theLINK

Churchville-Chili Central School District

Fall 2025

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

Saints pride *shines at Homecoming*

Churchville-Chili came together this fall to celebrate Homecoming with a full week of Saints Pride. Students and staff showed their spirit during themed days, while a high-energy pep rally brought the community together with games, competitions and plenty of cheers from Cee Cee.

It was a winning week for our Saints athletic teams, with the boys soccer team defeating Gates Chili, girls volleyball triumphing over Rush-Henrietta, girls tennis beating Gates Chili, girls golf earning wins over Webster and Spencerport and the boys cross country team capturing the division title on our home course. On Friday night, the Saints football team faced Greece Athena under the lights, coming out with a big win. Spirit continued with the annual powder-puff game, as the juniors took on the seniors and the fans brought energy from the sidelines. Congratulations to the seniors on their win!

Elementary and middle school students also joined the fun, hosting their own spirit week and activities to show that Saints Pride is strong across the district.

Congratulations to this year's Homecoming Court:

Lord and Lady for the freshman class: Alex DeBurro and Emma Ferrari.

Duke and Duchess for the sophomore class: Sam Sheible and Chloe Krenzer.

Prince and Princess for the junior class: Anthony Indiano and Gianna Denning.

Homecoming 2025 King and Queen for the senior class: Mason Simmons and Aubrey Sudol (four peat champions).



NEWS & VIEWS What's Inside:

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A Message from the Superintendent



Dear Churchville-Chili Community,

The 2025-26 school year is off to a fantastic start! Students across the district are showing energy, curiosity and Saints Pride. From classroom learning to athletics and the arts, our students are making this year vibrant and exciting.

This fall, we welcomed over 60 new staff members who bring skills, enthusiasm, and dedication to support student success. Students have also adjusted well to the new "bell-to-bell" device policy, and we thank families for partnering with us to keep classrooms focused and engaging.

Our Phase VI-2 Capital Project continues to transform our campus with updates to our middle school cafeteria, classrooms, stairwells and athletic facilities, creating safe and inspiring spaces for all students.

We look forward to a year full of achievement, celebration and community. Thank you for your support as we continue to challenge students to grow and thrive.

Go Saints!

Dr. Carmine Peluso
Superintendent of Schools
Churchville-Chili Central School District

Capital Improvement updates

Our ongoing capital project continues to bring exciting changes to our campuses. At the middle school, we recently completed a new kitchen and cafeteria, along with updated classrooms and stairwells that will enhance both learning and safety for our students.

Work also continues at our athletic facilities, where construction of a new entrance and parking lot is underway. We are also refurbishing the old tennis courts to include pickleball courts, a basketball court and turf. These improvements reflect our ongoing commitment to creating safe, modern, and inspiring learning environments.

We are now in the process of planning Phase 7 work, including:

- improvements to classrooms at CES, CRS and FRS
- a professional development center at the transportation building
- relocating the operations building to improve accessibility
- continuing the intercampus road to improve campus access







Branding at the High School

Students and staff were treated to an exciting surprise when they returned to school this fall, entering the high school to find new branding throughout the building. Graphics featuring our updated Saints mascot and logos were installed throughout the building over the summer. This addition to the building will foster our school spirit and provide recognition when visitors enter the building.







Meet our new staff

This fall, Churchville-Chili welcomed 39 new teachers, counselors and administrators, along with 28 new support staff members across the district. Each brings unique skills, energy and enthusiasm to our schools.

We're grateful to have them join our team and excited to see the positive impact they'll make on our students and community.



New Director of Curriculum, Assessments and Professional Development appointed

The Churchville-Chili Central School District would like to announce the selection of the new Director of Curriculum, Assessments and Professional Development, John Gonzalez, Jr., who was appointed at the July 8, 2025, Board of Education meeting. John most recently worked as an Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning and Accountability in the Geneva City School District.

John is a graduate of Buffalo State College, earning his certification in childhood and special education; SUNY Brockport; and the University of Rochester, where he received his certification in school building and district-level leadership.

