

CLINTON

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NAVIGATING THE PATH OF LEARNING | FEBRUARY 2026

Developing Our Portrait of a Graduate: A Community Driven Vision

What does it truly mean to be a graduate of the Clinton Central School District?

Throughout the past year, the district engaged in a thoughtful and inclusive process to answer that question by developing a Portrait of a Graduate. This shared vision defines the skills, qualities, and characteristics we want every CCS student to embody upon graduation. Led by Assistant Superintendent Michelle Gabree-Huba, this work brought together students, staff, parents and community members in meaningful conversations about our aspirations for learners and the future of our community. The process was intentionally collaborative, recognizing that educating students is a shared responsibility and that our graduates should reflect the values of the entire Clinton community.

A Collective Conversation

The Portrait of a Graduate was developed through a series of interactive workshops designed to ensure broad representation and authentic dialogue. Participants included educators, students across grade levels, families and community partners, all contributing diverse perspectives and experiences.

Stakeholders engaged in small group discussions to share their hopes for future graduates and to identify the attributes they believe are essential for success beyond high school. These conversations highlighted a balance of academic skills along with personal, social and civic qualities. Through collaborative activities, common themes emerged and participants worked together to prioritize the attributes they felt mattered most.

Later sessions allowed groups to reflect more deeply on these priorities, exploring why each attribute is important and how it can be cultivated throughout a student's educational journey.

From Vision to Framework

Using the collective input from these conversations, a representative group synthesized the ideas into a clear and cohesive Portrait of a Graduate. Drafts were shared broadly to invite feedback, ensuring the final version truly reflected the voices of our community.

The result is a Portrait of a Graduate that is both aspirational and practical. It provides a shared language and a guiding framework for teaching, learning and growth across the district.

Looking Ahead

The Portrait of a Graduate is not an endpoint but a foundation. Moving forward, it will guide curriculum development, instructional practices, student support services and district decision making. It will also be revisited over time to ensure it remains relevant as our students and community continue to grow.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who participated in this work. Your voices, ideas and commitment helped shape a vision that will guide Clinton Central School District for years to come.

Academically Prepared	Creative Innovator	Critical Thinker	Global Citizen	Effective Communicator	Reflective and Future Focused
Competent & Informed	Perseverance & Determination	Insightful & Resourceful	Global Awareness & Civic Duty	Inquisitive & Knowledgeable	Empathetic & Resilient
Communicates clearly in all subjects Understands and uses academic language Evaluates and applies information	Thinks creatively to solve problems Tries new approaches and learns from failure Stays focused through challenges	Analyzes situations deeply Uses evidence to make decisions Sees connections and patterns	Understands global and local issues Respects diverse perspectives Contributes to the community	Expresses ideas clearly Listens and responds thoughtfully Asks meaningful questions	Manages emotions and mental wellbeing Builds positive relationships Makes responsible decisions Self-reflective Perseveres through challenges to achieve long-term goals

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District Mission Statement: The Clinton Central School District proudly educates and empowers all students to realize their potential in becoming thoughtful, empathetic and contributing members of a global society.

District Vision Statement: Our students are prepared for the future through engaging, meaningful and challenging learning opportunities delivered by motivated and inspired professionals, and supported through collaborative partnerships with our community, businesses and organizations, and institutions of higher education.

Elementary Students Experience

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Clinton Community,

February marks an important transition point in our school year. As winter slowly and gradually begins to give way to the promise of spring, our schools remain full of energy, activity, and momentum. This is a busy and exciting time across the district, with learning, performances, competitions, and celebrations happening in every building.

I want to begin by extending my sincere gratitude to our community for the overwhelming support of the Strong Foundations Capital Project. We are very much looking forward to construction beginning this summer and to the long term impact this work will have on learning and student experience across the district, in addition to the overall maintenance of our campus.

At the same time, the administrative team and Board of Education have begun the early stages of developing the 2026-2027 district budget. This important work is guided by our district goals and our responsibility to balance high quality programming with fiscal stewardship. We look forward to sharing more details with the community in the coming months and continuing our tradition of transparency and collaboration throughout the budget process.

