



CUFSD NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

HOME OF THE HAMBLETONIANS

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

CATHERINE O'HARA

We began 2026 with positive momentum and a shared commitment to strengthening opportunities for every student! Progress is evident across our instructional programs, safety and security measures, learning environments, and family engagement, reflecting the collective efforts of our school community.

Earlier this month, a mid-year update on District Goals and Objectives was presented to the Board of Education, along with an overview of New York State and i-Ready assessment data, highlighting trends, areas of growth, and next steps to support student learning.

Our CUFSD Parent Advisory Panel met to provide thoughtful input on the district's transition to Synergy and to receive updates on key district initiatives, including the Safety Capital Project and the status of the recently approved Interscholastic Athletics Facility.

Families are encouraged to visit the district website for the latest updates and information as this work progresses. Our first Family Instructional Academy of 2026 was a tremendous success, with families joining our outstanding teachers for hands-on demonstrations that showcased innovation, creativity, and future-focused learning in our classrooms.

Together, the dedication of our staff, the partnership of our families, and the enthusiasm of our students continue to move our district forward with shared purpose and excitement for the future!

Professional Development is an investment in student success

Chester faculty and staff participated in an afternoon of professional development sessions, digging into new strategies, hearing from presenters, sharing their own expertise and experiences, and much more. It was time spent strengthening the practices that shape student success.

This all aligns directly with our second District Goal for 2025-2026, which is: Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students. We invest in professional development because when educators grow their skills, students gain opportunities!

[Take a look inside a few of the sessions.](#)



Stronger Together: Student-Centered, Team-Driven Mentorship

January was National Mentoring Month, so we celebrated the incredible CUFSD Mentoring Partnerships that make our district strong!

Our mentors share their time, expertise, and encouragement, helping colleagues grow with confidence and purpose. Our mentees bring curiosity, reflection, and courage, asking questions, seeking support, and embracing growth.

These partnerships are built on and foster collaboration, trust, and a shared commitment to professional learning. And, as we know, professional learning leads to student success. [Read more and see some of our enthusiastic mentors here.](#)



Stay connected for the latest updates!



IMPORTANT DATES

February 14
ACT

February 16-17
February Recess

February 18
Board of Ed Meeting

February 26
CES Winter Concert

February 26
Junior Parent Night

February 28
Odyssey Region 5 Competition



@chester_ufsd



@Chester UFSD



@chesterufsd



www.chesterufsd.org

CHESTER ACADEMY



FROM THE
CA PRINCIPAL

JOHN
FLANAGAN

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the school year! As we begin the third quarter, I want to encourage all students to continue working hard in every class. This is an important time to stay focused, complete assignments, and seek extra help when needed. Teachers, counselors, and administrators are always available to support students in reaching their academic goals, so please remind your child to ask for assistance if they need it.

I would also like to congratulate all of our students who performed well on their midterm and Regents exams. Their hard work, preparation, and perseverance are evident, and we are proud of their academic accomplishments. In addition, a huge congratulation goes to our band and chorus students who were selected to participate in All-County. This is an outstanding achievement and a testament to their dedication, talent, and commitment. We are incredibly proud of our arts program and the opportunities it provides for students to shine.

Our first parent night of 2026 on February 2 focused on helping students and families prepare for the transition to high school. Junior Parent Night for 11th grade families will be held on February 26 at 6 PM to provide guidance as students plan for their senior year and post-secondary goals.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Stay warm, and we look forward to a great second half of the school year!

CUFSD DRAMA
CLUB PRESENTS
THE LITTLE
MERMAID ON
MARCH 20 & 21



Chester alumni return for Q&A panel with current students

Eight recent Chester Academy graduates returned to share with juniors and seniors their words of wisdom and advice since starting post secondary education. This opportunity allowed current students to gain perspective on the transition from high school to college, and the responsibilities that come with a college education.

