

Cheektowaga-Sloan



Union Free School District

Budget Issue 2025

Superintendent's Message

We deeply appreciate you taking the time to read this comprehensive District Newsletter, which highlights the proposed 2025-2026 budget, showcases the programs we are most proud of in our schools, and provides important information about our proposed Capital Project. Our goal is to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision as you prepare to vote on May 20, 2025, at John F. Kennedy High School.

Our commitment to *Educating the Whole Child* remains at the heart of everything we do. Each year, we strengthen and enhance our approach by expanding academic support, social-emotional learning, and enrichment opportunities. Through innovative programs, dedicated staff, and ongoing improvements, we ensure that every student grows academically, socially, and emotionally in a supportive and well-rounded learning environment.

Last year, we developed an **Early Warning System (EWS)** at John F. Kennedy High School and this year, we have worked tirelessly to expand the EWS to now include John F. Kennedy Middle School. The Early Warning System is a systematic process within our schools to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed. The EWS identifies students who may need additional academic or emotional support, allowing educators, counselors and our support staff to intervene early so that students receive the assistance that they need to be successful. This investment in our middle and high school has provided data-driven insights which has helped us address challenges that students are experiencing. Our objective is to determine what may be causing students to struggle and then quickly and precisely intervening so that they can turn challenges into accomplishments. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our Early Warning System so that we can serve as a model for other districts to follow.

We continue to be extremely proud of our Districtwide, PreK through Grade 12, implementation of **Restorative Practices**. The Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD is currently in its sixth year of implementation and we have become a model District throughout the surrounding areas as well as at the State level for our commitment to ensuring this work is done in all of our schools with fidelity, and for the results that have been yielded specifically in the area of student discipline. We are grateful for



our extraordinary partnership with the **Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition (ECRJC)** who has helped us, supported us, and who speaks so highly of our work in the greater community. We are so proud to be recognized as an example for others to follow!

This past October 2024, our District was selected to present in New York City at the **2024 New York State School Boards (NYSSBA) Annual State Conference** where we delivered a presentation on Restorative Practices. We were able to highlight our great work with districts from across New York State. We were then asked by the **Erie County Association of School Boards (ECASB) in November 2024** to present our progress with Restorative Practices at a Speed Boarding event in West Seneca, NY. During this evening, other districts asked us questions and were most interested in how this approach has contributed to a significant reduction in the number of Superintendent Hearings that have taken place in our District throughout the school year. We were humbled by the interest that other districts had in our success. In addition to these recognitions which have put our District in such a positive light across Western New York and at the State level, we just recently learned that our District was selected and will be receiving the **Hodgson Russ Collaboration Award** for our Restorative Practice work and partnership with the ECRJC. We will be honored at a special dinner this June where we will humbly and graciously accept this profound award.

It has been our honor to showcase the work that has been done in the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District especially work that focuses on developing relationships, encourages the importance of talking with others as opposed to just typing online or texting, and that promotes the healthy lifestyle of repairing harm with others and learning how to move forward in a positive and productive manner. We pride ourselves in engaging

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski, Superintendent of Schools

District Office 716-891-6402 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

in Restorative Circles throughout our schools with students, teachers, staff, administrators and with our Board of Education. We look forward to continuing to strengthen what is already in place specifically with embedding this fine work into our disciplinary processes in all of our schools.

It is always a priority in the Budget newsletter to not only highlight some of our most important initiatives but also to provide a distinct picture of what the 2025-2026 Budget includes. It is important for me to let our community know that we are making tremendous progress in our current **Beautification Capital Project**. You will find a two-page insert in this newsletter that highlights some of the amazing work that has already taken place and to illustrate what will be a reality here very soon, such as our playgrounds at Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, our new digital signs at all schools, our new concession stand at JFK, and our new multipurpose turf field at JFK equipped with a brand new large scoreboard, new lighting, fencing, and more. We are so grateful for your support with this project and we hope that your excitement for what this will offer our community is as strong as ours is!

We have been working closely with our architects, Young + Wright, to analyze our Building Condition Survey results and prioritize the needs for each school building. It is important that we not only modernize our learning spaces but that we also maintain all of our buildings to ensure that we have the safest and healthiest learning environments for everyone. In putting safety first, we have identified the following improvements as necessary in order to give our community confidence that all buildings are safe and secure:

- Theodore Roosevelt - replacing windows which are beyond useful life, making parking lot upgrades, providing door replacements, HVAC updates, electrical and plumbing improvements, fire alarm enhancements, and ceiling, flooring, and roofing upgrades
- Woodrow Wilson - replacing existing boilers that are beyond useful life, repairing masonry work and drainage structures, upgrading our CO detection and HVAC systems, and providing electrical, plumbing and fire alarm upgrades
- John F. Kennedy Middle & High School - replacing existing fire alarm and HVAC systems, providing door replacements, repairing masonry work, upgrading plumbing and electrical work, making improvements to the CO detection system, repairing the loading dock area, upgrading the maintenance garage and modernizing our current baseball/softball fields to include turf so that our baseball and softball fields are not only safe spaces to use but also so that our athletes receive the same athletic experience that our other athletes will be experiencing on the new football/multipurpose turf field

To address essential repairs, upgrades, and improvements focused on health, safety, and modernization - including the continuation of turf for our softball and baseball fields at JFK MS/HS - we are once again seeking the support of our community. After extensive planning, we have developed a **proposed \$19.5 million Capital Project** that will have **no tax impact on our taxpayers**. This project will be funded through established reserves that we have carefully accumulated and invested in over the years, as well as through low-interest bonds, ensuring a responsible financial approach.

We are excited to present the proposed Capital Improvement Project to our community which we believe is a testament to our commitment in maintaining safe, functional learning environments and enhancing the overall educational experience for Cheektowaga-Sloan students. Please take a moment to review the two-page insert in this newsletter, which outlines the various needs this project will address. Your support is crucial for us to move forward with this important initiative, and we thank you for your thoughtful consideration as you cast your vote on May 20th. Voter approval is essential for us to proceed. As with the Beautification Project, we are exceedingly grateful for your ongoing support and trust in our efforts to improve the District.

We are incredibly proud of the trust that we have earned through our strong track record with taxpayers and we are committed to continuing that tradition. We have always stood strong for what we believe in and what we know the Cheektowaga-Sloan community rightfully deserves.

Over the past thirteen years, we have consistently made thoughtful, strategic decisions which have included appropriate reductions or modifications whenever possible in order to save money and preserve the future of our District. We sincerely hope our community recognizes that it is through our careful and systematic savings efforts that we have consistently remained below the tax cap since 2013, with **an average tax levy increase of just 0.41% over the past thirteen years**. We take great pride in this record and are both inspired and committed to maintaining this reputation for many years to come. Once again, we respectfully ask for the support of our taxpayers on May 20, 2025.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski, Superintendent of Schools



District Office 716-891-6402 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

What will we be asking for from our taxpayers?

We will be asking for a 0.88% increase in school taxes which is below the **District's Tax Cap of 1.93%**.

How much will my taxes increase as a result of a 0.88% increase?

