theLINK

Churchville-Chili Central School District

March 2025

*Where **learning** leads to a **lifetime of opportunities...***

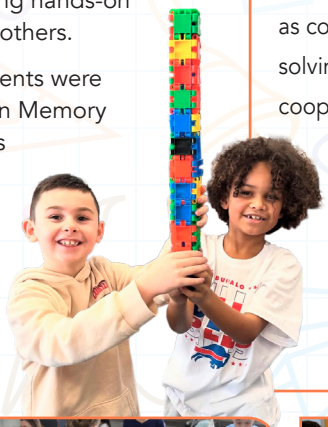
Celebrating Learning Through Play

Each spring, our elementary schools celebrate hands-on learning through a Day of Play! The Academy of Pediatrics reports that unstructured play time allows for peer interactions and is an important component of social-emotional learning.

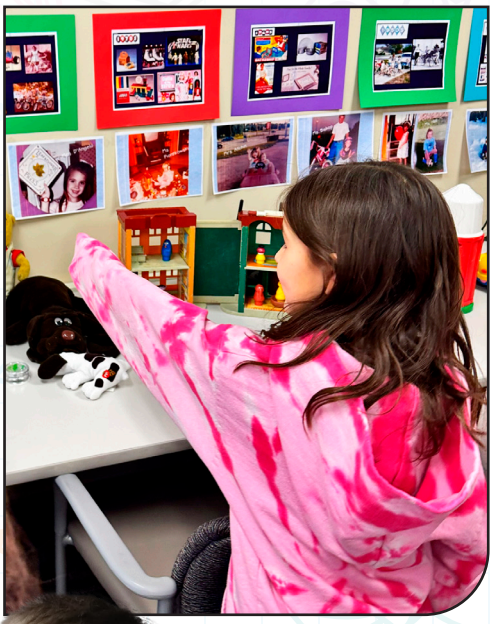
This year, Chestnut Ridge kicked things off with their Day of Play at the beginning of February. During the day, students were encouraged to avoid screen time by playing with toys, performing hands-on STEM activities and engaging with others.

Leading up to the Day of Play, students were encouraged to visit the "Walk Down Memory Lane" for a history of toys. Teachers shared photos of themselves as children with their favorite toy and classic toys were on display.

Churchville Elementary School will celebrate their Day of Play in March and Fairbanks Road will celebrate in April.



> "A play-based approach allows students to develop many fundamental skills such as communication, problem-solving, perspective-taking, and cooperation. When we pause and really focus on offering joyful and playful experiences we get to see our students shine in different ways."
>
> - Renee Mulrooney, *Director of Curriculum Assessment and Professional Development*









NEWS & VIEWS What's Inside:

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Message from the Superintendent



Dear Churchville-Chili community,
As the school year progresses, we continue to reflect on and celebrate our 75th year as Churchville-Chili Central School District. Our Saints pride has shown through the support we've seen for our students during musical performances, athletic competitions and scholarly accomplishments. We continue to celebrate our Saints staff through teacher highlights and our spotlight features. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to attend an event, nominate a staff member you would like to see recognized, and submit a 75th anniversary time capsule idea through our district website.

While we celebrate the hard work and dedication of our students and staff, our capital improvement project is also moving along. Our new middle school Main Office and Red House offices look amazing, and work is currently underway for our Green House offices. Work is in progress on the kitchen at the Middle School North Cafeteria, as well as a new stairwell at the entrance to the middle school. Our newly relocated elevator provides a more accessible entrance for all of our school community. We look forward to the continued updates to our building and athletic facilities throughout the spring.

Our students continue to amaze us with their achievements in athletics, music, and the arts. Their dedication and talent shine brightly, and we invite you to join us in celebrating their success. Attend one of our athletic contests, fine arts performances, or extracurricular events to see firsthand the incredible work our students are doing. Visit our website at *www.cccsd.org/athletics* or *www.cccsd.org/calendar* for a full schedule of events. Thank you for your continued support of our students and schools.

Looking ahead, we'll be sharing more about the 2025-26 school budget later this spring. Stay informed by visiting *www.cccsd.org/budget* for updates and details about budget development sessions.

Go Saints!

Dr. Carmine Peluso
Superintendent of Schools

Churchville-Chili appoints new **CRS Assistant Principal**



At its January 14 meeting, the Board of Education appointed Jessica Flanders as the Assistant Principal at Chestnut Ridge Elementary School starting February 24, 2025.

