



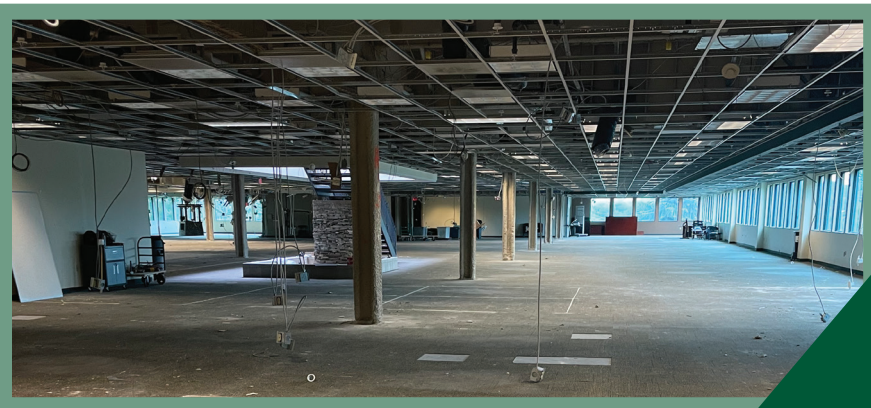
## “Atrea” Announced as Name of Early Learning Center

At the Oct. 8 Board of Education meeting, the district approved a resolution to officially name the new Early Learning Center. The selected name, Atrea (pronounced Uh-tree-a or similar), means “to have for small children.” It is from a long held list of Native American words that have been used to name all of the schools in the district, except High School East and West. The district is excited to move forward with all communication about our new kindergarten center as the Atrea Early Learning Center.

The district is pleased to announce that Ms. Erica Ryan will become the first principal of Atrea Early Learning Center, effective April 2026. Ryan has led our kindergarten Ad-Hoc committee and provided ongoing input into the kindergarten project. Ms. Ryan is currently the principal of Shatekon Elementary School, where she has served with a wonderful staff for the last 13 years. She will continue to be the principal of Shatekon until a new leader takes over Shatekon in the spring.

The district continues to work diligently to prepare for opening Atrea and has long looked forward to opening a full-day kindergarten building. Bringing all of our students together to start their educational journey at Shenendehowa will be a game-changer for our district and our community.

## Atrea Construction On Schedule For Opening Fall 2026



Work on the Atrea Early Learning Center is moving along and will be ready for students for the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. Site work is ongoing including the installation of playground equipment and synthetic turf/cushioned surfaces in the play area, the construction of the bus loop and parent drop-off area, fencing with privacy screens, and final paving and landscaping.



## Registration

Registration opens Dec. 1st.  
Scan the QR code below to visit  
our website for more information  
and to register your child for the  
upcoming school year.



## New Elementary Report Card

All district elementary schools have begun utilizing a standards-aligned report card for the 2025-2026 school year. This new report card has been thoughtfully developed with over two years of research and feedback from families and staff. The goal of this new grading process is to better illustrate your child's learning progression on grade-level priority standards. It will measure student learning based on specific skills, curriculum standards, and learner attributes, moving beyond a single score.

## Artificial Intelligence in Shen

This year, Shenendehowa has continued its thoughtful integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into teaching and learning. Through district-approved platforms such as MagicSchool, teachers are exploring how AI can support creativity, critical thinking, and efficiency in the classroom.

Importantly, students do not have unrestricted access to AI tools. These platforms are only available to students under the supervision of a teacher and for specific instructional purposes. This ensures that all use of AI is responsible, age-appropriate, and aligned with classroom learning goals.

The district also recognizes the broader impacts of technology. MagicSchool has made a public commitment to addressing the environmental impact of AI, working to reduce the energy footprint of its operations and promote sustainable technology use.

Finally, Shenendehowa's Building AI Coordinators have developed a series of lessons for students in grades 3-12 focused on the ethical and responsible use of AI. These lessons help students understand what AI is, how it can be used safely and thoughtfully, and how it connects to the world they are growing up in.

## New York Inspires Update

The New York State Education Department has introduced significant changes to high school graduation criteria through its "New York Inspires" initiative. Set for full implementation in 2029, the changes would provide students with broader graduation options that will still include Regents exams, but Regents exams will not be the only pathway students can use to demonstrate proficiency in the high school learning standards and Portrait of a Graduate attributes.