I would also like to congratulate our student athletes and coaches on a successful and action-packed winter sports season. The commitment, sportsmanship, and pride displayed by our teams have been impressive. As several programs prepare for postseason and sectional competition, we wish them the very best of luck and thank them for representing Clinton with such class and determination.

As we look ahead to spring, I encourage families and community members to take part in the many wonderful events planned across our schools. Concerts, theatrical productions, academic showcases, athletic contests, and community gatherings highlight the talents, hard work, and dedication of our students and staff, and they are always made better by the presence and support of our community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support. The months ahead promise growth, celebration, and continued progress, and we look forward to sharing them with you. Special thanks to MORIC's Model Schools Program for loaning CCS the equipment to make this possible.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Clancy
Superintendent of Schools

Coding in the Elementary Library

Fourth and fifth grade students at Clinton Elementary School recently had an opportunity to explore coding and robotics during a hands-on activity.

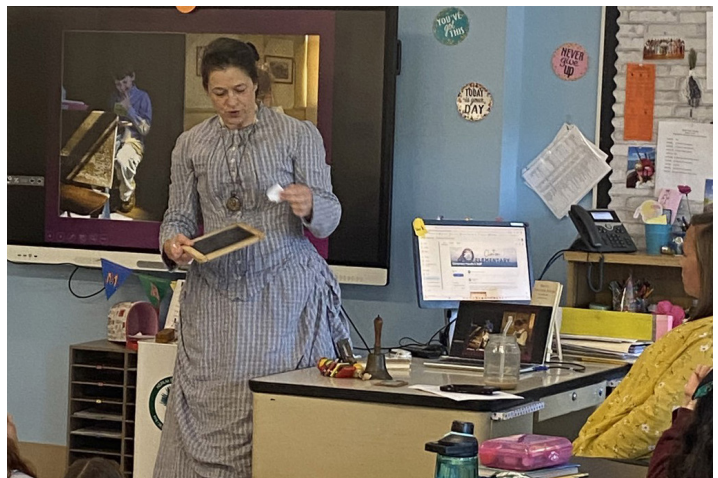
Working in teams, students used Sphero BOLT+ robots and the Sphero Edu app on iPads to complete a learning challenge that required programming the robots to navigate a miniature golf course set up throughout the library. Along the way, students used imagination, curiosity and flexible thinking to solve problems creatively as they tested and adjusted their code to achieve the perfect shot. Special thanks to MORIC's Model Schools Program for loaning CCS the equipment to make this possible.



Miss Buckland Visits Fourth Grade Students

Mattie Buckland visited fourth grade students and offered an authentic learning experience about school life in the 1800s. Students enjoyed learning about academics and activities from this time period. Alison Boissonnas, from the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Rippleton Schoolhouse, portrayed Buckland.

Buckland believed in educating students using an object-based learning method, which aligns with the district's current project-based learning approach. Another visit with Alison is planned for the spring, allowing students to further their research on New York.



Elementary Students Experience



LEARNING WITH OUR FURRY FRIENDS

Elementary school fourth graders in Mrs. Pomerville's class enjoyed a special hands-on learning experience when two visiting guinea pigs spent the morning in the classroom. Students rotated through a series of science, math, literacy and engineering stations designed to help them explore how living things behave and what they need to stay healthy.

Mason Bauer prepared a presentation about Tootsie and Theresa, sharing fun facts about guinea pig care, communication and diet. Mason's presentation set the stage for the rest of the activities and provided students with a solid foundation for their observations.

At the Observation Scientist and Sound Detective stations, students observed the guinea pigs' movements and body language. They noted behaviors such as eating, exploring and squeaking. They also listened for sounds like wheeks, purrs and chatters, learning what each sound signifies in guinea pig communication.

Students wrote short narrative stories from a guinea pig's point of view or explained the basic needs of small pets. The excitement continued at the STEM station, where students used simple materials to design and build model guinea pig hideouts, testing their structures for stability and comfort.