Ms. Flanders has been an Assistant Principal for the World of Inquiry School No. 58 in the Rochester City School District since 2022. Prior to becoming an Assistant Principal, she served as a Community Site Coordinator and Elementary Teacher in the Rochester City School District since 2009. She served on various committees, including: School-based Planning Team, Expeditionary Learning Sustainability Crew, Student-led Conferences and many others. Ms. Flanders received her Bachelor's Degree in Inclusive Education and History from Nazareth College and a Master's Degree in Literacy from the University of Rochester. In addition, she has a Master's Degree in School Building and School District Leadership from Bankstreet Graduate School of Education.

"I am excited to continue my professional growth and to become an integral part of the Chestnut Ridge Elementary School community," says Ms. Flanders. "The relationships I've built with students, families, and colleagues have been the most rewarding aspect of my career, and I look forward to fostering new connections in this next chapter. I am eager to collaborate with the talented staff at Chestnut Ridge Elementary School and to contribute my experiences and expertise to the Churchville-Chili School District. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and excited to share in the collective success of our students and community."

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Flanders to the district.

Churchville-Chili appoints new **High School Principal**



At its February 11 meeting, the Board of Education appointed Jennifer Grimes as Executive Principal at the High School starting April 21, 2025. Current Executive Principal Scott Wilson will work with Ms. Grimes on the transition to the new role before his retirement on July 31.

Ms. Grimes has been an Assistant Principal at Victor Senior High School since November 2021. Before that, she served as Assistant Principal at Rochester International Academy in the Rochester City School District, where she also previously served as an Instructional Coach. She has served on various committees, including Safety & Security, Instructional Leadership, The Regional Equity Network, Multi-Tiered System of Support, and Restorative School Communities. She is also a member of the Rochester International Academy Advisory Board. Ms. Grimes received her Bachelor's Degree in Childhood and Special Education from SUNY Geneseo and a Master's Degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Nazareth College. In addition, she has a Master's Degree in Administrative Leadership from the University of Rochester.

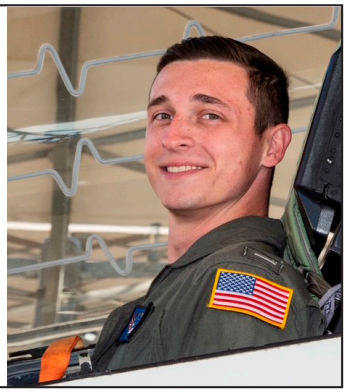
"I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to join the team in Churchville-Chili at the Senior High School," says Ms. Grimes. "I am genuinely excited to get to know the students, staff, families and the community. I hope to collaborate in order to support and continue the amazing things that are already happening here while working together in growth areas. I look forward to all that we can accomplish together."

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Grimes to the district.

Alumni Spotlight

Joshua Statt graduated from Churchville-Chili in 2017 with a goal of becoming a fighter jet pilot. Now, that dream has come true. After attending Embry Riddle and receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Science, Josh was commissioned into the United States Navy as a student naval aviator. This December, he completed advanced strike flight training and earned his wings of gold. Josh was recently selected to fly an F-35 Lightning II with VFA-125 "Rough Raiders." Congratulations Josh!

Are you a CCCSD alumni? If so, we want to hear from you! Send a note to communications@cccsd.org to share what you are doing now.



Recognizing CES Triple C Recipients

Commitment to Core Beliefs

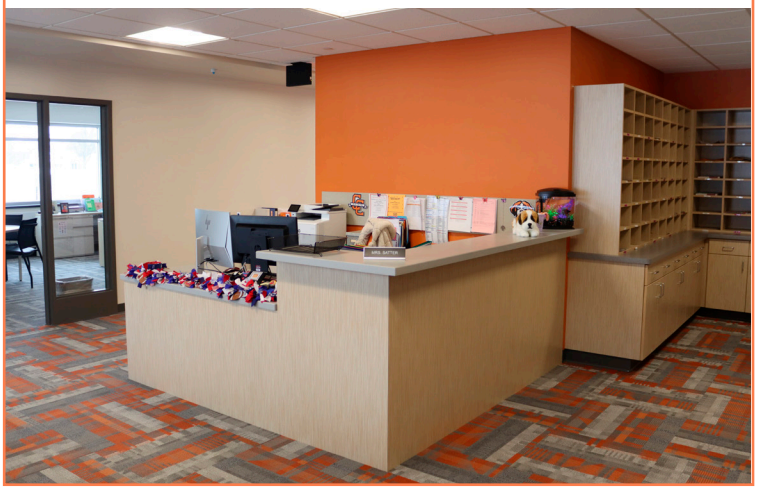
The Churchville-Chili Triple C Awards honor students, community members and staff who exemplify our district's core beliefs and who go above and beyond to make our schools great environments for learning. Congratulations to our Chestnut Ridge Triple C Award winners!