John brings more than 20 years of educational leadership to the Churchville-Chili Central School District. His career began in the Rochester City School District as a special education teacher before transitioning into roles as an instructional coach, Director of Expanded Learning, and principal of two schools. John has held senior leadership roles in both Rochester and Buffalo, and has focused on elevating academic performance, strengthening instructional practices, and fostering inclusive school communities.



He brings deep knowledge of the Science of Reading and its implementation in classrooms, as well as extensive experience with Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), using data to guide instructional decisions, and supporting continuous improvement cycles. John is committed to student success and educational equity and is excited to contribute his experience and passion to serve the Churchville-Chili community.

John has been a resident of Chili for the past eight years, and is both a proud parent of a graduate and a current high school student in the district.

New Coordinator of Secondary Special Education appointed



The Churchville-Chili Central School District would like to announce the selection of the new Coordinator of Secondary Special Education, Matthew Hennard, who was appointed at the July 31 Board of Education Special Meeting. Matthew most recently worked as an Assistant Principal at Oliver Middle School in the Brockport Central School District.

Matthew lives in Brockport with his wife Janelle, and 2 sons Gavin (12) and Noah (10). Matthew earned his Bachelor's degree in Social Studies and Special Education 7-12 at SUNY College at Brockport in 2010, and his administrative certification at SUNY College at Brockport in 2019. This is his 16th year in the field of education. Matt said he is "excited for the opportunity to support students, teachers, and families in Churchville-Chili, and can't wait to get to work and meet everyone!"

New Middle School House Administrator appointed



The Churchville-Chili Central School District would like to announce the selection of the new Middle School House Administrator, Alicia Pakusch, who was appointed at the July 31 Board of Education Special Meeting. Alicia was most recently a math teacher at Oliver Middle School in the Brockport Central School District.

Alicia lives in Irondequoit with her fiancé, Mike and their two dogs, Hunter and MoMo. Alicia earned a BA in adolescent mathematics and special education at Keuka College, her MSEd in educational technology at Nazareth University and her administrative certification at SUNY Fredonia. This will be year 14 in the field of education. Alicia says she is "excited to build relationships with students, family and the community, to provide a safe and inclusive environment where our students grow and develop. I've heard about so many great things going on at CCMS and I look forward to the opportunity to be a part of the team."

Welcome back, Saints!

Churchville-Chili opened its doors on September 4 to welcome students for the start of the 2025-26 school year. Smiles, high-fives and hugs filled classrooms and hallways as students reconnected with friends and teachers.

From our youngest learners in UPK to our Class of 2026 seniors, the first days were filled with excitement, curiosity and school spirit. Staff and families came together to support a smooth start, setting the tone for a year of learning, growth and new opportunities.

We're proud to partner with our families and community as we challenge all students to strive for excellence. Here's to a successful and inspiring school year ahead!

















Celebrate! Churchville-Chili brings community together

Churchville-Chili kicked off the 2025-26 school year with the 16th annual *Celebrate! Churchville-Chili* event on September 12. Families, students and community members filled the Fairbanks Road lot for an evening of fun, food and connection.

Highlights included family activities, food trucks, information tables, and the always-popular Ping Pong Ball Drop for elementary students. New this year, families also supported the CCCSD Food Shelf and the Chili Lions Club through donations.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate the start of another great school year!







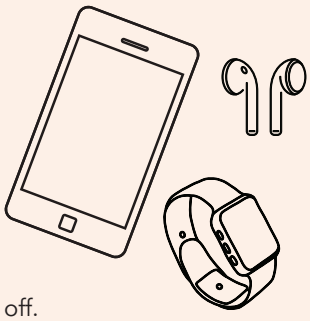








Students adjust smoothly to new cell phone policy



Churchville-Chili has implemented a "bell-to-bell" ban on internet-enabled devices this school year in compliance with New York State guidelines. The new policy, approved by the Board of Education, limits the use of smartphones, smartwatches, wireless headphones, tablets, and similar devices during the school day—from the first bell to the last—including passing time, lunch, recess, study halls and homeroom.

