



## The Importance of School Attendance: Every Day Counts when Building a Legend

At Letchworth CSD, we care deeply about the success and well-being of every student. One important factor that plays a major role in a child's academic achievement – and even their sense of belonging at school – is **consistent attendance**.



### What Is Chronic Absenteeism?

Chronic absenteeism means missing **10% or more of school days** in a year – that's about **18 days or just two days per month**. These absences, whether excused or unexcused, add up quickly and can make it difficult for students to keep up with lessons, build strong study habits, and stay connected to their school community.

### Why Attendance Matters

Regular attendance helps students:

- Keep up with academic expectations and classroom learning
- Develop social skills and positive relationships
- Build habits of responsibility and perseverance that last into adulthood.

Even a few absences can impact a child's progress. Research consistently shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to succeed – academically, socially, and emotionally.

### When Absences Are Necessary

We understand that there will be times when a student needs to miss school due to illness or family emergencies. Your child's health always comes first. If your student is sick, please keep them home and communicate with the school about the reason for the absence. Our goal is not to punish absences, but to partner with families to ensure every child has the best opportunity to learn and thrive.

### Our Support and Next Steps

To support our students, we are closely monitoring attendance patterns. If we notice that absences are becoming frequent or approaching the threshold for chronic absenteeism, we will reach out – by letter or phone – to work together on a plan to help your child get back on track. This may include connecting with resources, discussing challenges, or finding ways to support consistent attendance.

### Together..WE are Letchworth

Your partnership makes all the difference. Encouraging your child to attend school every day helps set them up for success – both now and in the future. Let's work together to ensure every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and achieve their full potential. Thank you for your continued support and care.

We Build LEGENDS,

Todd Campbell, Superintendent



## LETCHWORTH 'S LITTLEST LEARNERS

enjoyed an afternoon of fun at Woodstream Campgrounds earlier this month. Owners, Sylvain and Linda Scalabrini welcomed us with smiles as we enjoyed a picnic lunch, playtime on their new play castle, and a relaxing wagon ride around the campground. To top it off, each student enjoyed an ice cream with sprinkles before heading back to school. We looked for signs of Fall and enjoyed the beautiful afternoon in nature. We all had such a great time and can't thank them enough for welcoming us and spending some time entertaining us.

Our Littlest Learners also had lots of visitors this month. They learned all about Fire Safety from the amazing local Fire Department volunteers. We can't think them enough for devoting so much of their time to helping serve our communities. We have a favorite Fireman...Mr. Tallman, who happens to be our PE teacher.

We had visitors from Mr. Hess's class read and play with us, which was a lot of fun. We can't wait for them to come back again.

Officer Ivan also came to visit and share all about what he does here at school and how he can help us if we need it. We are hoping he joins us for lunch again soon!

What a busy month! We can't wait to see what next month brings!



## 2025 AGRICULTURAL INTERNSHIP SUMMARY

This summer, CCE Wyoming County successfully launched its pilot Agricultural Intern Program, welcoming two outstanding high school students—Sage Schroeder and Addison Ferron—as our inaugural interns.

Sage, a senior at Letchworth Central School and NYS FFA District 9 President, brought exceptional leadership and dedication to the program. She drew on her experience running two Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) and leading her Agricultural Issues team to a state championship. During the internship, Sage contributed to a mushroom-growing session focused on niche agricultural crops and demonstrated how to create garden bouquets at the fair booth.

Addison, entering her junior year at Letchworth, served as Wyoming County’s Associate Dairy Ambassador. She explored honeybee management and played an active role in preparing and staffing the fair booth.

Throughout the five-week program, both interns gained hands-on experience in agriculture while developing professional skills in communication, time management, and teamwork.

CCE Wyoming County is excited to continue offering this opportunity to future students interested in agriculture and community service.

Article submitted by Caron Gala, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County for use in this newsletter.



## LETCHWORTH FFA HOSTS ANNUAL HAYRIDE EVENT

The Letchworth FFA Chapter recently hosted its annual fall hayride, and it couldn’t have been held on a more beautiful weekend! The crisp autumn air and stunning countryside views set the perfect backdrop for an evening of fun, friendship, and FFA spirit.