Chestnut Ridge award winners (left to right): **Carina**, second grade; **Amelia,** first grade; **Lanaya**, fourth grade; **Andrew**, third grade; **Shaquan**, kindergarten; **Jae'lah**, fourth grade; (back row) **Ariana D'Angelo**, Art Teacher and **Jacqueline Allchin**, Teaching Assistant.

Capital Improvement **Update**

Capital Improvement work continued at the middle school over winter break. The new Main Office and Red House Offices are now occupied and work has moved down the hall to the Green House Office. The newly relocated elevator and stairwell outside the main office is currently being completed and will increase accessibility to the middle school.



CCCSD 2025-26 Budget Information

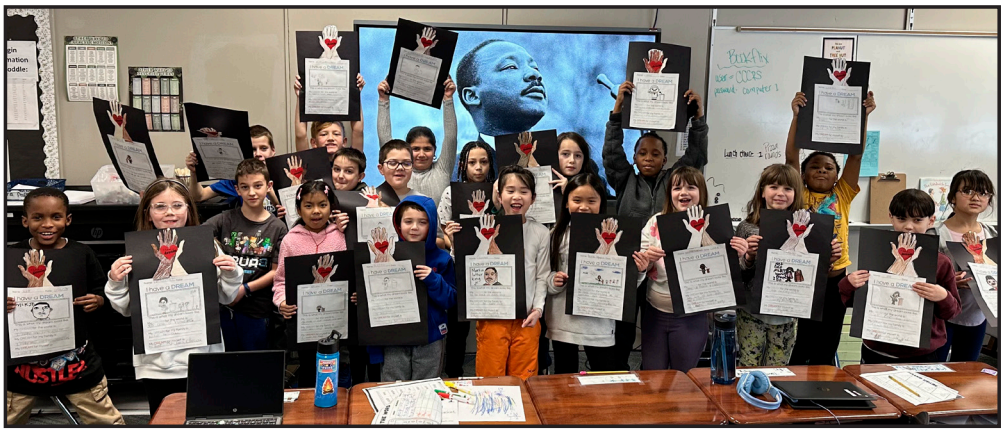
Each year, time is dedicated to reviewing, analyzing and assessing our school budget. This is anchored to our district goal to promote cost effectiveness and to develop and manage a budget that provides a quality education in a fiscally responsible manner. We invite district residents to attend our budget presentations to learn more about the proposed 2025-26 budget. Information is also available on our district website (www.cccsd.org) under Departments/Business Services/Budget Development.

Date	Time	Place	Target Audience
Tuesday, March 11	7 p.m.	Boardroom	BOE, General Public
Tuesday, March 25	7 p.m.	Boardroom	BOE, General Public
Tuesday, May 6	7 p.m.	Boardroom	Open Board Meeting - Budget Hearing
Tuesday, May 20	**Noon- 9 p.m.**	**MSN Cafeteria, door 31**	**BUDGET VOTE**

Three Board of Education seats will be expiring at the end of the 2024-25 school year. Petitions and information packets are available at the Churchville-Chili Central School District Administrative Office at 139 Fairbanks Road from the District Clerk. Anyone interested in running for a seat on the Board of Education may contact Michelle Penner at (585) 293-1800 ext. 2300 to arrange to obtain a nominating petition. Completed nominating petitions must be submitted no later than April 21 by 5 p.m.

Embracing differences at CRS

Students throughout Chestnut Ridge participated in a variety of lessons and activities for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day this January. Third grade students did a read aloud and discussed how MLK Jr.'s impact on civil rights changed the future of our country and had a positive trajectory on human rights. Students completed a writing passage about their dreams for the world, their families and themselves. First grade students looked at how people can be different on the outside while the same on the inside, using a Scholastic News lesson and an experiment with eggs.