To help students transition, the district provided clear storage guidelines:

- **Grades K–4:** Devices should stay at home or be placed in designated storage upon arrival.
- **Grades 5–12:** Students are issued pouches to store devices in lockers or backpacks, out of sight and turned off.

Students may use devices only in specific circumstances, such as for IEP or 504 plan needs, staff-approved educational purposes, health management, translation services or emergencies. Violations follow a progressive series of consequences, beginning with confiscation and parent contact.

Families have played a key role in this transition. Students have been cooperating well with the new rules, and parents and guardians are encouraged to continue supporting healthy habits at home, such as limiting screen time and creating tech-free spaces.

The district thanks families for their partnership as we implement this policy and ensure classrooms remain focused, safe and engaging for all students. Additional details, FAQs and resources are available on the district website.

Building strong readers at Churchville-Chili

This year, Churchville-Chili is making big changes to how we teach reading. Our goal is simple: give every student the skills and confidence to become strong readers and writers. These changes follow New York State's literacy priorities and are based on years of research about how children learn best.

Why are we making changes?

Research shows that good reading comes from two key areas:

- Word skills like phonics, fluency and sounding out words
- Understanding skills like vocabulary, background knowledge and comprehension

By combining both, we can help students grow into lifelong readers.

What's new this year?

- Grades K–5: Students are using Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), a program that teaches phonics step by step in the early grades and builds deeper knowledge and comprehension as students get older.
- Grade 6: Students are learning with Amplify ELA, which gives them the chance to read challenging texts, build knowledge and grow as writers.
- Assessments K–8: We are now using mCLASS to track progress. This tool helps teachers see what skills students have mastered and where they need more support.

Supporting our teachers

Teachers are also taking part in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training, which provides deep knowledge about how children learn to read. This training helps them make the best choices for students every day.

Looking ahead

These updates are more than just new programs—they are a shift in how we approach reading as a district. With strong curriculum, better tools and ongoing training, we expect students to gain confidence, read with more independence and be ready for success in school and beyond.

Reading in Action at C-C

Here's how the new approach to literacy looks in our schools:

- Aligned lessons: Teachers use clear plans and supports that match across grades.
- Skill-based support: Students get extra help in the exact areas they need.
- Ongoing training: Teachers keep learning about the science of reading.
- Targeted instruction: Students who need more help receive focused lessons.
- Progress checks: We use regular assessments to guide next steps.



Building character at the Middle School

Fifth and sixth grade students are continuing a positive tradition this year with monthly character trait assemblies. Held on Fridays, the assemblies bring each grade level together to celebrate social-emotional learning and give students the chance to lead.

Students volunteer to present during the assemblies as part of a team. Teachers support students in preparing presentations that highlight the character trait of the month.

These assemblies create an opportunity for students to share their voices, practice leadership skills and reflect on the importance of strong character.



Juniors explore local history

This October, juniors in AP U.S. History explored the Erie Canal and High Falls historic district as part of their studies. Students rode the Sam Patch on the Erie Canal out of Schoen Place, Pittsford, then did a walking tour of Brown's Race in the High Falls Historic District downtown. The class received a grant from the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor for the associated costs of the trip. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the completion of the Erie Canal, and students were able to traverse a historic lock to understand how the Erie Canal was engineered to ascend the elevation difference between Buffalo and Albany.



Firefighters bring **fire safety lessons** to students

In October, local firefighters visited our schools to help students learn important fire safety skills. Through age-appropriate lessons, hands-on activities and a chance to explore a real fire truck, students discovered both the role of firefighters in our community and the steps they can take to stay safe. Our older students even had a chance to make their way through the simulator truck!



CES Fall Fest brings fun and culture

CES families gathered this October for the annual Fall Fest. The evening featured free donuts, pumpkins, a pumpkin decorating contest and the Scholastic Book Fair.