In the afternoon, the guinea pigs visited a third grade classroom, where students enjoyed observing them and learning about their habits. The visit sparked so much excitement and curiosity that the guinea pigs may make more pop-in visits later this year to support future science and writing lessons.

Although the guinea pigs were with us for only a few hours, they inspired rich discussions and genuine curiosity about animals, ecosystems and empathy. It was a memorable day of joyful learning for both third and fourth grade students.

Elementary Teacher Heather Hillage Receives NYS APERD Award

The Clinton Central School District is proud to announce that elementary physical education teacher Heather Hillage has been selected to receive the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NYS APERD) Central North Zone Bob Brown Service Award. The award recognizes a teacher who displays innovative thinking and creative energy through dynamic programming within their school and community to promote the profession.



"I am incredibly honored to be the recipient of the Bob Brown Service Award and forever grateful to my colleagues at Clinton Elementary School for supporting me with all of my endeavors," Hillage said.

Hillage's dedication, positive influence and strong commitment to wellness embody the spirit of the Bob Brown Service Award. The Clinton Central School District extends heartfelt congratulations to Hillage and thanks her for her exceptional service to the district and community.

Chill Out with a Good Book

The third grade team's annual Chill Out with a Good Book event for 2026 took place on Jan. 9 in the small gymnasium. Families were invited to join their children for the event, during which everyone read for 2026 seconds (approximately 33 minutes) to help reignite the love of reading and to kick off the new year.

Families were encouraged to bring a blanket to sit on, and to cozy up with a good book. Seeing their families and other familiar adults relaxing and enjoying reading time can have a lasting impact on students.



The event was a hit, and the third grade team thanks families and administrators for joining in the fun.

-The Third Grade Team



Middle School Students Explore

Middle School Students Trace CCS Beginnings

Clinton Middle School students were recognized at the December Board of Education meeting for their meaningful contributions to the district's new library, celebrated through the unveiling of personalized library plaques. Clinton earned the nickname "School Town" in the 19th century due to its remarkable concentration of academies, seminaries and secondary schools surrounding Hamilton College, making education a defining part of the village's identity.

To honor this history, the five breakout rooms in the newly remodeled secondary library have been named after former Clinton schools. Last spring, members of the class of 2030 worked with Mrs. Scoones and Mrs. Gaetano to research and write historical summaries for each school. Their work now appears on plaques outside each room and serves as a lasting tribute to Clinton's educational legacy.

A special congratulations and thank you to the contributing student historians: Claire Banghardt, Ava Carney, Angelo Gaetano, Batleen Hermann, Hadley Jillings, Beatrice Kelly, Ewan Leising, Liam Major, Will Mihm, Juliana Roach, Spencer Scoones and Maximus Tyksinski. Appreciation is also extended to Mrs. Gaetano and Mrs. Scoones for leading this meaningful project.



TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS EXPLORE CAREERS

Mr. Milana's eighth grade students explored careers of interest by researching the education, skills, salary and job demand for professions such as lawyer, construction manager, physical therapist, zoologist and registered pediatric nurse. The project encouraged students to think about their future education and career paths.



YOUNG WRITERS



Congratulations to our CMS Writers!

In the "Young Writers" upcoming anthology, *Fright Club 2025- In the Spirit of Silence*, the following students wrote pieces that were selected for publication!

Congratulations to:

Braydon Atkinson
Elias Daughtry
Nora Magnarelli
Keira Rowe
Charlie Kelly
Serafina Givens

BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE

Eighth grade technology students are developing real-world skills through hands-on projects, including cutting boards and Snoopy houses, while learning to safely and responsibly use tools such as routers. The projects emphasize practical skills and proper tool use in a supervised setting. Thanks to Mr. Milana for sharing this important content with students.



SEVENTH-GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL FINISHES UNDEFEATED

Congratulations to the seventh grade girls volleyball team on an incredible undefeated season! Teamwork, dedication and sportsmanship made the season one to remember. Thanks to Coach Donley and Coach Maxam for their leadership and encouragement.