Encouraging Kindness at FRS

Students at FRS were encouraged to practice kindness during a two week kindness challenge at the end of January. The school surpassed their goal of earning 400 stars by reaching 623 stars! Classes worked to fill in kindness bingo cards throughout the challenge, earning spaces by completing tasks such as saying please, showing a positive attitude and following directions. Class representatives then helped put together a fun art project during the school assembly at the end of the challenge.



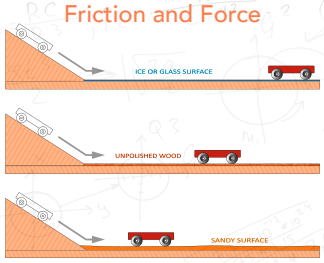
"Have courage and be kind. Where there is kindness, there is goodness. And where there is goodness, there is magic." - Cinderella



Focus on force at CCMS

Sixth grade students at CCMS have recently been studying electromagnetism - investigating how different forces work together. Initial lessons focused on how friction and force work together. Through hands-on experimentation, students found that rougher surfaces have more friction and need more force to move an object!





Government Breakout at CCMS Library

Earlier this month, Middle School Librarian Ms. Loson teamed up with Social Studies teacher Steve Goforth for government breakout review sessions. Seventh grade students visited the library during their Social Studies class and worked in teams to solve a series of puzzles related to American Government. Puzzles included solving Morse code, analyzing cyphers and uncracking other puzzles. This is the third time the classes have teamed up with Ms. Loson to review for their unit tests.



Child Safety Lessons

Three years ago, Churchville-Chili CSD partnered with the Child Advocacy Center of Greater Rochester to bring safety lessons to all students. We began with lessons for students in grades K-12 and have been excited to add lessons for UPK this school year! All lessons are focused on empowering youth with 5 critical safety rules to help adults keep them safe. Students receive age-appropriate lessons that impart knowledge to help students safely navigate the world (online and in real life) and communicate with safe adults if they encounter unsafe situations.

Our Local History at SHS

Our Local History visited Churchville-Chili to talk to students in Voices of Change about the complicated histories of racism and resistance in our community. During a visit in December, students learned the current state of inequity faced by the Latinx community in Monroe County, the root causes, and the local civil rights leaders who stood up to these issues. In January, Voices of Change invited the Gay Straight Alliance to join them for a discussion on LGBTQ rights. The organization returned in February for a discussion on red-lining that tied into Black History Month.

Learn more about Our Local History: *https://resistancemapping.org/s/m/page/welcome*



CES **Heart Health Challenge**

In February, Churchville Elementary School students helped support the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge. Students around the country participate in the Kids Heart Challenge to learn about the importance of heart health, exercise and giving back to others. During the event, CES students raised funds to help kids with special hearts, inspired by the school's very own heart hero Griffin. This year, 197 students participated in the challenge, raising $22,345.97 and a few lucky students had the chance to pie CES physical education teachers, classroom teachers, Assistant Principal Kim Giancursio and Principal Kate Daly in the face!



Students learn about culture at CES

Third grade students at CES have been learning about cultures around the world. They have been exploring different aspects of culture including race, ethnicity, food, clothing, holidays and celebrations, music, religion and language.

One of the student's grandmother, Mrs Blasioli, is a Braille transcriber and visited students to share more about Braille. She brought books in Braille, taught students how it was invented by Louis Braille, taught them how to "read" Braille, wrote their names in Braille, and students even got to type their names in Braille on the Braille typewriter.



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(We learned about Braille)



SHS students donate over $1000 to local organization

Students in Mrs. Brongo's class at the high school raised $1025.50 this winter crafting and selling holiday Cee Cee decorations. Students crafted 120 decorations this year, working as a team to design, cut, sew and glue the materials together to create the finished product.