As we have done each year, we have taken a sample of homes from within our District to determine the estimated increase in annual taxes on the average home. The average increase for an average home will be approximately **\$26.40**. Please remember that this is the **total increase for the entire year**.

As we plan, prepare, and present the proposed budget each year, it is essential for us to communicate to our taxpayers that we are always deeply reflective and mindful of the impact any increase, even a small one, has on our community-particularly in today's climate of steep inflation. We take great pride in our record of maintaining an average tax increase of just 0.41% over the past thirteen years, a feat we believe is unparalleled among school districts in Western New York. As you may have seen in recent years, many neighboring districts have faced the unfortunate need for significant cuts and staff layoffs. Thanks to our meticulous planning and financial stewardship, we avoided such measures last year and will continue to do so in the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District this year. This commitment to thoughtful budgeting ensures that we remain in a strong financial position, both now and in the years to come. We will always prioritize the responsible management of taxpayer dollars and strive to keep our tax levy as low as possible.

We invite you to attend our **Public Hearing on May 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Theodore Roosevelt Cafetorium. Additionally, we encourage you to exercise your right to vote on May 20, 2025 at our **District Budget Vote**, which will take place in the gymnasium at JFK High School from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We are excited to bring our students, families, and community together for a night of celebration and enjoyment. We invite you to take advantage of our **\$1 hot dog dinner** (including chips and a drink) in the JFK Cafeteria, and you won't want

to miss our **free sundae bar** for all to enjoy! Throughout the evening, our talented students will take center stage with musical performances in the JFK Auditorium, while their incredible artwork will be on display in the gymnasium. We hope that you will join us for this special event, where the accomplishments of our students will shine brightly.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article and the entire newsletter. We hope it has given you a glimpse of what we are most proud of in our District, especially the incredible accomplishments of our PreK-12 students. We are deeply proud of our students, profoundly grateful for our partnerships with parents and the community, and truly honored by the trust you place in us to educate and support your children each day. Our students are at the heart of everything we do, inspiring us daily to create a welcoming, nurturing, and enriching learning environment for every child.

With sincere gratitude,

Andrea L. Galenski
Superintendent of Schools



Budget Vote Hearing

The School Budget Public Hearing will take place on
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary Cafetorium
2495 William Street
Cheektowaga, NY 14206



School Budget Vote

will take place on
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
noon until 9:00 p.m.

John F. Kennedy High School Gymnasium
305 Cayuga Creek Road
Cheektowaga, New York



JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

305 Cayuga Creek Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 • Robert N. Julian, Jr., Principal

Main Office 716-891-6407

Letter from the Principal

Dear Cheektowaga-Sloan Families,

At JFK High School, we are well into another outstanding school year filled with exciting activities, academic achievements, and continued progress on our athletic facility renovation. It has been a year of growth, opportunity, and Bear pride, and we are thrilled to share our journey with you.

Academically, at JFK High School, we offer a robust selection of courses, including Regents-level classes, diverse electives, academic support programs, and college credit opportunities through Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Niagara University's NUSTEP program,

and Erie Community College's Advanced Studies. The commitment of our educators, support staff, and, most importantly, our students is the foundation of our success. Well done, JFK Bears!

On behalf of our administration, faculty, and staff, I want to express how proud we are of our students. It is truly an honor to support and guide them each day. Please enjoy this year's Budget Newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you on campus soon!

Respectfully,
Mr. Robert N. Julian, Jr.
Principal



Curtain Up with JFK Drama!

Members of the **JFK Drama Club & Stage Crew** are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming positivity and support that has helped fine arts thrive at JFK!

This fall, **JFK Drama** brought *The Dining Room* by A.R. Gurney to life - a thought-provoking play that challenged our actors to take on multiple roles across interconnected storylines. Set in **20th-century Buffalo, NY**, the production also engaged audiences with its layered narrative and deeper themes.

In the spring, the club took a vibrant turn with Nickelodeon's *The **SpongeBob Musical***, a whimsical and colorful production that transported audiences to a pineapple under the sea. This high-energy show left everyone inspired by its uplifting message about the enduring power of hope.

Thank you to our talented cast, crew, and supporters for making this season unforgettable!



A Historic Homecoming: JFK Bears Take the Field One Last Time...

Homecoming '24 was one for the books! The festivities ignited - literally - with a roaring bonfire that brought students, families, and staff together for a night of music, dancing, and school spirit under the stars.

Saturday's sunshine set the stage for a dazzling display of Black & Gold pride as the community lined the streets for an epic parade. Decked-out vehicles, enthusiastic cheers, and fantastic music filled the air, leading up to the high school for the main event.

Then, it was game time! The JFK Bears took the field for a historic showdown - our final Homecoming game on the traditional grass field. Fans packed the stands, rallying behind the team and soaking in every moment of this bittersweet milestone.

The weekend wrapped up in style with a spectacular dance, hosted by our amazing Student Council, where students danced the night away, making memories to last a lifetime.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this Homecoming unforgettable. We celebrate the spirit, tradition, and excitement of being a JFK Bear!



JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

305 Cayuga Creek Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 • Robert N. Julian, Jr., Principal

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Supporting Success: JFK's Early Warning System Helps Students Thrive

At JFK High School, we are committed to ensuring the success of every student, which is why we have implemented a proactive **Early Warning System (EWS)** to identify and support students who may be at risk academically, socially, or emotionally. This system utilizes real-time data, including attendance, grades, and behavioral indicators, to provide early interventions and personalized support. Our dedicated team of educators, counselors, and administrators work collaboratively to connect students with the resources they need—whether through academic tutoring, social-emotional counseling, or mentorship programs. By taking a preventative approach, our **EWS** helps students stay on track, build confidence, and achieve their full potential in a supportive and caring environment.



Student Voices in Action: The Superintendent's Council Shaping JFK's Future



Superintendent **Mrs. Galenski** and High School Principal **Mr. Julian** are proud to continue hosting the **Superintendent's Council**, now in its sixth year. This council brings together student

leaders from grades 9-12 for meaningful discussions with district administrators on a wide range of topics, including **school culture, academics, extracurricular activities, athletics, music, and ongoing capital projects**. The insights and perspectives shared during these meetings play a vital role in shaping the student experience and guiding future initiatives. A heartfelt thank you to all past and present **Superintendent's Council** members—your voices are invaluable, and we appreciate your dedication to making a difference!

Paws for Applause: Celebrating Student Success at JFK!

Over the past few years, we have partnered with **VSP Graphic Group** to enhance the hallways at **JFK High School**, creating a more inspiring and engaging environment. This year, we introduced the "**JFK Honors**" **Bear Paws Award Display**, a special way to celebrate student achievements. **Administrators, teachers, counselors, and staff** can nominate students for a **JFK Honors Bear Paw**, which features the student's name and a brief description of their accomplishment in a professionally designed display. This initiative allows us to recognize the incredible achievements of our students across a variety of areas. Next time you visit **JFK**, be sure to check out our latest **Bear Paws** and celebrate the success of our amazing students!