Members from neighboring chapters: Attica, Warsaw, and Oakfield-Alabama joined in on the festivities, making it a memorable multi-chapter event. Thanks to Mr. Hess and Mr. Wilcox, students enjoyed a relaxing hayride through the rolling countryside before returning for yard games, great food, and plenty of laughter.

As the sun set, everyone gathered around a cozy campfire to end the evening with warmth, conversation, and s’mores. A special thank you goes out to the Ayers and Koerner families for generously providing the tractor, wagons, and hay bales that made the event possible.

It was truly a night to remember, a perfect way to celebrate fall, friendship, and the FFA spirit!



# WELCOME TO OUR NEW LCS STAFF

## DANIELA ANTOLOS, PSYCH INTERN

We're pleased to welcome Ms. Antolos to our district as a School Psychologist Intern for the 2025–2026 school year!

Ms. Antolos grew up in Warsaw, NY, with her parents, older sister, and older brother. She completed her undergraduate degree at SUNY Brockport and is currently finishing the final year of her master's program in School Psychology at Roberts Wesleyan University.

Outside of school, Ms. Antolos enjoys playing volleyball, spending time with friends, going for walks, and attending country music concerts.

She was drawn to the field of school psychology out of a passion for supporting students both individually and systemically. Her goal is to build strong, supportive relationships and help create positive school environments where all students can thrive.



She earned her degree from SUNY Geneseo and has nearly four years of experience working with children through the YMCA. At the YMCA, she served as the Childcare Lead for the after-school program at Letchworth and as the Site Lead for the 3–5 year-old summer day camp program in Warsaw. In addition, she has worked as a substitute teacher at Letchworth for almost four years.

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Brace enjoys spending time with friends and family, and expresses her creativity through drawing and painting.

She was inspired to become a teacher from a young age, always drawn to helping and connecting with children. Her goal is to support students academically, socially, and emotionally, while being a positive role model in their lives.

## TRICIA HALLMAN, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

We are excited to welcome Mrs. Hallman to our Kindergarten team!

Originally from Carlisle, PA, Mrs. Hallman brings 25 years of teaching experience across multiple grade levels, including 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and middle school. This will be her 9th year teaching Kindergarten—a grade she loves!

Mrs. Hallman studied at Radford University in Virginia and has taught in both Pennsylvania and California. She and her husband, Scott, have four children—one daughter and three sons—and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first grandchild in January!

In her free time, Mrs. Hallman enjoys reading, baking, exercising, and spending time with family and friends. She shares, "Teaching is something I've always wanted to do since I was 8 years old. As I got older, I had teachers and professors who inspired me to instill a love of learning in my students."



## ALEXANDREA STEFFENILLA, ELEMENTARY COUNSELOR

Please welcome Mrs. Steffenilla to our elementary school! A LeRoy native, she lives there with her husband, Mark, and their two dogs, Nora and Clementine. Soon, they'll be settling into a cottage on Silver Lake.

Mrs. Steffenilla is a Roberts Wesleyan graduate and has worked at North Rose-Wolcott High School and Le Roy Jr./Sr. High School. She enjoys hiking, music, drawing, activism, and cozy nights with a good movie or docuseries.

Her passion for school counseling grew from her own experience—she didn't learn about the role of school counselors until high school. Now, she's on a mission to change that narrative by providing equitable, proactive mental health support for all students. Mrs. Steffenilla believes in meeting students where they are and helping them grow in self-confidence, advocacy, empathy, and problem-solving.

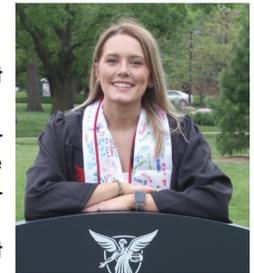


## AUTUMN MILHOLLEN, GRADE 2 TEACHER

Welcome Miss Milhollen to our district as our new 2nd grade teacher!

Originally from Perry, NY, Miss Milhollen is a Ball State University graduate who brings valuable classroom experience, having served as a long-term substitute in both 4th and 5th grade at Perry, and as Assistant Director of Latchkey in Yorktown, Indiana.

Miss Milhollen is passionate about building strong relationships with her students and believes that every child deserves someone who believes in them. Her commitment to encouraging growth and helping students discover their potential is at the heart of her teaching. Outside the classroom, she enjoys baking, reading, and hiking. We're thrilled to have her on our team!