New this year, families enjoyed a Culture Fair in the gym. Eight families hosted booths highlighting Germany, Colombia, Kenya, Spain and the Language of Braille, with hopes of expanding in future years.

It was a wonderful evening of community, creativity and cultural learning.

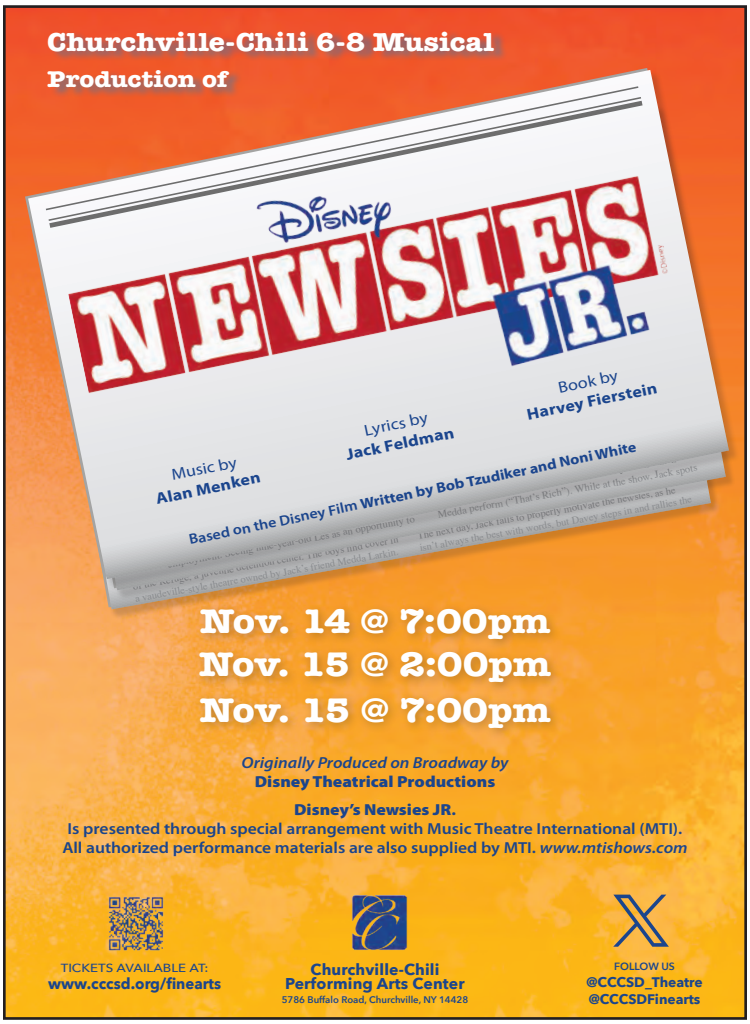


Creativity in the **FRS Makerspace**

Students at Fairbanks Road School are learning to think outside the box thanks to a new makerspace lesson created by STEM Enrichment Coach Jamie Snook. Inspired by the book Not a Box, the activity challenges students to transform a simple toilet paper roll into something entirely new using imagination and creativity.

The lesson is designed so teachers can easily bring their classes into the Makerspace and get started right away. Materials are set up in the room and a digital presentation guides students through the process. The lesson will remain available all year for teachers who want to give their students this hands-on, creative experience.





SHS students thrill audiences with Queens

Churchville-Chili High School students brought the stage to life in October with Queens, a gripping one-act play by Kristen Doherty. Audiences were captivated as King Henry VIII was trapped in purgatory, forced to relive the choices he made against his queens, mistresses and court.

The production featured 19 talented students in the cast and 10 students on crew, all of whom worked tirelessly to create a dramatic and engaging performance. With three outstanding shows, the students' dedication, energy and skill shone through in every scene.

We are proud of all of our student performers and crew members for delivering such a memorable theatrical experience. Their hard work and creativity continue to showcase the strength of the arts at Churchville-Chili High School.



