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Child Support, Alimony <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Pensions, Retirement Payments <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Other Income, Social Security <i>Amount / How Often</i>	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school may receive federal funds. The school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY		
<b>Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)</b> <b>Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12</b>		
SNAP/TANF/Foster Income	Total Household Income/How Often:	Household Size:
Free Eligibility	Reduced Eligibility	Denied Eligibility
Signature of Reviewing Official _____		

# Summary of Religious Holidays

The mission of the District's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is to "cultivate a community where all members experience a sense of belonging". To this end, it is important to honor and celebrate the many religious holidays celebrated throughout our community. The purpose of listing these days is to assist staff, students and community members in their awareness and understanding of the many religions in the Sweet Home community.

Please note that: 1) all Jewish and Baha'i holidays begin at sunset the previous day; 2) Hindu and Jain holidays are calculated on a lunar calendar and therefore observed at different times in different regions of the country and; 3) some religions have different sects which may celebrate different religious holidays on different dates.

We have worked hard to ensure as accurate a representation of the religions of our community as possible. The calendar is not intended to include all religious holidays. Additional religious holidays are shared with District staff prior to the opening of school for use in the instructional program and to maintain sensitivity to the needs of students from differing religions. If you have a question or suggestion for future calendars, please call Dr. Toyia Wilson, Chair of the DEI Committee, at 250-1422.

Below is a summary of 2024-25 religious holidays. Sources for the descriptions were local community members, The Multifaith Calendar and the Interfaith Calendar at [www.interfaith-calendar.org](http://www.interfaith-calendar.org). For more information on our DEI work, please visit the District website at [www.sweethomeschools.org](http://www.sweethomeschools.org).

**September 22-24, 2025**  
Rosh Hashanah (J) – Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence, prayer, and penitence.

**October 1-2, 2025**  
Yom Kippur (J) – Jewish Day of Atonement. Holiest day in Judaism, observed with strict fasting and repentance.

**October 2, 2025**  
Dasara (H) – Hindu celebration of the triumph of good over evil, honoring Lord Rama.

**October 6-13, 2025**  
Sukkot (J) – Jewish Feast of Tabernacles. Celebrates the harvest and Israel's protection in the wilderness.

**October 13-15, 2025**  
Shemini Atzeret (J) – Jewish conclusion of the Torah reading cycle.

**October 14-15, 2025**  
Simchat Torah (J) – Jewish celebration of the Torah with readings and processions.

**October 20-21, 2025**  
Diwali (H, JA) – Hindu Festival of Lights symbolizing hope, light, and triumph of good.

**October 22, 2025**  
Birth of the Báb (BA) – Baha'i observance honoring the forerunner of Baha'u'llah.

**October 23, 2025**  
Birth of Baha'u'llah (BA) – Baha'i celebration of the founder of the faith.

**November 5, 2025**  
Birth of Guru Nanak (S) – Sikh honoring of the founder's birthday.

**December 8, 2025**  
Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) (B) – Commemorates the Buddha's Enlightenment.

**December 25, 2025**  
Christmas (C) – Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

**December 14-22, 2025**  
Hanukkah (J) – Jewish Festival of Lights. Celebrates liberty and miracles.

**January 20, 2026**  
Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (S) – Sikh observance of the Khalsa founder's birth.

**February 15-16, 2026**  
Maha Shivaratri (H) – Hindu festival honoring Lord Shiva and his marriage.

**February 17 – March 19, 2026**  
Ramadan begins (I) – Month of fasting from sunrise to sunset for Muslims.

**February 18, 2026**  
Ash Wednesday (C) – Beginning of Lent with ashes symbolizing repentance.

**March 4, 2026**  
Purim (J) – Jewish celebration of deliverance from persecution in ancient Persia.

**March 21, 2026**  
Naw Ruz (BA) – Baha'i New Year marking spiritual renewal.

**March 26, 2026**  
Ramanavami (H) – Hindu celebration of the birth of Lord Rama.

**March 29, 2026**  
Palm Sunday (C) – Christian marking of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

**April 1, 2026**  
Passover begins (J) – Commemoration of Jewish liberation from slavery in Egypt.

**April 3, 2026**  
Good Friday (C) – Christian commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus.

**April 5, 2026**  
Easter (C) – Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**April 14, 2026**  
Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) (S & H) – Sikh New Year and celebration of the Khalsa; also a Hindu new year festival.

**April 20 – May 2, 2026**  
Ridvan (BA) – Baha'i celebration of Baha'u'llah's declaration as God's messenger.

**May 23-24, 2026**  
Declaration of the Báb (BA) – Marks the Báb's announcement of his divine mission.

**May 28-29, 2026**  
Ascension of Baha'u'llah (BA) – Commemorates the death of the founder of the Baha'i faith.

**May 21-23, 2026**  
Shavuot (J) – Jewish festival celebrating the giving of the Torah at Sinai.

**June 16, 2026**  
Guru Arjan Dev Martyrdom (S) – Honors the first Sikh martyr.

**July 10, 2026**  
Martyrdom of the Báb (BA) – Baha'i remembrance of the execution of the Báb.

**Key**  
I = Islam      J = Judaism      BA = Baha'i  
H = Hinduism      S = Sikh      B = Buddhism  
C = Christian