Student Leaders Shine in Restorative Practice Seminars

Each year, we have the privilege of recruiting, selecting, and training a group of student leaders in **Restorative Practices**. This year, approximately 10 students are participating in monthly after-school training seminars led by one of our school counselors and members of the **Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition (ECRJC)**. Once the training is complete, these dedicated students will take the lead in facilitating **community circles** in their Advisement classes. We are excited to see them grow as leaders and make a positive impact on our school community life and taught our students a few tips and tricks to improve their memory and focus in school. We look forward to continuing our JFK Speaker Series in the future!





JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

305 Cayuga Creek Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 • Christopher Farrell, Principal

Main Office 716-897-7300

Back-to-School!

We welcomed students back to school this fall with a motivational assembly from local speaker Duncan Kirkwood. With a focus on empowering our students, Duncan emphasized strategies students can use to increase success in their school and life. We also celebrated back to school with a game show from Quizmaster George. Grade levels facilitated team-building activities that allowed students and staff to get to know each other. These were critical to laying the foundation for a strong, positive grade-level and school culture.



A Message from the Principal

Dear Cheektowaga-Sloan Families,

The 2024-2025 school year has been an exciting year for John F. Kennedy Middle School. We continued our focus on building a positive school culture that welcomes and celebrates all students. We planned and hosted several events throughout the year- from our themed spirit weeks, guest assemblies, team-building events, and much more! We also focused on increasing the engagement of students in all classrooms. Teachers are working hard to increase the academic rigor in their classrooms and design learning opportunities that challenge our students. This includes hands-on experiences and cooperative learning. Our efforts are paying off! We have more students actively participating in athletics, the arts, and after-school extracurricular activities. As always, thank you to our parents and community for the continued support and partnership- we couldn't do it without you! Please enjoy some of the highlights from this year.

We Bring the School-Spirit!

School spirit days are one of the best ways to bring our school together. They're a wonderful opportunity to showcase students' creativity and individuality. Some of our favorite spirit weeks include Homecoming, Red Ribbon week, Peace and Kindness week, and Buffalo Bills spirit days!



Fall Fun

Homecoming kicked off an exciting series of fall events. Our students love representing our middle school during the homecoming parade and bonfire. Fall Fest 2024 was a huge success. Students and families enjoyed our zombie run, pumpkin painting, and fall food. With over 200 participants, Fall Fest was the first in our three-part series of parent and family engagement events. This Spring will celebrate our third annual JFK Cafe and Spring Wellness Fest.



JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

305 Cayuga Creek Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 • Christopher Farrell, Principal



Main Office 716-897-7300

Academic Achievement

We recognize the academic achievement of our students during our academic reinforcement events. Quarter one includes an honors assembly and in quarter two honors, students receive an honor's breakfast. We also celebrate students with academic reward events at our 5, 15, 25, and 35-week progress reports. This year's events included movie day in the auditorium, a JFK Bears-themed Bingo and karaoke party, and a Buffalo Bandits lacrosse clinic. Bandits players, Lukas Nielsen, Zack Belter, and Chase Fraser donated their time to teach our students the basics of lacrosse.



Engaging Students in their Learning!

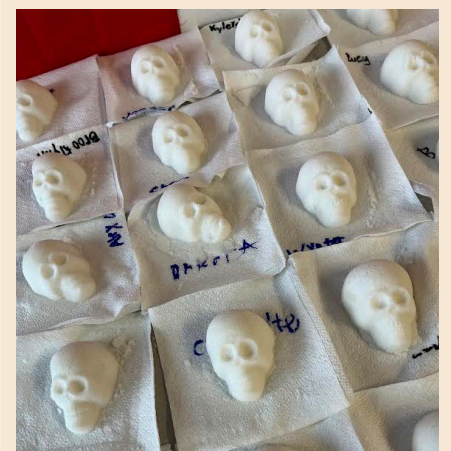
Teachers find creative ways to engage our students. In Spanish class, students celebrate the Day of the Dead (el día de los Muertos) through hands-on learning activities. Students learn about the cultural significance of the day and then make sugar skulls. Our PE teachers have friendly flag football contests, students learn how to cook together in Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS), and the annual Tech War competition provides an opportunity for students to compete in science, technology, and engineering building.

Extracurricular Excellence!

We are proud of our many extracurricular offerings. Some of our highlights include jazz band, percussion ensemble, board game club, and art club. **Jazz band** is learning about and playing in the "swing" style, syncopated (off-beat) rhythms, articulation markings, and an increased dynamic range.



The Jazz Band performs throughout the year at concerts and special events! This year marked the first year of the **JFKMS Percussion Ensemble** and is the first time JFKMS has had a Percussion Ensemble! It's open to any student, and the ensemble uses all percussion instruments (i.e. snare drums, bass drum, auxiliary (tambourine, triangle, cymbals, etc.), and mallet percussion (ex. xylophone, marimba, glockenspiel, chimes, etc.). Join us for our debut performance at the MS Spring Concert and then again for the District Concert on Tuesday, May 20! The **Board Game Club** is one of our favorites. Students learn new games from one another such as Life, Battleship, Sorry! and Clue. They also participate in team-based competitive games that involve character development and strategy. The **Art club** is open to students in all grades throughout the year. Students have the choice to work on independent art projects or work collaboratively. One special upcoming event is our 3rd annual JFK Cafe, inspired by the World Expo. The theme for their creations is how we envision our world in the future and how we can have a positive impact on it. From cardboard prototypes of futuristic homes to inspiring signs, they cannot wait to share their ideas with you! The **birthday/cake decorating club** is also a favorite. In this club, students bake and sell seasonal baked goods and prepare birthday cupcakes monthly to celebrate all students of JFK!





WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Elizabeth Zaccarine, Principal

Main Office 716-891-6419

Woodrow Wilson Elementary - You Belong Here

This year at Woodrow Wilson, we chose the theme “You Belong Here.” Each month, we focus on a different “Be” and incorporate it into our morning announcements, displays, classroom lessons, and conversations with students. We recently wrapped up “Be Your Best Self” and have now moved on to “Be Green” in recognition of Earth Day and our efforts to keep Woodrow Wilson beautiful.

We strive to ensure that every child knows they are included and belong at school. These themes help us integrate our work in Restorative Practices and Leader in Me.

Recognizing Attendance

This year, we are making a special effort to recognize attendance. Throughout the year, classrooms with perfect attendance have been celebrated. Each day a classroom achieves perfect attendance, they earn an entry into a raffle. So far, we have awarded ice cream parties, extra recess time, and numerous shout-outs during morning announcements. Students love hearing their names called!



Be Ready to Learn, Be Ready for Results

In addition to our reading blocks, we have implemented W.I.N. (What I Need) Time, which allows students to switch rooms and work on reading skills tailored to their needs. We continue to develop programming that meets students at their individual levels to maximize growth.

Our new math program has enriched our curriculum, and students love using hands-on math manipulatives to enhance their learning experience. Science remains a favorite subject at Woodrow Wilson, where students explore concepts through experiments. Teachers also create engaging social studies lessons by incorporating real-life experiences - such as taxation lessons - and offering a wide selection of books in our classrooms and libraries.

Make sure to check out our Monthly Paw Print Press to stay updated on each grade level’s learning!