QUEENS



Fall athletic highlights

Churchville-Chili athletes had a strong fall season, earning impressive wins and breaking records:



- Boys soccer finished the season with a record of 12-1-2, were the Monroe County Division II champions and were the No. 1 seed in Section V Class AA. Junior Bryce Wolf was the Section V boys soccer Player of the Week during week one. Junior Lucas Cariola was the Section V boys soccer Player of the Week during week five and set a new school record this season with nine points in a single game, scoring four goals and adding an assist. Senior Mason Simmons broke the school record for most career shutouts as a goalie and the number of shutouts in one season.
- Girls soccer player Kayla Cervini was recognized by Section V Athletics for her empathy and compassion during a game against Brockport. Kayla and the Brockport player showed sportsmanship after a collision on the field.
- Boys cross country captured the division title during their late-September race at Black Creek Park. The team completed the season with an undefeated 10-0 record and were Division III champions. Senior Rahlin Finch had a standout season, earning top spots in many races, including first place out of 100+ runners in the boys large school race at the John Izzo Invitational and first place in the Monroe County Championship.
- Girls golf earned 10 wins and qualified for team sectionals for the first time in program history. Team member Reagan Paolini (Hilton) also won the Monroe County Tournament of Champions.
- Cheerleading won the title of Grand Champions three times this season, and took home the prize for Best Fight Song at their first competition. The team also brought home the Division II title after their Varsity League Championship.

Go Saints!











2025 Athletic Hall of Fame

Churchville-Chili will welcome four outstanding individuals to its Athletic Hall of Fame this year. The formal induction ceremony will be held on December 12, 2025. The 2025 inductees, honored for their accomplishments and contributions to the Saints' athletics program, are:

Brandon T. Crist - *Class of 2018*
A record-setting swimmer, Brandon made a lasting mark in the pool during his time at Churchville-Chili. He was a Section V Class A champion seven times. Upon graduation, he set seven school records, of which four are still school records today. Those include records in the 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle, 200 freestyle relay and 400 freestyle relay. Brandon was named First Team All-County in four consecutive seasons and First Team AGR for three consecutive seasons. He competed in multiple events in the New York state finals for four consecutive years and finished in the top 10 four times. In addition to our school records, Brandon set 12 pool records at other pools. He culminated his career by being named the Churchville-Chili Career Male Athlete in 2018 and went on to swim D1 at the University of Miami, Ohio.

Lukas Fernandes - *Class of 2016*
A standout on the soccer field, Lukas was known for his scoring power, leadership and consistency. He was our team's leading scorer and MVP in 2013, helping lead us to the Section V finals. His leadership and scoring helped lead our team to capture the Monroe County division title in both 2013 and 2014. He was named First Team All-County and First Team AGR for three consecutive years. He capped off his senior season in the fall of 2015, being named team MVP and Monroe County Division 3 Player of the Year. Lukas broke and still holds our school records for most career goals and for most career points. He was named Third Team All-State in 2013 and Second Team All-State in 2015. After graduation, he went on to play four years of D1 soccer at Temple University, then played professional soccer with the Pittsburgh Riverhounds and Flower City Union.

Ty Raines - *Class of 2019*
Dominant on the mat, Ty etched his name into Churchville-Chili wrestling history. To date, he is our all-time leader in career wins, wins in a single season, career takedowns and career pins. He was a two-time Section V Class A champion in 2016 and 2019. During his senior season, Ty was not only the Section V champion but also the Monroe County champion, the state qualifier meet champion, and was awarded as the Most Outstanding Wrestler at the Section V finals in 2019. He competed in the New York state finals twice, finishing third in 2019 and fifth in 2018. He culminated his high school career by being named the 2019 Churchville-Chili Male Athlete of the Year. After graduation, Ty went on to wrestle D1 for 6 years at the University of Buffalo, where he was a two-time team captain and Academic All-MAC selection.