## SARAH BULL, MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Meet our new Middle School Counselor, Mrs. Bull. She is a lifelong Wyoming County resident, she grew up in Warsaw and now lives in Perry with her husband and three children.

Mrs. Bull brings over 12 years of experience as a School Counselor, along with a background in nonprofit counseling. She holds degrees from SUNY Brockport and the University at Buffalo and has worked with students of all ages.

Outside of school, she enjoys family time, attending her kids' sporting events, and outdoor activities like camping, hiking, and kayaking. We're excited to have her supporting our students and families!



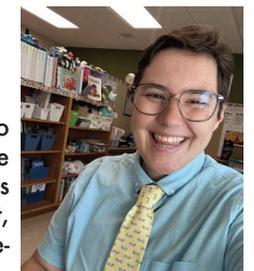
## JENNA BRACE, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

We are excited to welcome Ms. Brace as our new Kindergarten Teacher! A resident of Bliss, NY, Ms. Brace brings a strong background in early childhood education and a passion for working with young learners.



## SPENCER EFING, GRADE 4 SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

We're excited to welcome Mx. Efing to the Letchworth team as our new 4th grade special education teacher! Mx. Efing lives with their fiancé and three pets—Rupert, Milo, and Rocky—and comes from a close-



Continued on next page

knit family with two moms, two sisters, and a brother.

Mx. Efung holds an Associate's degree in Music from Finger Lakes Community College and a Bachelor's in Early Childhood/Inclusive Education and Psychology from Nazareth College. Before joining Letchworth, Mx. Efung taught K-3 special education in Rush-Henrietta and currently leads historical summer camps for young children at the Genesee Country Village & Museum.

Outside of school, Mx. Efung enjoys hiking, biking, and participating in local theater. "I wanted to be the kind of teacher who makes a difference for students who learn differently. Every child deserves to know they are capable, valuable, and amazing—just the way they are."

### **EMILY OVERACKER, GRADE 5/6 SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Overacker, our new 5/6 Special Education teacher, originally from LeRoy, NY! A graduate of Nazareth University, Ms. Overacker comes from a close-knit family that includes her mom, dad, sister, grandma—and five beloved pets (two dogs and three cats!). In her free time, she enjoys reading and spending time with her family.

Both her mom and grandma are teachers, and watching the meaningful relationships they built with their students inspired Ms. Overacker to follow in their footsteps. She hopes to create that same lasting impact in her own classroom.



### **IAN MISTRETTA, GRADE 6 LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE**

Mr. Mistretta is a 6th grade long term substitute teacher. A Castile native and SUNY Genesee graduate, Mr. Mistretta is proud to carry on a long family tradition of educators, following in the footsteps of his mother, grandmothers, and great-grandparents. While this is his first full year as a teacher, he has been a substitute and summer school teacher at Letchworth since 2021 and serves as Technical Director for the Drama Club.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Mistretta enjoys playing guitar and volunteering at the National Warplane Museum as a tour guide and historical reenactor. His passion for history and education drives his mission as a teacher: to help students understand and appreciate the sacrifices of those who came before us. Welcome, Mr. Mistretta!



### **SABRINA KEIPER, GRADE 7 MATH TEACHER**

We're excited to welcome Mrs. Keiper to our team this year! She brings a strong background in math education and a passion for student success.

A graduate of SUNY Brockport and the University at Buffalo, Mrs. Keiper has taught AIS Math at Attica Middle School and most recently high school math at York Middle/High School.

She lives in Attica with her husband, Jordan, their dog Phoenix, and two cats, Hero and Hoople. In her free time, she enjoys



reading, video games, puzzles, walking her dog, building Lego flowers, listening to music, and watching movies. Inspired by her mother's teaching career and her own love of math, Mrs. Keiper is excited to help students grow and succeed. Welcome, Mrs. Keiper!