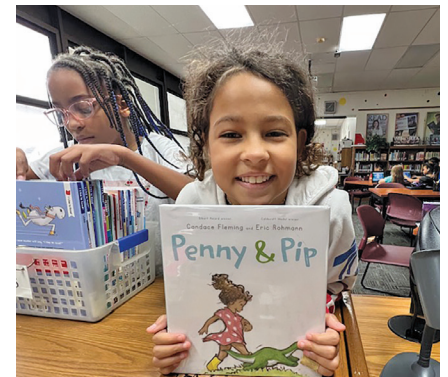


The Library - A Hub for Literacy, Technology & STEM

At Woodrow Wilson, our library is much more than a place to check out books. Students build computer coding and typing skills and learn how to navigate the internet safely.

Our STEM challenges have been a huge hit, with students designing bridges and rocket ships. They’ve had a blast - literally!

Of course, we always end each class with book check-out, ensuring students can explore their interests through reading. With around 18,000 books to choose from, there’s something for everyone!



WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Elizabeth Zaccarine, Principal

Main Office 716-891-6419



The Music Room and the Stage

Woodrow Wilson students explore a variety of instruments in music class. During the drumming unit, students experience different rhythms while learning poems and nursery rhymes. Ukuleles are a favorite, as students learn to read pitch, rhythm, and play a stringed instrument. Additionally, students get to play the recorder, introducing them to the woodwind family.



Music is always alive in our hallways, and we look forward to using our new risers for the upcoming spring concert. We also have an exciting performance of Dig It! coming this June—we hope to see you there!

Creativity in the Art Room

The art room is a favorite spot for many students. They get to work with various mediums and learn about famous artists before creating their own projects. Students use watercolors and tempera paints to craft themed artwork aligned with holidays and seasons.

A walk through Woodrow Wilson in winter showcases drippy hearts and gingerbread houses. Students even had the chance to design and create LEGO characters of our staff members! There are plenty of opportunities for students to express their creativity, including an after-school art club.



Student Leadership and Restorative Practices

We are proud to announce that we now have 26 students trained as Restorative Student Leaders. We recently held a refresher training for students trained last year and welcomed new students so that every classroom at Woodrow Wilson has two student leaders. These students are trained to lead classroom circles and mediate student conflicts by running restorative circles.

In addition to these leaders, we have had 50 Student Lighthouse Leaders. Our students are deeply interested in leadership, and due to the overwhelming number of applicants, we have implemented half-year positions. This allows us to cultivate more leaders and amplify student voices in our decisions.

Our Leader in Me students have organized school assemblies, planned events, and most recently launched video announcements. Additionally, we receive an overwhelming number of applications for our event committees. Woodrow Wilson students are eager to be involved, and we could not be more proud!

Instrumental Music

Our First-Year Musicians have been making great progress! Woodwind and brass players (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba) have been learning new notes, while percussionists are improving their skills on mallets and the snare drum.

Many students are close to earning their way into After-School Band!

In After-School Band, students focus on ensemble performance skills, musical concepts, and band etiquette. We even sing in band! Singing tonal patterns with neutral syllables, solfège, and numbers helps with intonation, audiation, and pitch accuracy. Since incorporating singing instruction, we've noticed a significant improvement in the group's sound. Students are learning that music exists beyond the page!



Physical Education

With new physical education equipment this year, students are experiencing fresh and exciting games. We've focused on fundamental throwing and catching skills, incorporating activities that develop coordination, accuracy, and teamwork.

A recent favorite has been our basketball unit, where students sharpen their skills while developing offensive and defensive strategies. We love physical education, movement, and teamwork at Woodrow Wilson!



BUDGET INFORMATION

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

District Office 716-891-6402

Proposition #1

Shall the Board of Education of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District be authorized to expend the sum set forth in the proposed 2025-2026 Budget in the amount of \$42,901,087 and to levy the necessary tax?

YES NO

Proposition #1 **Estimated Tax Rates**
Tentative Increase Proposition #1

Tax Rate	Cheektowaga	West Seneca
2024 - 2025 Actual	\$19.45	\$62.25
2025 - 2026 Estimated	\$19.62	\$62.79
Increase	\$0.17	\$0.54

Proposition #2

Shall the Board of Education of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District be authorized to construct and improve school buildings, facilities and sites and to expend therefor in an amount not to exceed \$19,500,000. The total not to exceed cost of \$19,500,000 is to be funded with \$5,000,000 from the District's Capital Improvement Reserve Funds and the \$14,500,000 of serial bonds which is hereby authorized to be issued and expended to pay for the Project.

YES NO

Proposition #3

Shall the Board of Education of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District be authorized to establish Capital Improvement Reserve Fund No. 3 under Education Law Section 3651[1] the purpose of which would be to fund or assist in the funding of cost of future capital improvements to District facilities. The Capital Reserve Fund may not exceed total funding in excess of \$10,000,000 plus interest earned thereon over a term not to exceed ten (10) years beginning July 1, 2025. The source of funding of this capital reserve will be from annual budgetary savings only as authorized by the District's Board of Education.

YES NO

Instruction: 51.2%

Instruction of students is the purpose for the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District's existence. This category includes: salaries, material, equipment and services relating to the instructional program of all students within the District attending our public schools and adults who participate in the Adult Education Program.

Teaching - Regular Schools, Inter-fund Transfers Relating to Instruction and Charter School Tuition	\$11,729,846
Students with Disabilities	7,797,111
Curriculum Development and Supervision	535,608

BOCES Services / Occupational Education	
Instruction	370,000
Summer School / Continuing Education	95,800
In-Service Training	96,000
Supervision, Planning and Evaluation	1,335,790
TOTAL	\$21,960,155

Pupil Support Services: 6.0%

Pupil Support Services are non-classroom positions which aid and support students in everyday activities and after school interests.

Attendance	\$15,425
Guidance Services	266,718
School Library, Audio Visual Services and Computer Assisted Instruction	951,254
Health Services	342,140
Psychological Services	149,911
Social Work Services	317,377
Co-curricular Activities	151,550
Interscholastic Athletics	379,685
Community Census	17,050
TOTAL	\$2,591,110

General Support: 5.5%

Includes all non-instructional salaries for people who keep the District functioning smoothly and direct and communicate the educational philosophy of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District.

Board of Education:

Policy, Strategic Improvement Projects Dues, Operational Expenses and Legal Notices	\$25,675
District Clerk	8,100
Annual District Meeting	7,050

Central Administration:

Superintendent's Office	313,964
Business Administration	398,773
Legal, Auditing and Purchasing	367,031
Public Information, Newsletters and Brochures	19,280
Central Printing and Mailing	46,100
Central Data Processing	769,850

Special Items:

Insurance	158,800
Association Dues and Assessments	70,975
BOCES Administration Charges	168,400

TOTAL \$2,353,998

Building Maintenance & Operations: 6.1%

Provides for custodial activities necessary to keep the facilities open, clean and safe. Maintaining the District's buildings and grounds in their optimum condition, which protects the value of your property. Also, includes a transfer to capital to provide for a \$100,000 project for improvements to District facilities.