Middle School Students Explore

EIGHTH GRADE STUDENT REFORMERS LEAD THE WAY

Eighth grade social studies students stepped into the role of Progressive Era reformers through the guiding question, "How can we, as reformers, promote a positive change in our school community?" Through a project-based learning unit led by Mrs. Dwyer, students learned that civic action involves identifying a problem, understanding its impact and proposing realistic solutions—mirroring the work of reformers during the Progressive Era.

As part of the culminating activity, students collaborated to write to administrators about issues they observe in the school and the improvements they believe would help create a better, safer and more engaging environment for all. Three major themes emerged from the projects:

1. School climate and peer interactions
2. Lunch and recreation experience
3. Facilities and shared spaces

Next Steps: Elevating Student Voice into Action

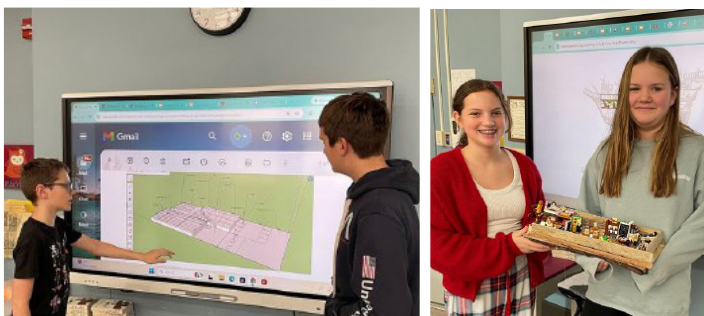
The Student Council and the Principal's Advisory Committee will review these themes and use them to help identify areas where student feedback can inform improvements. Most important, students see that their voices matter and that their input contributes to ongoing school improvement. Thanks to Mrs. Dwyer for designing a project that not only teaches history but also empowers students to be thoughtful, engaged contributors to their school community.



PLIMOTH-PATUXET PROJECTS

Seventh grade students concluded their Plimoth-Patuxet unit by creating a range of impressive projects. Students explored Pilgrim and Wampanoag experiences from multiple perspectives, including redesigning the cramped gun deck of the Mayflower to improve life on board, creating Pilgrim survival guides and comparing the daily lives of Wampanoag and Pilgrim children.

The projects highlighted students' creativity, research and hard work. Thanks to Mrs. Scoones for providing this valuable learning experience.



Sixth Graders Explore Indian Culture and Traditions

Clinton's sixth graders recently wrapped up their novel unit on "Save Me a Seat" by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan with the annual Indian Cultural Lunch and Celebration. Students explored Indian culture through authentic foods and an engaging presentation by Ms. Ratna Datta.

The celebration continued with a visit from third graders, who joined sixth graders in playing handmade board games created by the seminar class. The games were creative recreations of traditional Indian games and offered both grades a chance to learn, collaborate and have fun.

The day offered meaningful opportunities for cultural exploration and connection. The district thanks Mrs. Ford, Ms. Datta and the sixth grade team for organizing this memorable experience.



STUDENT ARTISTS REVEAL NEW MURAL

Middle school Art Seminar students created a vibrant mural now featured in the hallways. As part of the project-based course, student artists work collaboratively to design and install large-scale pieces that reflect the spirit of Clinton Middle School.

The mural celebrates diversity, unity and respect within the CMS community. Recently, student artists introduced their work on the morning announcements, explaining, "This Comet represents the diversity of our school. The center of the piece spells 'CMS' to represent the core of our community that brings us together. The mural shows an open book that represents everyone having a different story and that we should respect each other's differences."



Students also shared that the mural includes "a bird inspired by Bob Marley's song 'Three Little Birds.' The song is positive and about peace, and it fits our mural theme."

Thanks to the talented student artists for their creativity and collaboration, and to Mrs. Pape for supporting their vision and this meaningful project.