### **HEATHER OWENS, ENGLISH 7 TEACHER**

We're happy to welcome Mrs. Owens as our new 7th grade English Language Arts teacher! She lives in Gainesville with her husband, Scott, and enjoys a busy family life with three stepsons, a son, a daughter, and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Owens is a graduate of Houghton College and Hilbert College, with additional education coursework from various SUNY schools. Before entering teaching, she worked as a social worker, then stayed home to raise her family. She spent 12 years substitute teaching—many of them here at Letchworth—which inspired her to pursue teaching full time.

"I saw how teachers here were not just sharing knowledge but shaping the future. Watching students conquer new concepts was inspiring, and I'm so thankful my dream of becoming a teacher became a reality."

In her free time, she enjoys family gatherings, sporting events, and traveling with her husband.



### **JUSTINE KUROWSKI, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**

Meet our new Occupational Therapist, Ms. Kurowski. Originally from Varysburg, Ms. Kurowski studied at the University at Buffalo and brings a passion for helping children grow and reach their fullest potential. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time outdoors—especially hiking, playing soccer, and being with horses. We're thrilled to have Ms. Kurowski join our team.



### **KRISTY VANVALKENBURG - ASSISTANT TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR/BUS DISPATCHER PERRY SITE**

Please join us in welcoming Ms. VanValkenburg to the Transportation Department team! Ms. VanValkenburg brings great energy, confidence, and a love for helping others to her new role.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, being outdoors, and taking care of her children's five dogs. She's all about seasonal fun—fall means football and baking, winter is for skiing and fireside relaxing, and spring is perfect for long walks.

A self-proclaimed queen of home renovations, Ms. VanValkenburg tackles DIY projects with creativity and just enough knowledge to be dangerous! Her to-do list is never-ending, but she wouldn't have it any other way.

We're excited to have her aboard—welcome, Kristy!





**LETCHWORTH**

# SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

FOR STUDENTS GRADES 3-12 4 SUNDAYS STARTING 1/11/26 LESSONS INCLUDED BUS AVAILABLE  
 CONTACT MRS. AUSTEN (9-12)/MRS. BARTHOLOMEW (5-8)/MRS. BELLAMY (3/4)

**SIGN UP NOW!**  
[www.swain.com/clubs](http://www.swain.com/clubs)  
 password: thinksnow!

## ZACHARY JACOBY 2025 Graduate

Zachary Jacoby, a recent graduate of LCS, was honored at a recent Board of Education meeting where he was proudly presented with his diploma. During the celebration, several speakers highlighted Zach's many accomplishments and the positive attitude that has defined his time with us.



Zach's journey has been marked by hard work, self-discovery, and meaningful triumphs—both big and small. He has shown us all that success isn't measured by the speed of the race, but by the heart and determination you bring to it. His commitment to growth and learning has taught our community lasting lessons in patience, perseverance, and hope.

We will deeply miss Zach's smile, his laugh, his singing, and the genuine warmth he brought into our hallways every day. But as he steps into this next chapter—whether pursuing further education, exploring new passions, or chasing meaningful goals—we know he will continue to inspire and bring joy to everyone fortunate to know him.

Congratulations, Zach—you are officially a LEGENDS alumni!



## LETCHWORTH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

We take a moment to celebrate the dedicated members of our Letchworth Central School District Board of Education – a group of individuals who give countless hours of their time to ensure that our students, staff, and community continue to thrive.

Our Board members represent the very best of public service – balancing community priorities, educational goals, and fiscal responsibility with great care and heart. Their leadership helps shape the future of our school. Much of what they do is behind the scenes and unnoticed.

As Superintendent, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the commitment and sense of duty each member brings to their role. Their service truly makes a difference, and we are deeply grateful.



New York State  
**PORTRAIT OF A  
GRADUATE**

# Parent

## NEED-TO-KNOW

The New York State Portrait of a Graduate outlines what your child will gain from their P-12 education to support their ability to thrive in college, careers, and as an engaged citizen in today's world. The Portrait supports your child's success beyond high school graduation.



### *Whole-Child Development*

The Portrait supports your child's growth in every way. Your child will grow academically, socially, emotionally, and culturally. The emphasis on whole-child development will better prepare your child for college, careers, and life as an engaged citizen.

### *Equity and Belonging*

Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CR-SE) is at the core of the Portrait. Educators and leaders will work to make your child feel seen, heard, and valued at school. Educational communities will strive to create a learning environment where your child can thrive.