BUDGET INFORMATION

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District Office 716-891-6402

Buildings and Grounds	\$1,675,396
Utilities	603,000
Equipment, Materials and Supplies	260,000
Inter-fund Transfer to Capital Project Fund - Facility Improvement	100,000
TOTAL	\$2,638,396

Student Transportation Services: **7.9%**

Include all expenditures for District students bussed to our public school, non-public schools, charter schools and schools for the handicapped students. Transportation includes bussing for field trips, outdoor education, extracurricular activities, inter-scholastic sports and special bussing for handicapped students.

Transportation – Public, Non-Public and Charter Schools	\$3,259,610
BOCES Services	65,180
Fuel, Equipment, Material and Supplies	50,000
TOTAL	\$3,374,790

Debts & Obligations: **23.3%**

These items consist of fixed fiscal responsibilities of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District. Employee benefits, principal and interest on borrowings by the District are all part of this category.

Employee Benefits:

Employee Retirement	\$589,724
Teacher's Retirement	1,463,560
Social Security	1,299,949
Workers Compensation	260,000
Life Insurance	35,000
Unemployment Insurance	50,000
Hospital and Medical Insurance	4,060,705

Debt Service:

Serial Bond Principal	1,895,000
Serial Bond and Other Interest	328,700

TOTAL **\$9,982,638**

GRAND TOTAL **\$42,901,087**

Absentee and Early Mail Ballots

In order to receive an absentee or early mail ballot, an application must be completed and returned via mail or in person. If the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be received by the district clerk at least seven days before the election. If the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person, the application may be received by the district clerk the day before the election. Please note that the applications may be acquired by anyone but the ballot can only be given to the actual voter.

To obtain an absentee or early mail ballot application, please contact:

Denise Knaebe, District Clerk
Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District
166 Halstead Ave. • Sloan, NY 14212
(716) 891-6402

Board of Education Elections

To elect two (2) members to the Board of Education, each serving a five (5) year term, commencing on July 1, 2025, and expiring on June 30, 2030. The positions are currently held by Stephanie Dombrowski and Ava-Marie Shonitsky.

Candidates:

Candidate: Racheal Tarapacki

Candidate: Stephanie Dombrowski

Write in Candidate: _____

Write in Candidate: _____

See candidate bios on page 16.

Budget Vote Hearing

The School Budget Public Hearing will take place on

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 • 7:00 p.m.

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary Cafetorium

2495 William Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14206

School Budget Vote

will take place on

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 • noon until 9:00 p.m.

John F. Kennedy High School Gymnasium

305 Cayuga Creek Road, Cheektowaga, New York

Who is Eligible to Vote?

To be eligible to vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, a person must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years old
- A legal resident of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District for at least thirty (30) days prior to Tuesday, May 20, 2025
- A qualified voter who is not otherwise prohibited from voting under provisions of Election Law

Acceptable proof of residency includes a driver's license, non-driver identification card, utility bill or voter registration card. Any questions can be answered by calling the district office at 716-891-6402.

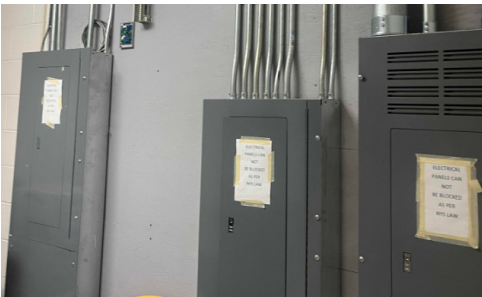
CHEEKTOWAGA SLOAN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2023

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE

WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



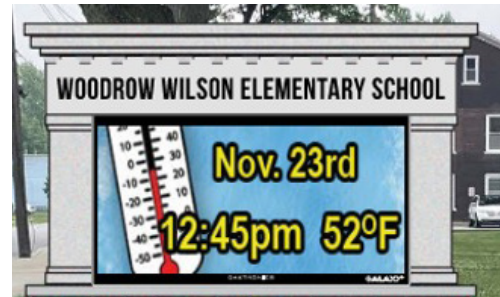
Playground installation will begin in April.



New conduit has been run to serve the new security cameras at the playground.



Existing building signage.

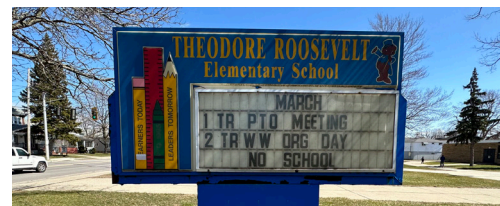


New digital sign will begin installation in April.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Playground installation will begin in May.



Existing building signage.



New digital sign will begin installation in April.

CHEEKTOWAGA SLOAN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2023

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE

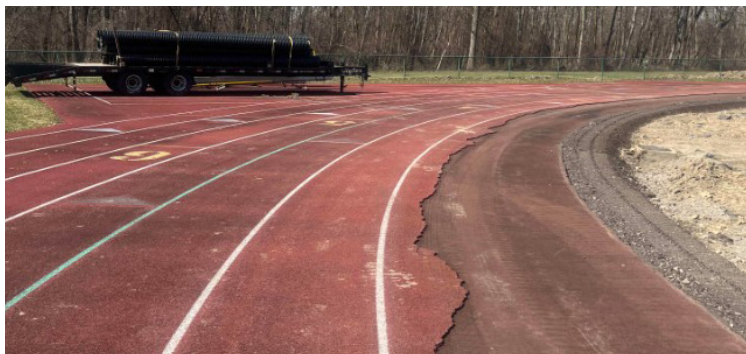
JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE/ HIGH SCHOOL



Field has been demolished.
Site is being prepped for new turf field.



The old scoreboard has been taken down.



The top layer of track has started to be removed.
The track will be getting resurfaced this summer.



New digital sign will begin installation in April.



Site is being prepped for the concession stand - which will be built this summer.



New scoreboard will be installed this summer.

CHEEKTOWAGA SLOAN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

We provide a positive, safe environment that encourages ALL learners to strive for excellence.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2025 \$19.5 M ENSURING A SAFE AND COMFORTABLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



(Left image) Boilers are beyond useful life/ are failing. (Middle image) Masonry in need of repair/ patching. (Right image) Drainage structures are damaged and in need of repair.

- Site Drainage Upgrades
- Masonry Repairs
- CO Detection Upgrades
- HVAC Upgrades
- Electrical Upgrades
- Plumbing Upgrades
- Fire Alarm Upgrades

THEODORE ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



(Left image) Windows are beyond useful life/ difficult to open. (Middle image) Fire Alarm Panels are outdated/ out of code. (Right image) Parking lots are damaged/ do not drain properly.