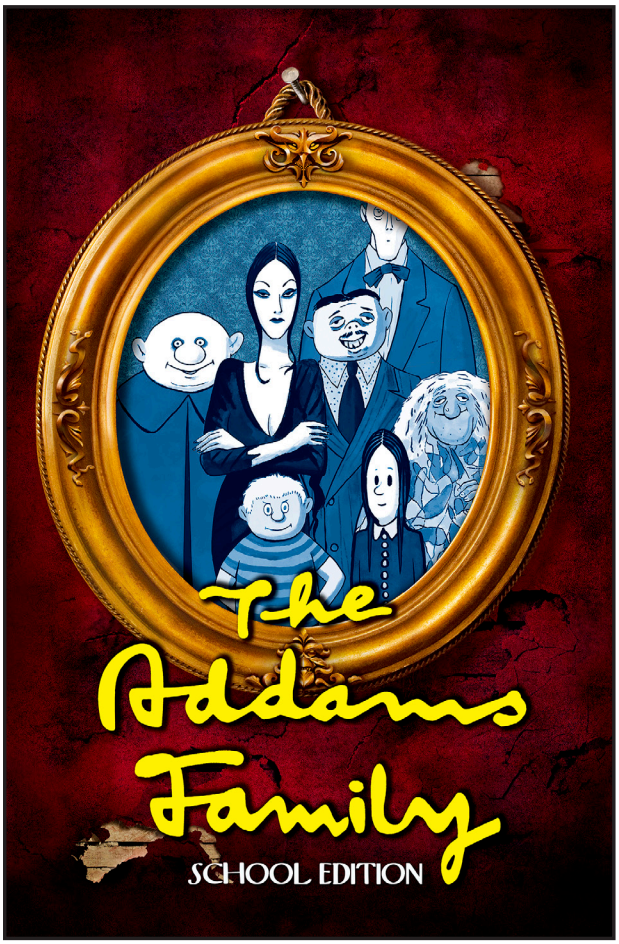
Each year, the class chooses an organization to donate the money they raise. Since beginning the tradition in 2005, the class has raised and donated $15,570 for charity. This year the class chose CURE Childhood Cancer Association as the recipient.

Mamushka! The Addams Family hits the Churchville-Chili CSD stage

Churchville-Chili Senior High School will perform the musical, The Addams Family School Edition, this spring. Performances are at 7 p.m. on March 27, 28 and 29, and at 2 p.m. on March 30 at the Churchville-Chili Performing Arts Center.

With more than 80 talented students participating in the cast, crew and pit orchestra and the spectacular scenery, choreography, costumes and professional-quality light and sound production, you won't want to miss this performance of The Addams Family School Edition!

Join us for a performance that is sure to be a scream. Tickets are available at www.cccsd.org/FineArts. Presale tickets are available online for $13. Tickets are also available at the Box Office on the day of the show for $15.



Orchestra Jamboree



Churchville-Chili recently hosted the 3rd Annual Orchestra Jamboree, inviting students from Brockport, Churchville-Chili, Rochester Christian School, Charles Finney, Brighton and West Irondequoit schools together for an experience similar to All-County performance festivals. This year, the group was joined by guest conductor, Dr. Raúl Munguía. The Orchestra Jamboree ran as a pilot in 2023 before opening to other districts. During the event, students rehearse for four hours, including mentored sectionals. Following rehearsals, the students perform a concert alongside their instructors.

Student artwork featured in **RIT 'Start Here' Exhibit**

Eight high school students had artwork featured in RIT's College of Art and Design 'Start Here' Exhibit this January. Four CCCSD students also received awards for their artwork. The college selected 32 works of distinction related to various programs at RIT. The 32 were chosen out of 200 pieces. Congratulations to the following CCCSD students on your achievement:

Arlo Sushko - *Untitled*, Mixed Media (ceramic and fiber)
- Medical Illustration Award 3D, *School of Art*

Riley Marra - *Creekbed*, Watercolor on color press watercolor paper
- Luvon Sheppard Watercolor Award, *School of Art*

Stephanie Camacho - *Collage*, Digital
- Visual Media Award, *School of Photographic Arts and Sciences*

Eva Galletti-Fisher - *Octopus*, Ceramics
- Ceramics Award Sculpture, *School for American Crafts*

In addition to the four CCCSD students who received awards, the following students had pieces featured in the exhibit:

Deniz Dawani - *Screams from Gaza*, Acrylic

Liam O'Brien - *Untitled*, Ceramics

Mya Arrendell - *Untitled*, Graphite and colored pencil

Allie Snyder - *Triptych*, Photography



CCCSD Sophomore Eva Galletti-Fisher and teacher Kate Jacobs post with Eva's ceramics piece, Octopus, during the 'Start Here' Exhibit opening reception.