### *Authentic Application*

Portrait skills - such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking - will be embedded into real-world projects, interdisciplinary units, and work based learning. Your child will be encouraged to apply these skills in ways that reflect their lived experiences and aspirations.

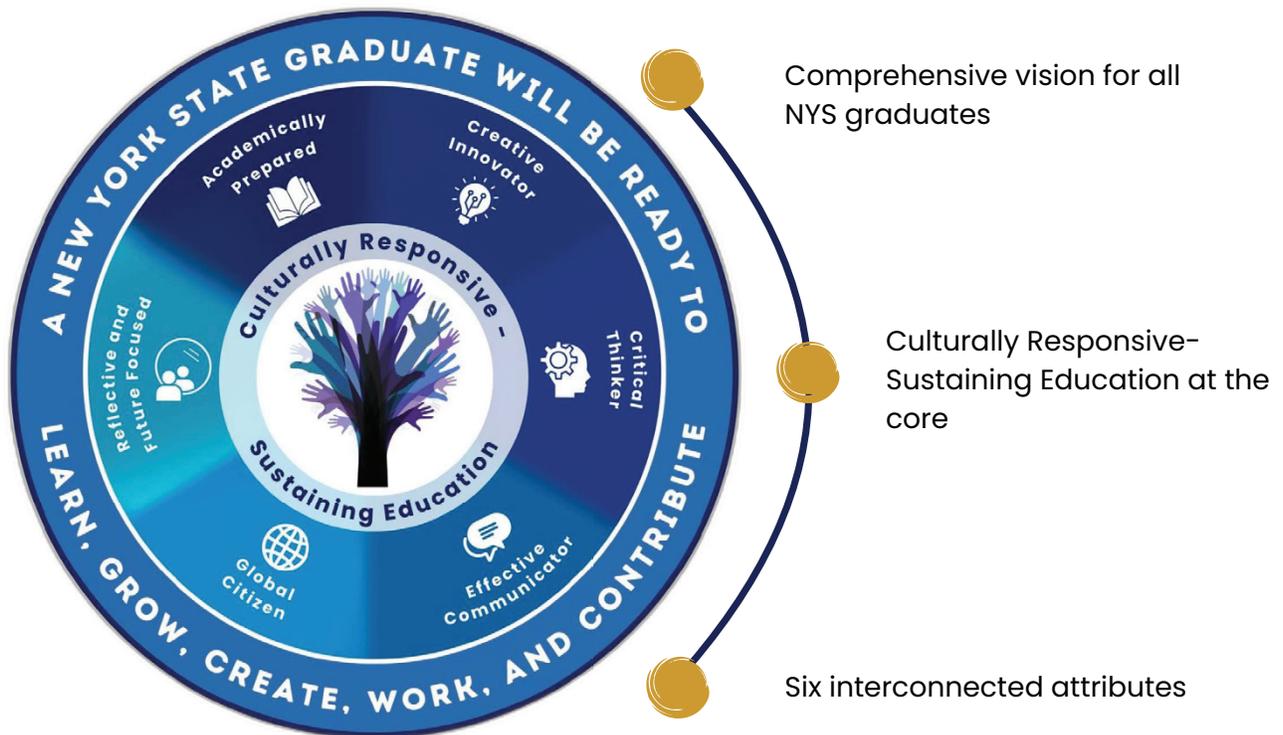


## Shared Values

The Portrait was designed with input from students, families, educators, leaders, and communities across New York State. The Portrait reflects our shared values for children: to be ready to learn, grow, create, work, and contribute.

## Your Child's Performance

Schools will use varied strategies to assess your child's achievement and progress in the attributes of the Portrait. Strategies may include performance tasks, portfolios, projects, and presentations of learning.



## What Can I Do Now?

Discuss the Portrait with your child, their teachers, and administrators. Visit the Department's Portrait of a Graduate webpage using the QR code below for additional guidance related to the Portrait.