- Parking Lot Upgrades
- Masonry Repairs
- Door Replacements
- HVAC Upgrades
- Electrical Upgrades
- Plumbing Upgrades
- Fire Alarm Upgrades
- Window Replacements
- Ceiling Replacements
- Flooring Replacements
- Roofing Upgrades

NO PROJECT TAX IMPACT

VOTE: MAY 20, 2025
12:00PM - 9:00PM | JFK HIGH SCHOOL GYM



CHEEKTOWAGA SLOAN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2025 \$19.5 M

JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE/ HIGH SCHOOL



EXISTING HVAC



CURRENT BALL FIELD



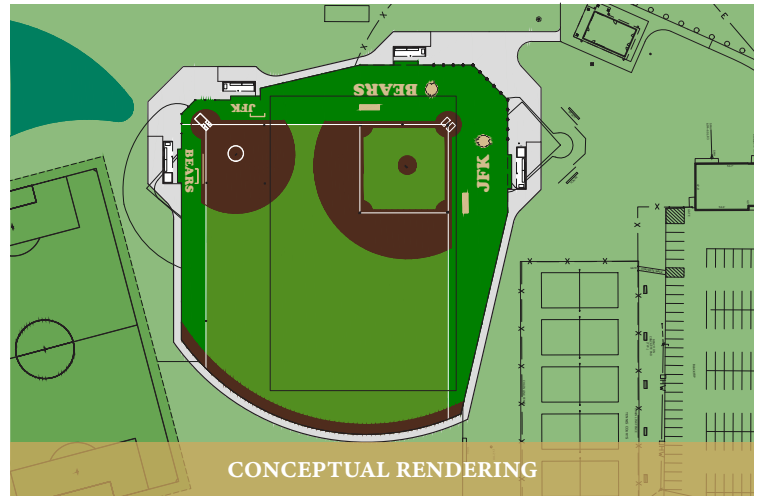
CURRENT BALL FIELD



EXISTING FIRE ALARMS



EXISTING MASONRY/ DOORS



CONCEPTUAL RENDERING

- Door Replacements
- Loading Dock Upgrades
- Masonry Repairs
- Ball Field Upgrades
- HVAC Upgrades
- Electrical Upgrades
- Plumbing Upgrades
- Fire Alarm Upgrades
- CO Detection/ Fire Alarm Upgrades at the Maintenance Garage

(Top left image) HVAC beyond useful life/ out of code. (Top middle/ right images) Ball fields are in disrepair/ need repair/ complete turf field complex. (Bottom far left image) Fire Alarm Panels are outdated/ out of code. (Bottom middle left image) Masonry is damaged, and doors are beyond useful life/ failing. (Bottom right image) Conceptual rendering of the Middle/ High School Ball fields upgrades.

NO PROJECT TAX IMPACT

VOTE: MAY 20, 2025

12:00PM - 9:00PM
JFK HIGH SCHOOL GYM





CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

District Office 716-891-6402

Meet School Board Candidates

Stephanie Dombrowski

Hi, my name is Stephanie Dombrowski, and I am running for a second term on the Cheektowaga-Sloan Board of Education. This reflects my deep commitment to enhancing the district's educational environment. My current tenure since 2020 has been marked by active participation in significant initiatives, notably the Beautification and Athletic Facility Enhancement Capital Project. This project aims to revitalize district facilities, including the installation of new playgrounds for younger students, upgrades to athletic fields, and enhancements to signage and lighting, all designed to enrich the student experience.



Beyond my board responsibilities, I have been involved with the Erie County Association of School Boards (ECASB) which underscores my dedication to educational excellence and have received the Rising Star award several years in a row for active participation in training programs and committees.

My personal connection to the district, with over 25 years as a resident and active community member, enriches my perspective and commitment. My family service as volunteer firefighters highlights a strong tradition of community involvement. My candidacy is further strengthened by my consistent service to students, staff, and the broader community, reflecting a genuine desire to contribute positively to the district's future.

I am again seeking your vote on Tuesday, May 20th.

Best Regards,
Stephanie Dombrowski

Racheal Tarapacki

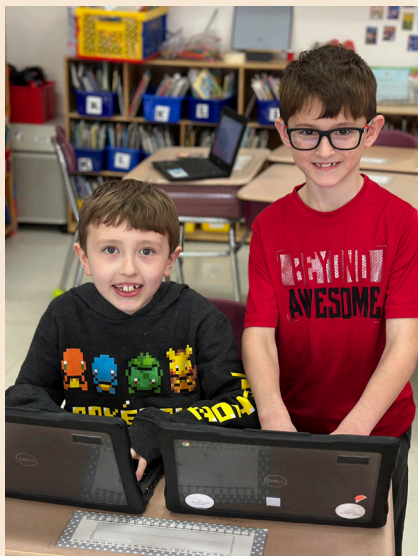
Racheal Tarapacki, a lifelong Cheektowaga resident and John F. Kennedy High School alumna, has lived in the Cheektowaga Sloan School District as a homeowner for over 13 years. She shares her home with her two children - a son attending JFK Middle School and a daughter at Woodrow Wilson - as well as her two dogs.



A two-time graduate of Buffalo State College, Racheal holds a bachelor's degree in Childhood Education and a master's degree in Creativity and Change Leadership. With 24 years of experience in education, she has spent the last 14 years serving the Buffalo community.

Currently, she works in the nonprofit sector as the Executive Director of Groundwork Buffalo and the Director of Programming for The Resource Council of WNY. In 2023, both careers supported her in becoming a graduate of Leadership Buffalo. Her work focuses on education, food insecurity, and social justice, striving to create meaningful changes in the lives of those she serves.

In her free time, Racheal enjoys traveling, reading, going to the gym, and spending quality time with her children.



FOOD SERVICE

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

District Office 716-891-6402



Food Service

The Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD Food Service Department started the 2024-2025 school year with our summer feeding program, held at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School and Sloan Village Park. Our food service staff prepared and served 2,064 balanced, nutritious lunches to children of all ages. It's an important mission for us to keep offering this program, as so many families in our own community face food insecurity. We are proud to be a part of such a wonderful, vital program and will be open again this upcoming summer.

Aside from serving the students daily breakfast and lunch, the food service department is happy to participate in the many fun-filled events our district hosts in all four of our school buildings. Beginning with a district-wide staff breakfast in September on our first Superintendent Conference Day, to catering the Honors Breakfasts for JFK Middle and High Schools, breakfast with the Principal at Woodrow Wilson, the monthly Fine Dining lunches at Theodore Roosevelt, and providing the meals for the JFK Superintendent Council, the food service staff in all of our buildings enjoy the children's smiling faces and are so pleased to see them enjoying these special events.

This year our department has purchased a new set of double ovens for the JFK kitchen, as well as a much-needed new range. This provides us with the tools we need to manage the large number of meals we prepare daily.

We have introduced numerous new food items throughout our district this year. While we still carry Hershey's ice cream products, we also additionally offer ice cream novelties from Instant Whip Foods, which have no artificial colors. New on our menus are calzones, Salisbury steak, peanut butter and honey Uncrustables, chicken fries, Trix and Cinnamon Toast Crunch muffins, caramel mini cinnamon rolls, Eggo breakfast crackers, turkey club melt sandwiches, and fish filet sandwiches. We are always reaching out to our vendors to find out what new products are available to have our students try.

The dedicated food service staff of the Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD is grateful to serve our students, families, and community and we thank you for your continued support.





Letter from the Principal

TR Families,

Success at school begins at home, and parents play the most important role in a child's education. We deeply value our partnership with our TR families and appreciate your continued support.