The Portrait identifies the "essential skills and dispositions" students should demonstrate before exiting high school in "six interconnected attributes." Shen is well-poised to implement the Portrait, as it aligns with the 5 attributes we have focused on developing in our students, as outlined in the Profile of a Shen Student. As additional components of New York Inspires are adopted, the district will keep the school community informed of impactful changes.

For a full description of the New York Inspires phases, please go to NYSED's Portrait of a Graduate, found at the QR code here.



October was Board of Education Appreciation Month. Thank you Board Members!

## We've Improved Our District Website!

On November 3 the district launched a new and improved website! The new site features a cleaner, more modern look with the overall goal to improve user experience. We've also switched our domain to [www.shenschools.org](http://www.shenschools.org).

## Meet the New District Leadership



### Lucas LaBarre, Athletic Director

With nearly a decade of experience at Shenendehowa, Lucas has served as a class assistant principal, testing coordinator, associate principal, and interim director of athletics and physical education. Previously Lucas worked as a social studies teacher, varsity suburban council coach, and athletic director in other districts. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies and a Master of Science in Education from The University at Albany, as well as a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership from Stony Brook University. Lucas lives in Scotia with his wife and daughter. Outside of school, he enjoys ultramarathon running, snowboarding, and mountaineering.



### Brianne Hazelton, Director of Special Education

Brianne started her career as a school psychologist, transitioned to CSE/CPSE/504 chairperson, and then director of Special Education. This school year marks her 23rd year in Special Education. Most recently she held a role at Mechanicville City School District before joining us at Shenendehowa this past May. Brianne loves being an advocate for students with disabilities and working with staff, students, and families to effect positive change in our school system. In her free time you can find her camping, fishing, and attending music festivals with her husband and four children.



### Hilary Hofstein, Director of Environmental Health & Safety

With 15 years of experience in health and safety across public schools and academia, Hilary brings extensive expertise to our district. Her background includes serving as a program manager for the Capital Region BOCES Occupational Health & Safety Service, as well as a radiation safety officer and safety professional at Siena College, specializing in biosafety and chemical hygiene best practices. At Shenendehowa, Hilary focuses on developing and implementing comprehensive occupational and environmental health and compliance programs, and assisting in school emergency response planning.



# Shenendehowa

Central School District

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## Capital Project Updates

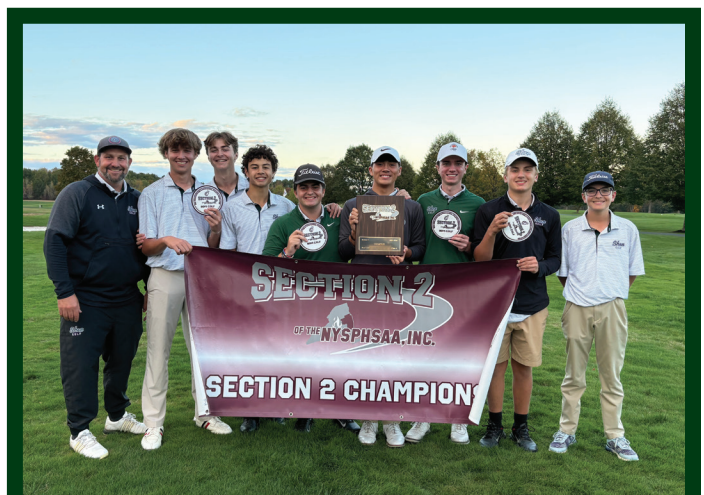
Thanks to your support, the district passed a referendum for an \$85.5 million capital project last spring. The district has begun planning phase 1 of this project which will include:

- Air conditioning for 80% of spaces at the Middle School Complex and High School West (the remaining 20% will be completed in Phase 2)
- Phase 1 is currently in the design phase and will take up to two years to complete once approval is received from the New York State Education Department. Please anticipate summer construction at the Middle School Complex and High School West.

## Shenendehowa Athletics Highlights



1990 & 1991 Boys Soccer Team at the 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction



In October, the Shenendehowa boys golf team won the Section 2 Class A Team Championship