

MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

October 2025



EXCELLENCE

Challenge and learning are the goals and the rewards

INSIDE

Superintendent's Message.....	2
First Day of School	3
Strategic Action Plan	4
Student Board Members.....	6
Section V Advisory Comm.....	7
Student & Family Services.....	7

OUR MISSION

We will challenge all learners and work in partnership with students, parents/guardians and community members to achieve high standards.

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Be a
CARE-ing
Cardinal!

Message from the Superintendent



As we move through October, I am filled with gratitude for the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication that have defined the start of our 2025–2026 school year. Each September gives us the gift of renewal — a “restart button” of sorts — but October is when the real magic begins. Classrooms are alive with learning, relationships are deepening, and our shared sense of purpose continues to shine across the District.

This year, our focus on the Strategic Action Plan continues to guide our work and our growth. Every goal within the plan centers on culture, engagement, and achievement

and is strengthened through our collective efforts. Together, we are living out our CARDINALS CARE commitment: creating an environment where every student and adult is committed to Cooperation, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence. These values are not just words; they are the daily actions that define who we are as a District community.

October brings Homecoming, one of our most anticipated traditions and a celebration that reflects the heart and pride of Manchester-Shortsville. It’s a time to honor our history, celebrate our present, and look forward to a future filled with promise. The enthusiasm of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the spirit of our community are what make these moments so meaningful.

As we continue to build on the pillars of listening, learning, and connecting, I am confident that this year will be one of continued progress and purpose. Thank you for your ongoing support, for the trust you place in our schools, and for helping us make Manchester-Shortsville a place where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

I want to extend heartfelt appreciation to our students, staff, and families for the thoughtful way you’ve embraced the start of this school year. From welcoming new learners to supporting returning students, your partnership ensures that each child feels seen, safe, and ready to grow.

Together, we are not only building strong schools — we are nurturing a culture of caring, compassion, and community that will last for years to come.

With appreciation,

Christopher J. Barnard
Superintendent of Schools



Red Jacket Featured on 13WHAM for First Day of School Coverage



and hard work from the summer come to life. Our team poured so much into preparing for this moment, and it's exciting to see it all come together."

The feature also showcased several familiar and beloved faces who helped make the day

Red Jacket Schools had a moment in the spotlight recently, as 13WHAM featured our district during its First Day of School coverage. Reporter Chris Lopez visited campus to highlight the excitement and energy across Red Jacket as students returned for the 2025–26 school year.

Superintendent Christopher Barnard spoke with the news team about what makes the first day so meaningful for students, staff, and families. "There's nothing quite like seeing the buses roll in, doors open, and our staff lining the sidewalks with smiles," he said. "It's incredibly rewarding to watch all the behind-the-scenes planning

even more special. Buster the Therapy Dog made his rounds, bringing calm and comfort to students, while RJ the Cardinal mascot was on hand to greet everyone with school spirit, high-fives, and plenty of Red Jacket pride.



The day wrapped up with additional interviews that highlighted the vibrant culture of the district. Musical Director Chris Knapp spoke about the upcoming school musical, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, which is set to take the stage on November 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Knapp shared his excitement about the student talent and teamwork already on display during early rehearsals.



Ontario County Sheriff's Deputy John Potter also sat down with 13WHAM to discuss the district's strong partnership with the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Potter reflected on the importance of relationship-building and how much he values getting to know students across all grade levels through his daily presence in the schools.

The 13WHAM coverage served as a great way to showcase the energy, preparation, and positive culture that define Red Jacket Schools as the new school year begins.



MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE CSD



Strategic **ACTION PLAN**

2025-2027

WE WILL CHALLENGE ALL LEARNERS AND WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STUDENTS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ACHIEVE HIGH STANDARDS.

MISSION STATEMENT

Every employee of the district plays a vital role in the success of our students. With an uncompromising commitment to the pursuit of excellence, we will:

- Meet the unique needs of each student
- Provide challenging and real-world experiences
- Cultivate student ownership
- Promote a learning environment that maximizes each student's ability and potential to succeed in an ever-changing, highly technical, and diverse world.



CARDINAL RULES AND NORMS



Cooperation



Accountability



Respect



Excellence



Scan for full Strategic Action Plan

OUR PRIORITIES



Priority One: Culture

Goal: Establish and maintain a strong foundational (Tier One) culture that promotes respect, dignity, and community pride.



Priority Two: Engagement & Collaboration

Goal: Strengthen partnerships between students, families, staff, and the broader community to enhance student success at all tiered levels.



Priority Three: Achievement

Goal: Provide a high-quality, core instruction (Tier One) that personalizes learning experiences to ensure academic success for all students.