By working together, school and home can help build skills, reinforce values, and develop a strong sense of self-worth in our future leaders as they apply the 7 Habits in both settings. At the end of last year, our school earned Lighthouse School status. This prestigious recognition, awarded by Franklin Covey, honors schools that have successfully implemented a well-rounded leadership model. Lighthouse Schools serve as role models and mentors for schools worldwide.

We encourage you to ask your child about their leadership binder or start a conversation about the 7 Habits during a family meal, or when you have time, you will be surprised by what they share! Visit the TR webpage and click on the Leader in Me tab for additional information and resources. You can also try a family check-in, just like our students do each morning with their teacher and classmates, to reflect on your day together.

Please enjoy the rest of this newsletter, filled with highlights and updates from TR. As always, feel free to reach out to me or your child's teacher for any support as we work together to finish the school year on a positive note.

Sincerely,
Jeff Mochrie
Principal

Restorative Practice at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary

At T.R., we are strengthening our school community through Restorative Practices. One of the ways we achieve this is through our Restorative Committee, led by Mrs. Angrignon and Mrs. Stockwell, which works to foster meaningful conversations and build strong relationships.

The Restorative Committee has created and implemented a Google Classroom that integrates Restorative Practices with the Leader in Me program. This resource provides teachers with access to lessons, suggested activities, and books centered around a monthly theme, helping them seamlessly incorporate these practices into daily classroom activities.

Twice a month, our school engages in a school-wide restorative question based on the monthly theme. These discussions encourage students to reflect, share their perspectives, and build stronger connections with their peers and teachers.

In January, we hosted our annual Family First Dinner, welcoming over 250 staff members, students, families, and community members. This event encouraged families to disconnect from technology and engage in meaningful conversations using Restorative Practice Circles and The 7 Habits from the Leader in Me program.

This year's theme, "Teamwork Tailgate," featured a tailgate-style dinner, games, face painting, balloons, and a pep rally led by our JFK athletes. The evening concluded with a restorative circle led by Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Finn. This event provided families with an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue while reinforcing the values we emphasize at school.

We have already seen positive growth in our students through these restorative circles, and we are excited to continue this important work in the months ahead. By prioritizing open communication and understanding, we are helping our students develop the social and emotional skills they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY

2495 William Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14206 • Jeffrey S. Mochrie, Principal



Main Office 716-891-6424

First Grade Phonics

This year, students at T.R. began using a new phonics program by Wiley Blevins. Each week, this program provides students with opportunities to practice their newly acquired phonics skills in a variety of ways. Students often work in groups or individually to complete word-building activities, read decodable texts, and learn new sight words.



Before reading the weekly decodable text, students preview the story and make predictions about its content. They actively engage in answering comprehension questions, using details from the text and illustrations to support their responses.

Throughout the program, students are introduced to 120 sight words. Through consistent decoding practice, along with weekly reading and writing activities, students work toward the first-grade goal of successfully identifying and reading all 120 words.



The 100th Day of Kindergarten

The 100th Day of Kindergarten at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary was a day filled with excitement and celebration! Students marked this important milestone with a variety of fun, counting-themed activities. Each kindergartner created a personalized t-shirt decorated with 100 items. The festivities included a challenge to see who could reach the center of a Tootsie Pop in 100 licks, a race to write their names as many times as possible in 100 seconds, and the annual T-shirt fashion show. The entire event was a joyful and educational experience, celebrating a significant achievement for all the kindergarten students.



Author Celebration Night

TR students and families enjoyed a fun-filled evening celebrating Jory John's Food Group books. Students participated in a variety of engaging math, reading, art, and PE stations set up throughout the school. Activities included making a sight word paper cookie, reading with a flashlight, collaborating on a STEAM challenge, navigating an obstacle course, and more. The evening concluded with Mr. Mochrie reading *The Couch Potato* and five lucky students winning a book by Jory John.



Second Graders Explore Landforms with Tina's Adventures

T.R. second graders have been on an exciting journey learning about landforms and they had a special guide along the way. Tina, our adventurous traveler, took them on a virtual trip across the country, visiting family members in different locations.

At each stop, a mystery treasure box arrived, filled with clues about where she had been. Using maps, globes, and research skills, students worked to uncover Tina's destinations while exploring the unique landforms of each region. From towering mountains to rolling plains and deep valleys, they discovered the beauty of our country's geography.

To wrap up the adventure, students got hands-on by creating their own landform models, bringing their learning to life. It was an engaging, exciting, and creative way to end the unit, and our young geographers had a blast!





THEODORE ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY

2495 William Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14206 • Jeffrey S. Mochrie, Principal

Main Office 716-891-6424

TR Art Room

This school year, the art room at T.R. has been filled with talented young artists. Students have used their drawing, coloring, painting, cutting, gluing, and sculpting skills to create impressive portfolios of artwork to display at home. We hope you'll join us for the Budget Vote Art Show to celebrate the incredible talent in our district.

Following the show, portfolios and sculptures will be sent home for families to enjoy.



Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead in Mrs. Richardson Classroom



Mrs. Richardson's class loves S.T.E.A.M., which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. Each week, we incorporate this interdisciplinary approach through a variety of engaging themes and activities. S.T.E.A.M. encourages students to develop critical thinking, collaboration, problem-solving skills, and hands-on learning experiences that keep them motivated and engaged. In January, our class used marshmallows for learning activities across science, engineering, art, and math. The students loved using marshmallows as a learning tool, and it was a delicious treat, too!

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) at Theodore Roosevelt

The 100th Day of Kindergarten at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary was a day filled with excitement and celebration! Students marked this important milestone with a variety of fun, counting-themed activities. Each kindergartner created a personalized t-shirt decorated with 100 items. The festivities included a challenge to see who could reach the center of a Tootsie Pop in 100 licks, a race to write their names as many times as possible in 100 seconds, and the annual T-shirt fashion show. The entire event was a joyful and educational experience, celebrating a significant achievement for all the kindergarten students.



TR Library

TR students have been busy in the library this year! They have been working toward becoming independent library patrons by exploring the new layout and organization. So far, students and staff have borrowed 5,169 books this school year. In addition to familiarizing themselves with the physical collection, all K-2 classes have been utilizing the database PebbleGO, allowing them to access information outside the library and continue their learning beyond the classroom.



TR Physical Education

Students are having an outstanding year in physical education class. Our students have been working hard, learning new health-related fitness concepts, and practicing their gross motor skills. In addition, we have focused on sportsmanship, cooperation, teamwork, and problem-solving. As the weather warms up, PE classes will transition to outdoor activities, allowing students to enjoy fresh air while staying active!



Theodore Roosevelt Music Room Happenings

This year, students have enjoyed many exciting learning opportunities in the general music room. Through movement, props, and instruments, they have explored steady beat, rhythm, and much more. All students had a fantastic December concert, where they celebrated the season through song. Grade 2 Choir has had a tremendously successful year and is preparing for multiple performances in spring 2025. Additionally, Grade 2 Drama is hard at work preparing for their end-of-May performance of Stone Soup. We look forward to an amazing end of the year and appreciate your continued support!