Artists:

Nicholas Artessa
Connor Macmillan
Parker McDonald
De'Andre Payton
Henry Preuinger

High School Students Extend and Engage

Clinton Comets Science Olympiad Showcases STEM Excellence

The Clinton Comets Science Olympiad teams recently competed at the Fayetteville-Manlius Invitational, earning an impressive fifth-place overall finish. The Comets faced strong competition from some of New York State's top teams including Syosset, Brighton, Ithaca, and Shaker, and represented Clinton with skill, teamwork and determination.

The following students earned medal placements across multiple events:

- *Anatomy and Physiology (eighth and ninth):* Charlotte Gale, Rowan Dawes, Sam Bender and Ella Kelly
- *Astronomy (second):* Nikolina Gleboff and Jack Wratten
- *Boomilever (eighth):* Ella Kelly and Ben Morford
- *Bungee Drop (sixth):* Andrew Bashant and Ryan Squires
- *Chemistry Lab (sixth):* Jack Wratten and Ella Kelly
- *Circuits (fifth):* Gavin Kapes-VanSlyke and Nikolina Gleboff
- *Codebusters (sixth):* Martin Amuso and Claire MacPherson
- *Designer Genes (seventh):* Charlotte Gale and Rowan Dawes
- *Disease Detectives (second):* Martin Amuso and Ryan Squires
- *Dynamic Planet (eighth):* Jessie Amuso and Matthew Walden
- *Forensics (seventh):* Claire MacPherson and Devyn Roy
- *Helicopter (eighth):* Sam Bender
- *Hovercraft (fifth):* Devyn Roy and Emily Roy
- *Materials Science (third):* Martin Amuso and Ryan Squires
- *Machines – B Team (ninth):* Jesse Amuso and Matthew Walden
- *Remote Sensing (ninth):* Andrew Bashant and Claire MacPherson
- *Robot Tour (fifth):* Gavin Kapes-VanSlyke
- *Rocks and Minerals (sixth):* Nikolina Gleboff and Jack Wratten
- *Write It, Do It (third):* Devyn Roy and Emily Roy
- *Gene Regulation (third):* Charlotte Gale and Rowan Dawes

Congratulations to all the Science Olympiad students on a strong performance and an outstanding showing for the Clinton Comets.

HOLIDAY GIVING

Before winter break, the CCS Student Support Team hosted their annual Holiday Gift Giving, Food Distribution and Winter Gear Pop-Up Shop, sharing holiday cheer with over 50 district families.

Thanks to the generosity of our faculty, staff, students and community donors, more than \$4,500 was raised district-wide. We are grateful to our Counseling Team and all who contributed to making this meaningful tradition possible.



SENIORS ENGAGE IN CIVIC LEADERSHIP AT LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST FORUM

Ten Clinton High School seniors recently represented the school at the 26th annual Legislative Breakfast Forum held at Hart's Hill Inn, an engaging community event that connected students with local leaders and important civic conversations. The forum provided a valuable opportunity for students to learn about current community issues, meet elected officials and participate in thoughtful dialogue about public service and leadership. We are proud of our seniors for taking part in this meaningful experience and for representing our school so well.

NYSSMA All-State Festival



Phoenix Townsend was selected to perform with the New York State Treble Chorus at the NYSSMA Conference All-State Music Festival. Students from across New York State come together to rehearse and ultimately perform in the beautiful Eastman Theatre. Phoenix earned this opportunity by receiving a perfect score—100—on their All-State solo at last spring's NYSSMA Festival.

Students rehearsed diligently to prepare and memorize the seven pieces the ensemble performed. Being selected is a tremendous honor, and the groups featured at this event are extraordinarily talented.

Congratulations to Phoenix on this remarkable achievement!



High School Students Extend and Engage

COMETS EARN HONORS AT REGIONAL MODEL UN

Twenty-six students attended the Model UN conference at Manlius Pebble Hill, enjoying a day filled with thoughtful debate and meaningful collaboration.