DISTRICT-WIDE ACTION PLAN INTEGRATION

1. Improve climate through fair discipline and anti-bullying programs
2. Expand and evaluate support programs
3. Strengthen Social Emotional Learning and mental health supports
4. Foster inclusivity and diversity
5. Enhance parent/guardian engagement and school connections

MEASURING SUCCESS

- Academic: Utilize specific qualitative and quantitative data, as well as formative and summative assessments identified by each building.
- Engagement: Attendance, event participation, club/activity involvement.
- Climate: Annual district survey trends, disciplinary referrals, stakeholder feedback.
- Monitoring: Monthly council reviews, annual assessments, and Board of Education updates.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

- Regular staff and student recognitions.
- Highlight achievements via newsletters, social media, and assemblies.

Red Jacket Student Board Members Bring New Perspective to the Table



Junior Marissa Wakefield and senior Wyatt Rossignol are serving as student board members on the Red Jacket Board of Education for the 2025–26 school year.

The two students sit alongside elected board members during public meetings and are invited to participate in discussions on a wide range of district matters. While they are not permitted to vote or access confidential information, student board members provide valuable perspective on how policies and decisions affect the student body.

This marks the third year of Red Jacket's student board member program, which began as a local pilot in 2023. At that time, student board representatives were only able to present updates or share reports during meetings. With the passage of new state legislation in 2024, all New York school districts are now required to include student board members.

Marissa said having student input on the board helps create “a well-rounded community of views and desires to establish a formidable Red Jacket.” She emphasized the role of student board members in helping policies become more transparent and relatable to students.

Wyatt said the opportunity to participate in board-level discussions is meaningful. “Being able to give student input on school decisions means a lot to me,” he said. “Being a leader is not just being a trustee for the people you're leading, but a delegate representing their ideas.”

In addition to their roles on the board, Marissa and Wyatt took part in the Student Board Member Leadership Summit, hosted by the Four County School Boards Association at the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES campus, in September. They also joined student representatives from across the state for a

virtual session with leaders from the New York State Education Department and other education organizations. Topics included student voice in leadership, board governance, and the future of public education in New York.



Marissa described the summit as “a helpful summit engaged in conversation, the circulation of ideas, and learning to become the best student board leader you can be.”

Both students will continue to represent Red Jacket's student body throughout the school year and share updates on school life and initiatives with the board.

**You're a Good Man,
Charlie Brown**

**November 21 & 22 at 7PM
November 23 at 2PM**

**Red Jacket High School
Auditorium**

**Admission
\$10**

Three Seniors Named to Section V Student-Athlete Advisory Committee



Three Red Jacket High School seniors have been selected to represent their district on the Section V Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) for the 2025–26 school year.

Eliana D'Angi, Joshua Lepel, and Mallory Lockwood — all three-season athletes — were chosen to serve on the committee, which includes about 25 student-athletes

from across Section V. Two of Red Jacket's representatives also compete in dual sports, participating in more than one sport during the same season.

The Section V SAAC was established in the 2019–20 school year, modeled after the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's (NYSPHSAA) statewide SAAC, which launched in 2015. The committee gives student-athletes a voice in high school athletics while supporting local and statewide initiatives.

According to Section V officials, the SAAC promotes student-athlete

representation at the local level, engagement with Section V and NYSPHSAA priorities, and involvement from all levels of the organization.

The committee meets roughly 9 to 10 times throughout the school year, both in-person and via Zoom.

Red Jacket's newly appointed members will join their peers from across the region to share ideas, support programs, and provide input that helps shape the future of high school athletics in New York State.

Red Jacket Expands Student and Family Support Services

Red Jacket Schools is enhancing its student and family support network through a comprehensive “whole child, whole community” approach. The district's social work program, led by School Social Worker Trisha Fooks, aims to strengthen connections between home, school, and community resources to ensure every student's academic, social, and emotional success.

The initiative provides several layers of assistance designed to remove barriers to learning and promote student well-being. Services

include individual and group counseling for students managing behavioral, social, or emotional challenges. Families can also access referrals for community-based supports such as mental health services, housing and food assistance, and medical care.

In addition to direct support, the program will host a series of parent workshops and family information nights on topics including child development and accessing community resources. These events are intended to empower families and foster stronger school-home partnerships.

When families face challenges and don't know where to turn, the program offers problem-solving guidance and helps connect them with appropriate services and school personnel. Efforts are also underway to partner with local agencies to bring more community-based services directly into the school, making it easier for families to find the help they need.

The district's commitment to supporting the “whole child” reflects a broader goal of building a healthier, more connected community where students can thrive at school, at home, and beyond.



#CardinalsCARE

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**MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1506 ROUTE 21
SHORTSVILLE, NY 14548**

www.redjacket.org

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Mr. Scott Van Aken, Member

Mrs. Amy Walton, Member

Superintendent of Schools

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