Lee Rogers - *Class of 1982*
Lee was a very talented three-sport athlete in soccer, basketball, and track and field. He was named All-County in all three sports during his senior year. He was the leading scorer of our basketball team and MVP of our track and field team in 1980-81 and was also named the Churchville-Chili Male Athlete of the Year in 1981. After high school, Lee was a two-time gold medal winner in the Empire State Games in soccer. He also went on to be a three-sport athlete in soccer, basketball, and track and field at Spring Arbor College. During his time at Spring Arbor College, Lee was named an NAIA All-American in soccer from 1983-85, as well as an NCCAA All-American in soccer from 1983-85 and track and field in 1986. He was drafted to play professional soccer by both the Kalamazoo Kangaroos in the first round (NPSL) and Dallas Sidekicks in the third round (MISL). He went on to play six years of professional soccer with the Milwaukee Wave. Lee has been inducted into the Spring Arbor Athletic Hall of Fame, Milwaukee Wave Hall of Fame and the Wisconsin Soccer Association Hall of Fame. As a high school soccer coach, he also won two state championships coaching girls' soccer at Brookfield Academy in Wisconsin.

Our Athletic Hall of Fame celebrates the accomplishments of outstanding athletes, coaches, administrators and anyone who has made a significant contribution to Saints athletics. For more information or to submit a nomination for future consideration, visit https://shs.cccsd.org/athletics/athletic-hall-of-fame

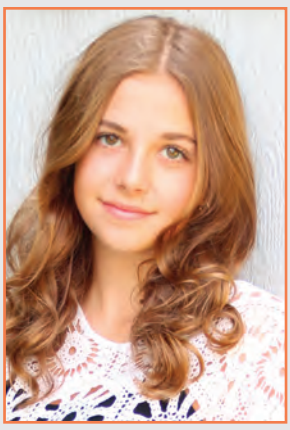
Art in District Office

Each year, student artwork is selected to be showcased at the district office for all to enjoy. Our talented artists were honored with a cookie reception to celebrate their work. Stop by the district office to see all of these incredible pieces.



National Merit Scholarship

Congratulations to C-C senior Audrey Ennis on being named as a semifinalist in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. Audrey was selected in recognition of her high scores on the PSAT/NMSQT qualifying test and now has the opportunity to compete for National Merit Scholarships that will be offered next spring. Commended students demonstrate great academic promise and outstanding potential. We are proud of Audrey and this impressive achievement!



CCCSD students selected for **Area All-State festivals**

Congratulations to our talented student musicians who have been selected for the upcoming Area All-State Festivals in November. The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State ensembles represent the highest honors groups, comprising the most accomplished students from music departments statewide. These exceptional ensembles are led by renowned guest conductors, providing students with a unique opportunity to learn and perform under the guidance of esteemed professionals.

SHS Area All-State:
Paige Sugarman, Taylor Stocks, Niccolo Lupiani, Lauren Henry, Michael Miroff, Natalie McCaffery, Rinnah Falco, Parker Nordhausen, Edith Toates, Gabrielle Conner, Emily Schauf and Juliana Cellura.

JHS Area All-State:
Elizabeth Miroff, Griffin Sawyer, Gunnar Kindred, Camdon Emerson and Olivia Zerillo.



Area All-State Mixed Choir students

SHS students shine in youth orchestras



Several students from Churchville-Chili High School have been recognized for their outstanding musical talent this year.

Congratulations to sophomore Lauren Henry (violin), who was accepted into the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. Sophomore Juliana Cellura (cello), junior Gabby Conner (bass) and senior Taylor Stocks (viola) were selected to perform with the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra.

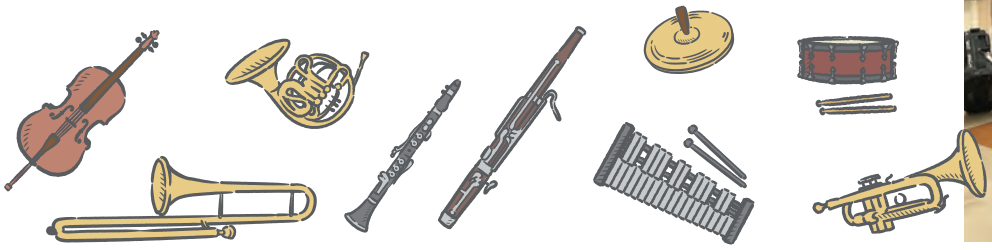
The Hochstein students will have a special opportunity to travel to France this spring to perform with the group. We are proud of all our student musicians for representing SHS with skill, dedication and pride.