Chester Academy Class of 2025 alumni Carlie Cambria, Arianna Doughty, James Ray Hernandez, JoJo Osei-Kwanin, Parker Pawliske, Tyson Reilly, Angie Scagnelli and Alex Solimando started the session by introducing themselves, including where they go to school and what they study. Panelists attend universities throughout the country, including Georgia Tech, Marist University and University of Delaware.

[Read the story and see some photos here.](#)



Students learn about the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Students at Chester Academy in John Maggi's Participation in Government class, along with his economics class with co-teacher Ashley Scanlon, learned a valuable lesson about the political impacts and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. in preparation for the annual January holiday.

Students in both classes discussed the idea of rights and how a government guarantees these rights are met. Mr. Maggi then proceeded to set the scene of Dr. King's legacy, and how he was one of the most influential figures in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

"Teaching about the legacy of Dr. King brings out the feelings of admiration, sadness, and hope. My sincere optimism for my students is that they carry forward the lessons with vision, responsibility, and the aspiration to build a better future, just as Dr. King envisioned," said Mr. Maggi.

Both lessons had students analyze an excerpt from Dr. King's letter from the Birmingham City Jail in 1963, when he was arrested for continuous protests after the city banned them.

[Read more about the lessons here.](#)



CHESTER ELEMENTARY



FROM THE
CES PRINCIPAL

MARY KATE
BOESCH

Happy New Year! It has been wonderful welcoming our students and staff back from winter break and settling back into our school routines. January is a time of renewed focus, and our students have done an excellent job transitioning back into the daily expectations while continuing to demonstrate enthusiasm for learning.

On January 16th, students participated in a half day of school while faculty and staff engaged in professional development. Staff collaborated around our science pilot and participated in training focused on de-escalation strategies to better support students when they experience behavioral challenges, ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment for all.

That same evening, the PTA hosted a New Year's Dance on January 16th. We are grateful to both the PTA and SEPTSA, who hosted a calm room during the event for students who needed a quieter space. Their partnership helped make the event enjoyable and inclusive for everyone.

Our January PBIS assembly, originally scheduled for January 28th, was moved to January 30th due to the snow day. It was a fun, spirited assembly where many students earned Winner Circle bracelets for receiving 10 chips in all PBIS categories: Respectful, Responsible, Ready, and Safe. Students also spun the prize wheel, and teachers received shout-out prizes.

Finally, the CES Broadcast Team released their January episode, which was presented to the Board of Education on February 4th. I hope you'll [take a moment to watch the presentation here](#) and support them!

Budding Bookworms: Students pursue a passion for reading

Fifth graders in Pamela Cinque's class made their way down to the library for one of their weekly trips to pick out their next best read. Students in Ms. Cinque's class read every day after school, updating their reading logs to show their progress. Every student participates in this initiative, which allows students to explore their passion for reading and dive into various genres.



Library Clerk Patricia Hallman assists with lessons and finding books for the younger grades, instilling a strong interest for reading early in their educational journeys. The library at Chester Elementary offers a variety of selections including fiction, non fiction, fantasy, mystery, history, social sciences, fairy tales and more. [Read the full story here.](#)

Chester alumni returns, inspires CES students

Joshua Torres, a Chester Academy Class of 2021 and Binghamton University Class of 2025 graduate, treated students in Tara Frambach's and Victoria Brink's second grade class to a special visit, speaking to students about his educational journey and how he utilizes what he learned in the classroom everyday.



Having alumni speak with current students is essential for offering real-world and career guidance, while creating inspiration and motivation for students. Additionally, it allows students to gain perspective on life after graduation, and the challenges and possibilities that come with it. [Read the full story here.](#)

Coding collab highlights tech learning and peer mentorship

Ms. Beyer's 5th-grade class acted as awesome peer mentors to Ms. Maggi's kindergarteners recently, programming robots to help them learn the alphabet!

The older students applied their coding, collaboration and creative skills to support younger learners, and the activity put tech learning and peer mentorship in the spotlight.

[Read more and see the gallery!](#)



**CES WINTER
CONCERT
COMING UP...
THURSDAY, FEB. 26
@ 6:00 PM.**