Four CCS students earned awards for their outstanding performances:

- Ryder Stilz for Excellence in Policy as Carl Bernstein in the Watergate Special Committee
- Andrew Bashant for Excellence in Public Speaking in DISEC
- Scarlett Stanton for Excellence in Public Speaking in WHO
- AJ Cosentino for Excellence in Policy in IMO

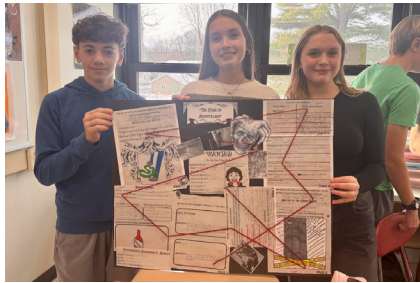
Congratulations to all participants for representing Clinton with pride!



NINTH-GRADE DETECTIVES

Ninth grade honors English students completed a case study project based on *The Cask of Amontillado*. Students analyzed the text from a detective's perspective, examining character motivation, symbolism and textual evidence from the story to build and defend their conclusions.

The completed case study boards showcased strong critical thinking, close reading and creativity, demonstrating students' ability to engage deeply with literature through an inquiry-based approach.



STUDENTS VISIT HOPE HOUSE

Members of the Positivity Project Club volunteered at Hope House, where they spent the afternoon serving warm meals to community members in need. Their kindness, teamwork and commitment to giving back embody the very strengths we aim to cultivate through P2. We are proud of their efforts and grateful for the positive impact they continue to make beyond our school walls. Go Comets!



Scholar Athletes

Seven varsity teams qualified as NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams, requiring that 75 percent of the team roster have a combined average of 90 percent or higher. The teams are:

Cheer: 92.53
Field Hockey: 94.69
Girls Tennis: 99.02
Girls XC: 100.64
Girls Soccer: 96.59
Boys XC: 97.54
Boys Soccer: 96.74

Ninety-nine individual athletes earned a GPA of 90 percent or higher. Congratulations to all student-athletes, coaches, families and fans!

VISITING SPAIN VIRTUALLY

Students in Miss Honsinger's Spanish III class took an immersive virtual trip to Madrid, Spain, bringing language learning to life through a hands-on, real-world experience.

The journey began with students researching real Airbnb listings in Madrid and selecting accommodations based on cost, location and reviews. Students "booked" their stay by "messaging" the host, packed their suitcases using a guided packing list, and received tickets and passports.

Students followed airport signage to pass through security (with special thanks to Officer Gaiser for playing the role), checked in by answering questions and located their seats on a very full flight. Before takeoff, students watched an Iberia Airlines safety video with two lucky travelers even receiving first-class upgrades.

During the flight, students ordered snacks and beverages from a Spanish-speaking flight crew (thank you to the upperclassmen who assisted), enjoyed a short film as in-flight entertainment and created Instagram-style posts describing their travel experience. After a smooth landing—complete with a round of applause—students officially "arrived" in Spain, ready to continue exploring the country's culture and traditions throughout the week.



Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Christopher Clancy

Clinton Board of Education

Ms. Melinda Leising, *President*

Ms. Lisa Magnarelli, *Vice President*

Mr. Sam Catterson

Ms. Rachael Clark

Ms. Jennifer Giannone

Mr. Orlando Guitian

Mr. Patrick LaVeck

Ms. Alice Gaetano, *Student Board Member*

Mr. Antimo Pellecchia, *Student Board Member*

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL



Don't miss the Clinton High School production of **GREASE!**

Tickets are available online in advance by visiting the Performing Arts Theater page at www.ccs.edu or scanning the QR Code!



Upcoming Events

February 16-20: Mid-Winter Recess

February 24: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Comets Library

February 25: CCSD Foundation Meeting, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

February 27: Elementary School Science Fair

March 2: Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Comets Library

March 5-7: High School Musical "Grease," 7:00 p.m., Theater

March 11: JV/Varsity Spring Sports Begin

March 11: National Honor Society Induction, 7:00 p.m., Theater

March 20: Superintendent's Conference Day, No Classes

March 24: Board of Education Meeting, Comets Library

March 27 & 28: Jr. High All-county Music Festival at Adirondack CSD