New tradition welcomes young musicians

Churchville-Chili has introduced a new tradition to welcome fourth grade students starting their instrumental music journey. Families gathered in the Senior High Café for an evening of learning, music and connection.

While teachers shared key information with families, students explored instruments in small breakout sessions led by Senior High mentors. Local music vendors were also available to assist with rentals.





Empire State Games

Students from all five CCCSD schools joined more than 200 students from throughout the region to compete at the Empire State Games at SUNY Brockport this October.

After a breakfast and send off from Cee Cee, students attended an opening ceremony where they marched with students from schools throughout the region and heard from event organizers about the history and significance of the Empire State Games.

Students competed in a variety of adapted sports including archery, long jump, discus, sprint races, power wheelchair obstacle courses, and more.







EMPIRE STATE GAMES

Students finalize plans for **Roc2Change Summit**

Students from Churchville-Chili, Greece Central and the School Without Walls recently wrapped up their third and final planning session for the upcoming Roc2Change Student Summit on Race, set to take place in November.

The Roc2Change initiative brings together high school students from across the Greater Rochester area to engage in meaningful, student-led conversations about race, racism, privilege and equity. Through facilitated dialogue and collaborative workshops, participants explore how they can be agents of change in their schools and communities.

This year's planning team has worked hard to design an impactful experience that empowers youth voices and promotes inclusive leadership. Churchville-Chili is proud to be part of this important regional effort.

To learn more about Roc2Change and its mission, visit roc2change.org.



Red Ribbon Week volleyball tournament brings students together

Churchville-Chili High School once again marked Red Ribbon Week with its annual volleyball tournament, giving students a fun and positive way to connect while reinforcing the importance of making healthy choices.

19 teams signed up for the tournament this year, making it the largest turn-out to date! Students took to the court, competing in friendly matches for the championship. Teams showed off their creativity with uniforms designed to highlight Red Ribbon Week's message of drug and alcohol prevention.

The tournament, held mid-week, has become a favorite tradition. It gives students the chance to come together in a safe, supportive environment while celebrating the power of teamwork and school spirit.

Congratulations to this year's winners, and to all the students who joined in the fun!

RED RIBBON CAMPAIGN OCTOBER 23-31 NFP
Sponsored by National Family Partnership
www.redribbon.org

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Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Lottery

The Churchville-Chili Central School District will begin accepting applications for the Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) lottery forthe fall of 2026 on November 10. The program will support children in our school district who will be 4 years old by December 1, 2026.

This UPK opportunity is available at no cost to families who reside within the Churchville-Chili District during the 2026-27 school year. Selection for the program is based upon a random lottery drawing, and we cannot guarantee placement at any one school as there are a limited number of spaces available at each building.

In order to be considered, the district must receive a completed online application by 5:30 p.m. on January 30, 2026. This application will be available on our website (www.cccsd.org/universal-prek) beginning November 10. Once completed, the child will be entered into the lottery drawing to be held on February 5, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

For UPK questions or assistance, please contact the Office of Instruction at (585) 293-1800 extension 2310.

Honoring our Board of Education

On October 21, Churchville-Chili continued its tradition of celebrating the members of our Board of Education for their leadership and dedication to our schools.

This year's recognition featured a performance by the middle school band and a video highlighting the creativity and accomplishments of our high school robotics and esports teams. Board members were also presented with cutting boards featuring student artwork—a lasting reminder of the many talents found across our district.

In past years, students have shared their gratitude through performances, presentations and handcrafted gifts. Each celebration reflects the strong partnership between our schools, families and Board of Education, and our deep appreciation for their service.



Thank you to our Board members for their year-round commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed.