New York State

## PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

[nysed.gov/grad-measures](https://nysed.gov/grad-measures)  
[GradMeasures@nysed.gov](mailto:GradMeasures@nysed.gov)





The Varsity Cheerleaders are in their third year of "Game Day" Cheer. This style of cheerleading is all about school spirit and crowd involvement. At competition, you will see the girls using pom poms, signs, and flags to engage the crowd into cheering for our Letchworth Legends. This year's team of 16 girls have worked incredibly hard to prepare for our competitions. The leadership of our 9 seniors has been amazing. They have a positive mindset that is continually displayed to the rest of the team. Coach Mistretta and Coach Graham would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication so far this fall. A special thank you goes out to the seniors for their dedication to our cheerleading program through their years at LCS.

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### September

- 5th Willow Wood & Avery Swain
- 6th Paisley Rassau & Preston Hall
- 7th Nathan Conrad & Korie Wetmore
- 8th Amelia Snyder & Skyler Weatherbee

- 9th Layla Ikeler & Laynee Emke
- 10th Sara Grace Hill & Alex Marquart
- 11th Elijah Horton & Charlene Gilbert
- 12th Darren Abbott & Sophie Lavrincik

### October

- 5th Livia Teeters & Karley Geising
- 6th Roman Holly & Walter Cowie
- 7th Kayla Marshall & Jacob VanName
- 8th Olivia Reeves & Kialer Wetmore

- 9th Brianna Burel & Colton Weber
- 10th Ezra Conklin & Matthew Conrad
- 11th Caden Haxton & Racquel Hartman
- 12th Kyler Carmichael & Ashton Wilcox

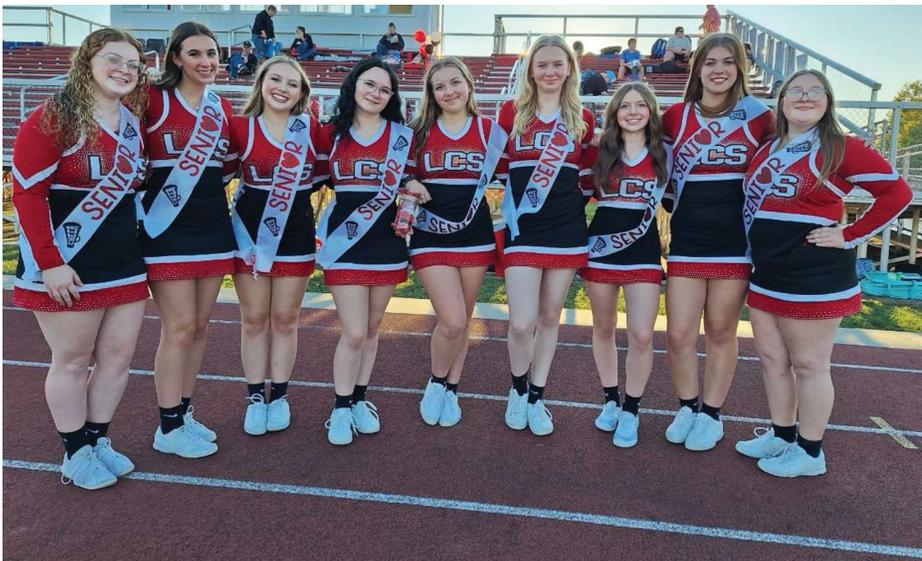
## WE'RE HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS & SUBS!

Have you ever considered driving a school bus? It's more than just a job—it's an opportunity to play an important role in the lives of our students and community. We are proud to offer a competitive salary package along with excellent benefits. If you enjoy working with children, value flexibility, and want to make a difference each day, we encourage you to consider joining our transportation team. Please contact Jay Ballard at 585-493-2828

## Did You Know...

The following information can be found on our web site:

- ✓ Cafeteria Menus
- ✓ School Newsletters
- ✓ Link to Sports Schedules
- ✓ Free/Reduced Lunch Application Form
- ✓ Meeting Schedule / Agenda / Minutes



Seniors:  
 Kaylyn Bradley  
 Maddie Geising  
 Allannah Giardino  
 Maddyn Miller  
 Sophie Lavrincik  
 Haley Nelligan  
 Shirley Pfeiffer  
 Katrina Snyder  
 Samantha Warner

Juniors:  
 Juli Jordan  
 Gianna Krobe  
 Madison Satterlee  
 Sophomores:  
 Harlee Crane  
 Izzy Hare  
 Sara-Grace Hill  
 Freshman:  
 Layla Ikeler