TECHNOLOGY

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Office 716-891-6402



Technology Update

The Technology Department is dedicated to providing modern tools that enhance accessibility and engagement for our students, faculty, and staff while ensuring the security of our information technology systems. We achieve these goals through a continuous cycle of hardware refreshment and upgrades.



Every year, students in grades K, 4, and 9 receive new Chromebooks, ensuring they have access to the latest technology. In the 2024-2025 school year, we upgraded the laptops for teachers at JFK Middle School, and we plan to replace the laptops for all Woodrow Wilson teachers during the 2025-2026 school year.

On October 14, 2025, Microsoft will no longer support Windows 10. As part of our commitment to system security, we are transitioning desktops from Windows 10 to Windows 11. Any desktop devices that cannot support Windows 11 will be replaced or retired over the summer. This regular refreshment cycle not only equips our students, faculty, and staff with the necessary tools but also strengthens the District's defense against cyber threats.

Before the 2024-2025 school year, we successfully installed interactive whiteboards in every classroom across the District. This summer, we will upgrade the remaining Promethean Boards to Newline Interactive Boards to ensure consistency across all classrooms. This transition will make it easier for students, faculty, staff, and administrators to navigate and interact



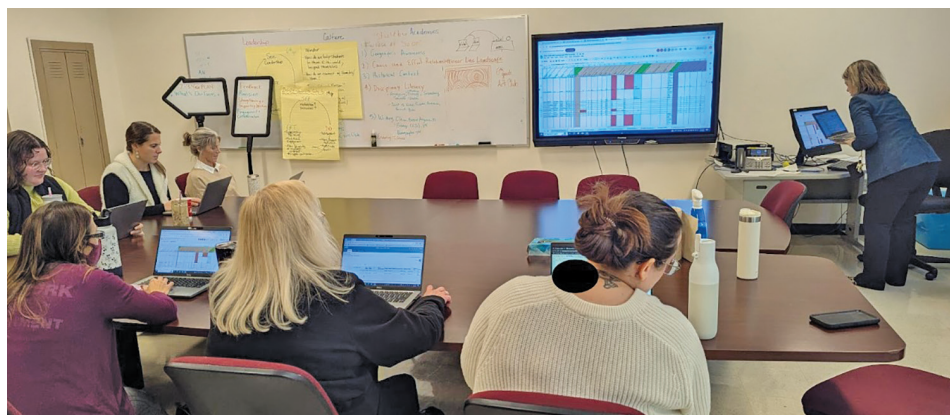
with the same interface, promoting a seamless experience as they move between different rooms.

This summer, we replaced 171 WiFi access points to enhance the performance and security of our wireless network. Additionally, by the end of the school year, we will upgrade our Voice Over IP (VoIP) servers, further strengthening our telecommunications infrastructure.

We upgraded the sound systems in the JFK Auditorium, Woodrow Wilson's Gym, and Theodore Roosevelt's Cafeterium. All school systems now feature versatile wireless choir microphones for various configurations that can be converted into body microphones to highlight individual performers. The JFK Auditorium also received a digital soundboard, a digital interface, and several system repairs. The digital interface allows for quick activation of the sound system without

requiring specialized training for operators.

Finally, in January, we launched a newly redesigned website to improve accessibility and user experience, especially on mobile devices. The new site features a variety of tools and highlights the incredible events and achievements within our schools. We also introduced the "Hidden Gem of Cheektowaga" page, showcasing the exceptional opportunities available in the Cheektowaga-Sloan District, reinforcing our commitment to being the best place to learn and grow in Western New York.





Update from the Department of Special Education & Student Services

I am pleased to provide you with an update from the Department of Special Education and Student Services. This school year, our support staff has gone above and beyond to meet the needs of our students in creative, collaborative, and innovative ways.

Special Education Teachers & Therapists

The Department of Special Education and Student Services remains committed to providing personalized and meaningful learning experiences for all students. Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, we have implemented a variety of strategies to ensure that each decision regarding student programming is carefully tailored to meet the unique needs of every student through an innovative and creative approach. Additionally, we have established a self-contained regents-based program at the high school level and developed an Early Warning System to proactively identify and support at-risk students, ensuring that no child is left behind.

At John F. Kennedy High School, we have focused on developing a self-contained regents-based program to meet the needs of our various learners. This program has proven to be very successful and in just one year of implementation, we have seen students achieve the following:

- Enhanced performance on exams
- Successful course completion
- Engaging, hands-on learning experiences that deepen their understanding of the material
- Improved attendance as they feel supported in their learning environment

The primary goal of our self-contained Regents-based program is to enhance post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities, which will, in turn, contribute to a higher overall graduation rate. This program also ensures a seamless continuum of special education services across the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District. We are excited to see this model continue to grow and evolve

in the coming years, as we are confident it provides the support and structure our students need to succeed.

At JFK Middle and High School, we have also focused on implementing an Early Warning System which is a systematic approach to identifying students who may be at risk of not graduating and need additional support in one of the following areas:

- Attendance
- Behavior
- Course Completion

When a student is identified as needing additional support in one of the key areas, a plan manager is assigned, and an intervention plan is developed. This plan outlines various strategies to help the student improve in the identified area, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the student's success in school. The plan is created in collaboration with the student's parents, and their progress is monitored every five



weeks to assess whether they are making improvements or require further support.

The Early Warning System teams include a diverse group of stakeholders, such as District Office Administrators, Building-Level Administrators, Teachers, Social Workers, Counselors, and School Psychologists. We have seen significant success with the Early Warning System to date and are excited to continue making progress in supporting our students.

Continued on next page



SPECIAL EDUCATION

166 Halstead Avenue, Sloan, NY 14212 • Business Hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Office 716-891-6429



Continued from previous page

Student Support Team

Educating the whole child and meeting the social-emotional needs of our students continue to be a top priority for our student support staff. Our Student Support Team has taken a proactive leadership role in the Early Warning System process at John F. Kennedy Middle and High School, further strengthening the support available to students. Additionally, the Social Workers at Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School remain essential pillars of support within their respective school communities, underscoring our ongoing commitment to the well-being of all students.

English as New Language Teachers

With the support of our talented English as a New Language (ENL) teachers, we have witnessed tremendous growth among our ELL students this year. This success can be attributed to the individualized learning plans our ENL teachers have created for each student. These plans include demographic information, necessary accommodations and modifications, as well as specific supports to ensure that English Language Learners can succeed in their classes. These tailored plans are unique to our district and are a point of pride for us.



Furthermore, all professional development this year has been centered on addressing the needs of our English Language Learners, as this population continues to grow. The professional development sessions have been well-received by our dedicated teachers, and we continue to see the effective strategies shared in these sessions being implemented in classrooms district-wide daily.

Nurses

The health and safety of our students are of the utmost importance to our

community, especially our nurses. They have worked diligently this year to ensure that all students' health needs are met, and their commitment to this is evident daily. We are very appreciative of the amazing work our nurses do as they are vital members of our school community.

In conclusion, it has been amazing to see all the hard work the Cheektowaga-Sloan Special Education and Student Services department has done this year to meet the needs of all of our students. We also thank our community for their continued support.



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