MS **Talent Show**

Our talented middle school students stole the spotlight at this year's Middle School Talent Show in February! Students wowed the audience with ten impressive acts showcasing a wide variety of skills, including singing, dancing, acting, instrumental performances, and even skateboarding.





Participants worked hard to prepare, submitting video auditions and creating their own acts. Some students wrote original songs or choreographed unique routines. To help them shine, each performer attended a workshop where they received coaching to enhance their acts.

Thank you to everyone who came out to cheer on our amazing students.



Winter Athletic Highlights

Winter athletics have now wrapped up, and our CCCSD student athletes had some impressive accomplishments to celebrate this winter season.

Congratulations to:

Indoor Track:

Max Tomaszewski
- Broke school record in the weight throw with a distance of 57' 2.75"

4x200 relay team
- First place in the Monroe County Championship meet
- Section V champions

Rahlin Finch
- Section V champion in the 1600 meter race

Diving:

Kyler Thomas
- First place in the Churchville-Chili Diving Classic
- First place in the Monroe County Diving championships
- Section V Class A Boys Diving champion
- First place in the Webster Yeti Diving Invitational
- Competed at the New York State diving finals

Jordan Leastman
- Competed at the New York State diving finals

Wrestling:

Andrew Frost
- Monroe County Division 2 Wrestler of the Year
- Monroe County 190 pound champion

Additionally, our **Football team** was recognized with the Section V Class A Sportsmanship award after their fall season. The award is chosen and issued by the Rochester football officials association.

For a full list of student athlete accomplishments from the Winter season, please visit the athletic page on our district website.

Nominations Open for Athletic Hall of Fame

Would you like to nominate someone for our Athletic Hall of Fame?

The CCCSD Athletic Department recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of those who have made significant contributions to Saints athletics. The goal is for our students, student-athletes, coaches and community members to appreciate our history and know that they can aspire to great things if they work hard and set their goals high.

The Hall of Fame is open to athletes who graduated at least five years ago, retired coaches who coached a sport for at least five years and special contributors (which may include administrators, parent volunteers or other community members). Nomination forms and a full criteria can be found online at *https://shs.cccsd.org/athletics/athletic-hall-of-fame*. To be eligible for the current year's induction, nominations must be received by May 31, 2025. New inductees will be honored with a formal ceremony in December. Contact Athletic Director Michael Murray at mmurray@cccsd.org with questions.

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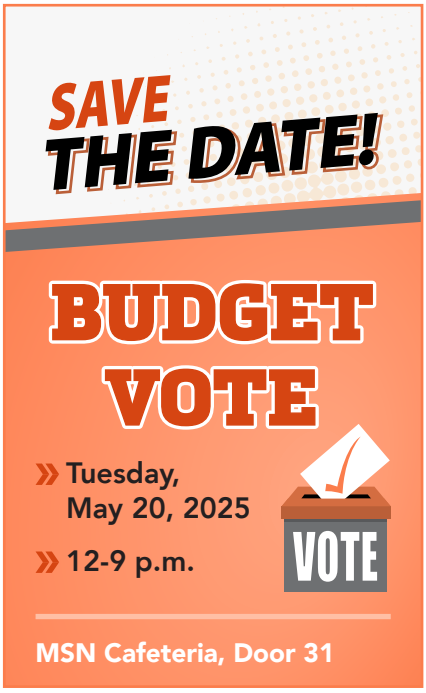
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C-C In the Know podcast tackles topics for parents

A new episode of the *In the Know* Podcast, brought to you by the FLASH Network, is released the first Wednesday of each month. The podcast is intended to educate and empower parents by addressing important topics impacting their children and families. Each episode will discuss a different topic related to academics, social emotional wellness, mental health supports, or behavior and provide useful resources to caregivers. The podcast can be found on the Churchville-Chili Wellness Hub, on the district website.



Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-26 School Year

Registration for kindergarten opens online at *www.cccsd.org/registration* on March 7, 2025.

- District children must be 5 on or before December 1, 2025.
- Registration must be completed online (PLEASE NOTE: registration cannot be done on cell phone).
- Once online registration is complete, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment to complete the registration process.

If you have questions or are unable to complete the online registration, please call the Registrar at 293-1800 ext. 2041.

